

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Youth Services Committee
Held on 6th November 2019 in the Council Chamber

Meeting Started: 7.00 p.m.**Meeting Concluded:** 8.25 p.m.

Cllr Rachel Parry, Chairman	Apologies		Cllr Claire Shea, Vice-Chairman	Present
Cllr Roderick Hogarth (to 7.45pm)	Present		Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Present
Cllr Keith Bonin (to 8.20pm)	Present		Cllr Victoria Granville Baxter	Apologies
Cllr Edward Waite	Present			
Charlotte Ede, West Kent Communities	Present		Sarah Gaunt, Kent County Council	Present
Jacob Watson, Sevenoaks Youth Council	Present			

Substitute			For
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Present		Cllr Victoria Granville Baxter
Cllr Simon Raikes	Present		Cllr R E Parry

In attendance: Councillor Parry, Linda Larter Town Clerk, Alison Futtit Senior Committee Clerk.

Public Question Time There was one member of the public present.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting.

340. Apologies for Absence

Received as noted, and from Caroline Berry, Peggy Nicholson, Maxine Quinton and Kelly Webb.

341. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

342. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at the meeting.

343. Minutes

i) Minutes of the Youth Services Sub Committee held on 11th September 2019

RESOLVED: to accept and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2019 as a true record.

ii) Minutes of the Youth Council Annual General Meeting held on 11th September 2019

Jacob Watson was congratulated on his appointment as Youth Council representative to the Youth Services Committee and welcomed to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- To note the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 11th September 2019
- To note elections to the following Youth Council posts:
Chairman – Rose Spurling
Vice-Chairman – Phoebe Crichtlow
Treasurer – Michael Roberts
Representative to the Youth Services Committee – Jacob Watson

344. House in the Basement Youth Café

i) Report to October 2019

Received report and noted that:

- The new manager, Chris Essex, was now in post
- Attendance had dropped during the transition period between managers, however the new manager would be promoting the Youth Café in schools and with local youth workers
- Music nights and the recent Halloween event continued to be popular
- The chess club run by Youth Councillor Jacob Watson had been a little quiet but would be promoted to give it a boost

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ii) Finance Report to 30th October 2019

RESOLVED: That the Finance Cost Centre report for the Youth Café to 30th October 2019 be noted.

345. Finance Reports:

(i) Youth Council Finance Report

RESOLVED: That the Income and Expenditure reports for the Youth Council and its charity to 30th October 2019 be noted.

(ii) Youth Grants

Noted that, following approval of grants at the last meeting, the Youth Outreach balance stood at £903.53. A further round of grant applications would be invited in January 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Outreach General Income and Expenditure to October 2019 be noted

346. Reports from Co-opted Partners

(i) Kent County Council:

Sarah Gaunt (SG) reported that KCC's new integrated Children's Services structure would commence from April 2020: the Committee emphasised the importance of clarity and requested a documented understanding of the new structure. SG stated that a report had been prepared for KCC Cabinet which set out what the team would deliver across the district (this could be accessed via KCC's website)

SG advised that KCC had hosted a Youth Conference which had identified three priorities: mental health, youth democracy and transport. The Committee commented on the particular difficulties experienced with school

transport. The Town Clerk reported that the Youth Council had also raised concerns about transport costs, overcrowding and bullying behavior. She asked that the Youth Council's campaign to have the railcard scheme extended to 18 year olds be referred to KCC and that a volunteer scheme for a second adult on school buses, via PTAs, be considered.

(ii) **SAYT:** Caroline Berry not present but reported that they had an applicant for the youth worker post recently advertised and hoped to interview next week.

(iii) **SDC – Community Safety Team:** No representative present but report provided which outlined steps taken to identify and follow up young people involved in incidents at the Bat and Ball Station; action taken to verify identities of young people stopped by Police Officers at the recent firework event in Sevenoaks and plans to issue Warning letters regarding their behavior. Relevant agencies had been informed of the forthcoming Christmas Lights Switch on event.

The Town Clerk reported that the sheer volume of young people arriving via the train stations and gathering (a group of 200) at the fireworks event was of concern and would be monitored at the Christmas Lights event: it was hoped that the Police would be offering support.

(iv) **West Kent Communities:** Charlotte Ede presented her report outlining recent youth work activity. She advised that there had been recruitment difficulties and a full review of youth services was being undertaken. She reported that KCC funded two posts and there were plans for the Lead Youth Worker (once in post) to sign young people up to a Youth Forum: the Town Clerk commented that in high level discussions KCC had agreed not to recreate a forum where one already existed so she did not anticipate this happening in Sevenoaks town.

West Kent Communities had offered to run a training course (funded up to £1000) for young people, joint hosted by the Town Council, in the House in the Basement Youth Café and suggestions for the course had been requested from Youth Café members and the Youth Council. The Youth Council had requested that consideration be given to dealing with mental health issues, including mindfulness, time and stress management skills. The Youth Café feedback would be provided shortly. Date for the course to be agreed.

CE advised that music recording facilities at Edenbridge were available for other groups to use free of charge and free travel could also be arranged.

347. Press Releases

None required.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed
Chairman

Dated