

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Bat and Ball Centre User Group Meeting held at
The Bat & Ball Centre on Wednesday 18th October 2023

Meeting commenced: 7.03 p.m.

Meeting concluded: 7.26 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Tony Clayton Chair	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Claire Shea	Sevenoaks Town Council
Linda Larter MBE	Sevenoaks Town Council
Liz Hodgson	Sevenoaks Town Council
Valerie Glencross	The Arts Society Knole
Andrew Watts	Tea Dance

412. Appointment of Chair

Cllr. Tony Clayton was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Marilyn Canet to be Chair. The motion was accepted.

413. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Gareth Willis, Adrienne Brewin (Breathe Easy), David Williams (Probus), Jo Wilkinson (Kent Blind), Gail Biggins (GB Pilates), Narcotics Anonymous representative, Alison Hadlow (Oaks Martial Arts).

414. Requests for Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensations from Councillors.

415. Declaration of Interests

There were no Declaration of Interests from Councillors.

416. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Centre User Group held on 8th March 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes were a true record of the meeting and to be signed by the Chair.

417. Bat & Ball Centre

The facility continues to be very well used by both local members of the community and voluntary organisations for domestic events and by larger commercial organisations. Demand is high and therefore there is sometimes a need to cancel regular hirers to accommodate other bookings.

Although the building has very good carbon credentials, we are looking at installing additional solar panels to boost this. Investigation is taking place in relation to

structural capacity to take more. This will also be a Capital Project which we will need to be reviewed within budget capacity.

With the building being so well used there is now some general wear and tear and settlements which will be addressed within maintenance.

418. Bat & Ball Station

Following the downturn due to the pandemic, number of hirers and café customers are both increasing steadily.

The café opening hours are changing to 7.30a.m. – 3.00p.m. Mondays to Fridays.

We hope to reintroduce the school educational programme in the near future subject to staff resources.

We are awaiting some work to be done on the roof of the building by Network Rial – the problems with the roof has caused some water damage to the ceiling cornice in the Luggage Room.

419. Feedback from Hirers

419.1 The Report relating to Feedback Forms was received.

419.2 Those present provided the following feedback:

Andrew Watts (Tea Dance)	Feedback: Very happy with the facility and the cakes provided by the Bat & Ball Station Café. There are insufficient cakes when there is an increase in numbers attending the dance some weeks. Response: Linda Larter suggested that the café could provide more cakes on a weekly basis with any left-over cakes being given to the Youth Café.
Valerie Glencross (The Arts Society Knole)	Feedback: Very happy with the caretaking and audio/visual equipment provided. Sometimes there are insufficient car parking spaces at the Centre due to people also parking there to attend a booking in the other hall. Response: There are 66 car parking spaces, 6 disabled bays and 2 electric charging points at the Centre. Linda Larter suggested that people should consider car sharing.
Cllr. Claire Shea	Feedback: The car parking signage is misleading as it suggests that parking is limited to 4 hours. Response: Linda Larter said the signage was necessary to act as a deterrent to drivers who were not using the Centre from parking there. The caretakers can point out to hirers that parking is

	unlimited for the duration of their hire at the Bat & Ball Centre and Station.
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Additional Comments:

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6th March 2024.

420. Press Releases

It was agreed not to issue a Press Release.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed Dated
Chairman