

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SEVENOAKS YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2012 AT

SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Present:

Youth Councillors Alexander Dunn, Danika Dixon, Lilli Gilbert, Ollie Harper, Caitlin Stevens and Issie Wheatley.

Apologies for Absence:

Aneesha Bhandan, Laura Duffey, Dominique Gratwick and Emma Power.

In Attendance:

Cllrs R J Parry, A Eyre, S G Raikes (arrived 6:39)
Linda Larter (Chief Executive/Town Clerk), Michèle MacDonald (Committee Clerk)
and Lizzi Curtis (Work Experience).

1. Welcome

It was noted that the following 15 young people had applied to become Youth Councilors

Miss	Aneesha	Bhandan
Miss	Danika	Dixon
Miss	Laura	Duffey
Mr	Alexander	Dunn
Miss	Sufiyah	Fitzgerald
Miss	Lilli	Gilbert
Miss	Dominique	Gratwick
Mr	Oliver	Harper
Mr	Nathan	Ivekhurst
Miss	Emma	Power
Mr	Josh	Reeves
Mr	Callum	Seal
Miss	Caitlin	Stevens
Miss	Chloe	Townsend
Miss	Issie	Wheatley

The Town Mayor, Cllr Richard Parry, provided a brief summary of both the role of a Town Mayor and the history of Sevenoaks Youth Council since its inception in October 2008.

The Town Mayor thanked all Youth Councillors for giving up their time and hoped that they would enjoy their term as Youth Councillor in this third term of Sevenoaks Youth Council. It is the Town Mayor's ambition that this Youth Council would be pro-active, undertake activities and adopt a "can do attitude" coupled with a "doer finisher" approach and not be a talking shop.

2. Introductions

The Town Mayor introduced the Chief Executive/Town Clerk to the Youth Council. The Youth Councillors made their introductions:

Alexander Dunn	Bennett Memorial Diocesan School	Year 9
Danika Dixon	Knole Academy	Year 10
Lilli Gilbert	Knole Academy	Year 10
Issie Wheatley	Knole Academy	Year 10
Oliver Harper (Ollie)	Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys	Year 7
Caitlin Stevens	Sevenoaks School	Lower Sixth

3. Workshop

Youth Councillors, in pairs, discussed and put forward their ideas for the Youth Council:

i. What would you do in the next year?

- Contact New shops and companies to occupy areas of Sevenoaks town, e.g. Wasabi bento, Primark, Crush juice bar
- Library in youth café – Youth Books – educational e.g. French dictionary
- Ads for youth café
- More events
- Special people come to youth café – celebrities
- Fundraisers
- Camping site in or close to Sevenoaks
- Themed Soundwaves (Halloween/Christmas etc)
- Movie nights at youth café
- Café open Monday and Tuesdays as well
- Fresh ideas
- Strong perspective
- Make Sevenoaks a more interesting place for young people
- More things to do at youth café
- Youth magazine – to be available on-line. The Chronicle has offered a page a month for the newsletter. CD shop are providing CDs for reviews

ii. What would you do in the next 2 years?

- Use the SYC funding wisely but beneficially for the young people in Sevenoaks and close surrounding areas. Take action to facilitate young persons ideas for improvement in the area (within reason).
- Multi-player gaming nights (LAN Computer events)
- More music equipment
- Another room in the youth café
- Competitions
- Connect different areas within Sevenoaks town
- Camp site (if not achieved in first year) with rent a tent to be booked in advance
- Expand facilities we already have, perhaps do more for young teens (11-13 old group)

iii. If money was no problem, what facilities would you like in Sevenoaks?

- Free Graphic Design club / tutorials (could potentially be put in place to be held at 'House in the Basement') , Creative Arts Centre or days for different forms of art and creative work, e.g. Film production, Fashion design, Graphic design, Website Design, Illustration, Acting workshops (including accent/dialect coaching, etc). There is not enough creative or arts opportunities in the Sevenoaks area for young people and if there is, it costs too much for young people. In addition these opportunities can give young persons experience to add to their CV and take with them in future life.
- Youth section in the library
- Youth Building – bigger youth Cafe
- Nicer swimming pool and better leisure centre
- Free bus passes for people who go to school
- More shops aimed at young people
- Extension to leisure centre with flumes like Maidstone and Larkfield

iv. What is the main problem for young people in the Sevenoaks area?

- Not enough interesting or decent shops or places in Sevenoaks town and surrounding area, therefore young people prefer to travel elsewhere for shopping etc, and this costs money they don't necessarily have.
- Difficulty meeting other young people
- Clashing teen groups
- Connecting Sevenoaks together
- Except for HitB not a lot to do in Sevenoaks
- Linger on the streets
- Lack of things to do in town
- Films at the Stag - more variation needed with films being shown after school and new films being run for longer than a week if there is great interest
- Stag to inform the Youth Café of up and coming films to be shown
- Need a monthly kids film night

It was mutually agreed that votes be cast on all five candidates. In the event of a tie, votes would be cast again for the five candidates. In the event of another tie, voting on the tied candidates only would take place.

4 Election of Chairman

Five Youth Councillors put themselves forward as candidates:

- i. Danika Dixon
- ii. Alexander Dunn
- iii. Emma Power (by written proxy)
- iv. Caitlin Stevens
- v. Issie Wheatley

each Youth Councillor gave a presentation as to why they wished to be elected as Chairman and why they believed they would suit this role.

Voting Results:

- a. Round One – tie
- b. Round Two **It was RESOLVED that** Youth Councillor Danika Dixon be elected as Chairman.

The Town Mayor gave a brief summary of the role of Chairman before handing the meeting over to the Chairman:

- *to ensure the meetings are held in a business-like manner*
- *summarise the issue to be voted upon*
- *ensure the decisions are carried out*
- *encourage people to turn up to meetings*

Youth Councillor Danika Dixon took up her position as Chairman.

5. Election of Vice Chairman

Four Youth Councillors put themselves forward as candidates:

- i. Alexander Dunn
- ii. Ollie Harper
- iii. Caitlin Stevens
- iv. Issie Wheatley

Youth Councillors Alexander, Caitlin and Issie had already given presentations. Youth Councillor Ollie gave his presentation as to why he wished to be elected as Vice Chairman and why he believed he would suit this role.

Voting Results:

- a. Round One – tie
- b. Round Two – tie between Youth Councillors Caitlin Stevens and Issie Wheatley
- c. Round Three – tie. **It was RESOLVED unanimously that both** Youth Councillors Caitlin Stevens and Issie Wheatley be elected as Vice Chairmen and dually share the role.

6. Election of Treasurer

Two Youth Councillors put themselves forward as candidates:

- i. Alexander Dunn
- ii. Ollie Harper

It was RESOLVED that Youth Councillor Alexander Dunn be elected as Treasurer.

7. Nominations for members of the Youth Café Fundraising Committee

It was RESOLVED that Youth Councillors Alexander Dunn, Danika Dixon, Lilli Gilbert, Ollie Harper, Caitlin Stevens and Issie Wheatley be members of the Youth Café Fundraising Committee.

8. Minutes of the last meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 June 2012 and the inquorate meeting held on 11 July 2012 be received and adopted.

9. Finance Report

It was noted that the general fund balance for the Youth Council was £1,246.26.

10. HOUSE in the Basement Youth Café

It was agreed that the September 2012 report be distributed with the Minutes.

The meeting closed at 19:06

Signed
Chairman

Date