

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SEVENOAKS YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2014 AT SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Present: Kelly Williams, Olivia Kings, Alexander Dunn, Ben Park, Freya Henderson, Thomas Smith, Philip Magee, Tanjinna Miah, James Craggs, Taramina Miah

In Attendance

Cllrs S L Arnold, A Eyre, Cllr Parry
Mr Shane Mochrie-Cox, KCC Community Youth Tutor
Linda Larter MBE and Michèle MacDonald

Welcome

Linda Larter (MBE), Town Clerk/Chief Executive introduced herself to the 10 young people who applied to become youth Councillors:

Miss	Kelly	Williams	15	Weald of Kent
Miss	Olivia	Kings	15	Weald of Kent
Mr	Alexander	Dunn	16	Bennet Memorial
Mr	Ben	Park	13	Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys
Miss	Freya	Henderson	12	Knole Academy
Mr	Thomas	Smith	12	Knole Academy
Mr	Philip	Magee	15	Tonbridge School
Miss	Tanjinna	Miah	17	Hillview School
Mr	James	Craggs	11	New Beacon
Miss	Taramina	Miah	11	Trinity School

and introduced them to the Mayor, town councillors, Shane Mochrie-Cox and Michèle MacDonald.

Linda advised that the Youth Council currently has £2,351.90 in the bank to spend on facilities/events for the Young People in Sevenoaks and that the previous Youth Council had not spent any funds, which was why the Town Council reduced the Youth Council budget from £1000 per annum to £500 per annum.

Workshop

Youth Councillors were asked to put forward their ideas for the new Youth Council to consider over the coming two year term.

i. What would you do in the next year?

- improve street lighting
- more chances for youth to be involved in e.g. sports clubs at a lower cost
- making a difference in a good way
- sponsor a public event
- change the prices of buses tickets and the amount of people on buses
- bus tickets to lower prices
- build a recording studio in HITB
- introduce an ice skating rink like the one at Calverley Park, an ice cream parlour would be nice

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

- HITB open 7 days a week
- film reviews in the Sevenoaks Chronicle
- like to see in Sevenoaks some more shops that are open late. Shops to go to. Shops to stay open later
- organise an event that young people could come to and have fun with good publicity
- change the amount of subjects in one day and the amount of equipment used in certain lessons
- create a more safe and equal environment more people to feel comfortable and safe within their own area
- get everyone in Sevenoaks involved in one big event to highlight peoples skills and abilities
- things to do in and out of school
- change lighting
- for Sevenoaks Town to be a community and a key meeting place
- water flumes in Sencio pool

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

- Go carting and abseiling
- attempt to relieve poverty of Sevenoaks at current time 6% of the Sevenoaks Population living in a state that could be deemed a living in poverty
- have free Buses to HITB
- Football tournaments where each school could enter a team and someone famous could open it
- for the Stag cinema to have all of the latest films on show for longer than a week
- film festival
- charity for nationwide problems
- give a more equal chance for a less fortunate children in Sevenoaks who aren't as lucky

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

- sports facilities / clubs at a reasonable price
- traffic/bus to more places/more clubs for teenagers
- travel to Tonbridge is expensive
- more mental health awareness
- increase amount of buses
- need a central meeting place to discuss opinions and ideas
- no late night shopping evening
- drugs, drink and traffic
- the main problem is the amount of education in schools
- Buses - they are late, inefficient, packed and there needs to be more frequent services
- To help travel there and from places

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor of Sevenoaks introduced himself and welcomed the Young People to the position of Youth Councillors for Sevenoaks, advising that this will be a good introduction for local democracy for them as they will become involved with councillors from Kent County Council, Sevenoaks District Council and the Town Council covering many varying aspects of local Government.

The Mayor advised that this is their chance to influence all councillors and thanked them for becoming a Youth Councillor and hoped they would do great things for the Youth of Sevenoaks.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Four Youth Councillors put themselves forward as candidates:

- i) **Alexander Dunn** – to have another chance as he had attended lots of meetings which had to be cancelled as he was the only one who turned up.
- ii) **Tanjinna Miah** – advised she was a member of the Youth Council for the last term with no particular position and for this term top of her agenda is to make public transport cheaper and to hold a public event for Young People in Sevenoaks to look forward to going to
- iii) **Olivia Kings** – would like people to come together via a website for fandoms [*often consist of message board, live journal communities and people*] and advised she would also like teenagers to have more access to help regarding mental illness.
- iv) **Ben Park** – interested in human rights, animal welfare, school and class council, help the homeless, reduce poverty and believes “why live in an area if not going to do anything”

All voted. Tanjinna was duly elected as Chairman of the Youth Council for the 2014-2015 term.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Three Youth Councillors put themselves forward as candidates:

- i) Alexander Dunn
- ii) Ben Park
- iii) Olivia Kings

All voted. Alexander was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

4 ELECTION OF TREASURER

Three Youth Councillors put themselves forward as candidates:

- i) Taramina Miah – ok at Maths and keeps good time
- ii) James Craggs – likes maths and to raise people’s awareness of things
- iii) Freya Henderson – good at accounts and people listen

All voted. There was a tie between Taramina and James. A second vote took place. Taramina was duly elected Treasurer.

5 FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer, Youth Councillor Taramina Miah, confirmed that the balance of accounts shows an unspent sum of £2,351.90 in the bank. Linda advised that the previous youth Council had spent nothing in the last year. If this Youth Council does nothing, the Town Council may consider not giving a sum of money in future.

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED: the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council meeting held on 23 July 2014 be received and noted.

7 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

NOTED: the dates for the next meetings are: 17.12.2014, 28.01.2015 and 11.03.2015, all being held in the Town Council Chamber at 6pm.

8 FUTURE ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS YOUTH COUNCIL

Linda advised that the below items had been discussed by the previous Youth Council

- the swimming party at Sencio which was postponed
- a 2015 Summer Festival
- running a 5-a-side football team league during school holidays
- British Youth Council Annual General Meeting trip was cancelled due to lack of take up of places

9 SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Chairman, Youth Councillor Tanjinna Miah, asked all to read the constitution ready for a full discussion at the next meeting.

A request was received for a meeting of the Youth Council to be held at the HOUSE in the basement Youth Café. The Chairman asked all to visit the Youth Café.

AGREED by All Youth Councillors that emails would be shared, ideas discussed and sent to Michèle to be included as Agenda items and that an event/meeting would be held asap in the Youth Café.

The meeting closed at 7:10pm with a group photo being taken for a press release.