

MINUTES OF SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON 28th JANUARY 2015 AT 6PM SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

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

In Attendance

Cllrs S L Arnold and R J Parry
Mr Shane Mochrie-Cox, KCC Community Youth Tutor
Linda Larter MBE Chief Executive/Town Clerk
Gail Grieves, Manager HITB Youth Cafe
Michèle MacDonald, Committee Clerk and Secretary to Chief Executive/Town Clerk

Apologies

Youth Councillor Kelly Williams
Councillor A Eyre

Guest

Mr Austin Blackburn, Managing Director Go-Coach

The Chairman referred back to the minutes of the last meeting when Youth Council discussed and raised concerns regarding the price of the Freedom Bus Tickets and behaviour on school bus journeys and introduced the Managing Director of Go-Coach, Mr Austin Blackburn.

Mr Austin Blackburn referred to agenda Item No 5a, School Freedom Passes and advised that the Freedom Pass priced at £200 provided value for money since the real term price was in the region of £800 to £1000 per annum depending on where students live. The bus pass entitled young people to travel on a bus if there is one and if there is space but not on any one particular bus.

Mr Austin Blackburn discussed the pricing system and how Go-Coach calculated their service levels vis a vis profit and loss as they are a commercial business. From April 2015, there would be a new service running from Westerham, totalling 5 buses. After half term in May 2015, the number of buses would be reduced to 4 buses [No 431 Kemsing, No 432 Sevenoaks, No 433 Shoreham and No 434 Westerham] as many students would be on study leave. This would not affect the new Westerham bus service.

Mr Austin Blackburn referred to agenda Item No 5b, School Bus journey concerns, advised that the majority of problems on school buses occurred on the route to the Bennett Memorial Diocesan School. New buses with CCTV had been allocated to this route.

Mr Austin Blackburn urged all young people to await their bus. No Go-Coach bus had ever been cancelled but some for whatever reason may have run late. He asked all students using Go-Coach to use Social Media to feedback any bad behaviour in order that Go-Coach could discuss this further with the schools. Go-Coach Social Media contacts:



www.go-coach.co.uk



<https://twitter.com/gocoachhire>



<https://www.facebook.com/gocoachhire>

It was **AGREED** that Michèle MacDonald would liaise with schools to encourage them to arrange a rota of parents to act as Volunteer Bus Conductors on school buses to enable the bus driver to concentrate on driving. Mr Austin Blackburn welcomed this suggestion and also agreed to look into additional signage encouraging young people to use seating at the rear and to use upstairs seating on the bus.

17 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED: received and noted as a true record with the following amendment:
Minute 11 c – KCC to read SDC.

18 **FINANCE REPORT**

RESOLVED: the balance on account as at 15th January 2015 is £1,724.27

19 **HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT**

RESOLVED:

- a. The HOUSE in the Basement [HITB] report for January 2015 be received and noted.
It was AGREED that Youth Councillors advertise the upcoming events at HITB in school [notice boards], by word of mouth and would bring friends to the events being held there and would advertise that young people can purchase a healthy meal with a drink for £2
 - i. 30th January 2015 – Woolly Hats fundraising event
 - ii. 6th February 2015 – Soundwaves Records
 - iii. 12th February 2015 – Valentine [decoration of Valentine biscuits and making cards]
 - iv. 13th February 2015 – DJ/MC workshop
- b. General statistics, including income for December 2014 be received and noted
- c. Geographical data for December 2014 be received and noted

20 **STREET LIGHTS PETITION**

It was RESOLVED that the suggestions below put forward by Youth Councillor Kelly Williams, be received and noted:

- a. In order for this petition to be effective we need to be able to give evidence of street lights that constantly seem to be out of use
- b. We would also need to make sure that the Kent County Council Highways Team receive it and hear a response from them.
- c. We could make a point that bad street lighting, especially in winter months where it gets dark quite early, poses a threat to the safety of people all ages not just the youth.

It was AGREED that

- i. Youth Councillor Ben Park monitor the street lights over the coming month ready to correlate with young people attending HITB and report back at the next meeting of Youth Council [11th March 2015]
- ii. Youth Councillor Olivia Kings put forward questions based on the above ideas put forward into account for a survey and liaise with Michèle MacDonald

21 **EVENTS for 2015**

The Youth Council considered and discussed ideas for 2015 as follows:

- a. Fairtrade – **It was AGREED that** fundraising be considered in the future with Youth Councillor Tanjinna Miah investigating the possibility of linking the local loyalty card to Fairtrade to discuss at the next meeting of Youth Council [11th March 2015]. Local schools are educating students during the Fairtrade fortnight, 23rd February to 8th March 2015.

- b. Houses of Parliament – a date is provisionally set for Monday 20th July 2015 with a meeting with Michael Fallon MP. Youth Councillors to inform Michèle MacDonald if they wish to join Linda, Gail and Michèle on this tour as soon as possible [by 13th February 2015] so that permission for leave of absence may be obtained from schools for this educational day trip.

Youth Councillors were also asked to think about the question they want to ask the MP ahead of the visit.

- c. Go Kart Event – Youth Councillor James Craggs discussed the idea of a Go Kart Race Event during the school summer holidays. £5 entry would be charged for families to bring along their home made Go Kart to race. **It was AGREED that** Michèle MacDonald make enquiries with Knole Academy for use of their facilities
- d. Open Air Cinema – The Town Clerk advised that prices for an Open Air Cinema to be held in the Vine Gardens during the early part of July 2015, are currently being sought and that the Youth Council would be given a choice of films set by the company. Details to be brought forward to the next meeting of Youth Council [11th March 2015].

22 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

NOTED: the dates for the next meetings are:

11 th March 2015	6pm in the Bar Room of the Community Centre, Otford Road, Off Cramptons Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN
22 nd April 2015	
3 rd June 2015	
15 th July 2015	
9 th September 2015	
4 th November 2015	
20 th January 2016	
16 th March 2016	
4 th May 2016	

in the Town Council Chamber at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 6:55pm