

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL
HELD ON 20TH JANUARY 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBER, SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL TN13 3QG**

Present: Youth Cllrs Taraminna Miah (Chairman), Olivia Kings (Vice Chairman), Tanjinna Miah (*Treasurer*), Alexander Dunn, Kelly Williams, Thomas Smith, Oliver Forth and Sam Chard.

In Attendance: Linda Larter Town Clerk, Gail Grieves, Manager of HITB Youth Café, Michèle MacDonald, Mr Shane Mochrie-Cox, KCC, Cllr Andrew Eyre [*arrived 6:07*] and Cllr Simon Raikes [*arrived 6:20*], Cllr Mrs R Parry and Cllr R Parry.

Apologies for Absence:

Youth Cllrs Freya Henderson and Emily Wood
Cllrs Cllr Stephen Arnold [*ex officio*]

Resignation of Youth Councillor Freya Henderson who is no longer able to attend future meetings.

13. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th November 2015

Received and agreed to be a true record of the Meeting.

14. Finance Report

Noted that the balance on the account stood at £1,495.44.

15. YSSC

RESOLVED: Youth Cllr Olivia King become a representative on the Youth Services Sub Committee with effect from the next meeting on 16th March 2016

16. Events

i) Rockdale Housing Association

RESOLVED: to plan a day with an Easter Theme for Youth Councillors to visit Rockdale with the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Stephen Arnold, during the Easter holidays. The Committee Clerk to check if biscuits may be bought and decorated by Youth Councillors provided that ingredients be disclosed to Rockdale.

ii) Sevenoaks Youth Advisory Group meeting – Thursday 28th January 2016

RESOLVED: Youth Councillors Kelly Williams, Alexander Dunn, Sam Chard and Oliver Forth to attend the meeting at the Eden Centre in Edenbridge. Parental travel permission with KCC obtained.

iii) Suggestion for input for events in 2016

a. Sevenoaks Summer Festival- commences Saturday 18th June 2016.

Youth Councillor Tanjinna Miah suggested some youth bands perform on stage with the Youth Council sponsoring them.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk check with Mr Ray Russell re an available slot in the afternoon on Saturday 18th June 2016 and that research takes place regarding potential young people they know who would be interested in performing. To discuss again at the next meeting.

b. Christmas Lights Switch On Event Friday 25th November 2016

RESOLVED that the date be born in mind and also that several of the current members will have gone to university at the start of the Autumn term.

17. Youth Shelter

Youth Councillor Alexander Dunn put forward the idea of a Youth Shelter in the Vine Gardens. The Town Clerk advised that this location falls within the Conservation Area. Other Youth Councillors were of the opinion that it should be provided somewhere that doesn't currently have shelter. Next to Greatness Skateboard park was an idea.

RESOLVED to prepare a survey and forward for circulation to see if young people wanted a youth shelter and preferred location. The Town Clerk advised the Town Council would be happy to consider this within its programme provided there is sufficient evidence that this is something the young people in Sevenoaks want and obtain funds for it. The Town Council is currently considering free facilities such as basketball courts and outside table tennis tables.

18. Suggestions:

- a) Youth Councillor Olivia Kings suggested that a time capsule be put in the new Community Centre under a flagstone to be revealed in 50 years' time.
RESOLVED that the Town Clerk take this idea forward.
- b) Youth Councillor Tanjinna Miah suggested that another event be held at the HITB, funded by the Youth Council such as a Mad Hatters Tea Party.
RESOLVED that the HITB Manager would liaise with Youth Councillor Tanjinna Miah to decide an event in the Easter Holidays when youth councillors could come in to make products in advance of the party. Rice Krispy cakes with min eggs was an idea suggested. Another date for youth councillors to go out to advertise and hand out free entry fliers to be organised by Youth Councillor Tanjinna Miah.
- c) Youth Councillor Sam Chard requested that the HITB has set nights for film showing.
RESOLVED that the Manager of the HITB would advertise on social media a "no film night" in order that young people were aware that the TV screen could be used for video games.
- d) Youth Councillor Oliver Forth raised the fact that the cost of trains at the age of 16 doubles in price and this was a concern for older pupils travelling by train to school or college.
RESOLVED that:
 - Youth Councillor Olive Forth ask his brother to survey friends at school and update the committee as to the number of people this might be an issue for.
 - the Town Clerk write to Wrotham School asking them how they organise young people to travel to school after the age of 16, asking if perhaps there is a shared bus for the young people available to use at subsidised costs.
 - The Committee Clerk contact the British Youth Council to ask if they would help survey young people nationally to petition for the age limit to be raised to 18 on public transport to fall in line with the legal adult age of 18 years in order that prices be kept low for young people still attending school legally up to the age of 18.

19. House in the Basement

- i) HITB Report for December and January 2015
 - ii) Geographical data for October to December 2015
 - iii) General statistics, including income for October to December 2015.
- It was agreed to note all of the reports.

20. Dates of future Meetings, 6 p.m. in the Town Council Chamber

- 16th March 2016
- 4th May 2016

There being no further matters for discussion, the Chairman closed the meeting at 6:56pm