

**MINUTES OF THE
YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 26TH APRIL 2017
AT THE SEVENOAKS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Malcolm Briery (as elected Chairman), James Armitage (Treasurer), Sam Chard, Zak Young, Tom Chapman, Elise Van Den Hoek, Phoebe Critchlow, Katherine Magee, Ana Lawther and Estella Durnford.

In Attendance: Cllr Andrew Eyre (Mayor of Sevenoaks), Cllr Richard Parry, Mr Shane Mochrie-Cox, Linda Larter, and Michèle MacDonald

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Simon Raikes, Youth Cllrs Daniel Izu (Chairman), Oliver Forth and Charlotte Humm.

37. Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 8th March 2017

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be accurate.

38. Finance Report

It was noted that the balance available at the end of the financial year was £595.54 and that on 1st April 2017 the annual grant from the Town Council of £500 was received. The balance of account totals £1,095.54. It was noted that the remaining balance after the spend of £200 for the Ukulele Workshop and Open Mic Night on 31.03.2017 be £895.54.

The Town Clerk advised that historically the Youth Council's grant had been £1,000 p.a. however had been decreased to £500 p.a. as the previous Youth Council had not been very active. In view of the current Youth Council's pro-activeness, a request to the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee will be made to ask for the annual grant to be returned to £1,000.

39. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)

The following reports were noted:

- i) House in the Basement report for March and April 2017
- ii) General statistics, including income for March 2017
- iii) Geographical data for March 2017
- iv) Outcomes for March 2017

It was noted that a donation of £3,000 was received from F M Conway and a further £500 received from an anonymous donator towards the 2017/2018 Financial year. The current shortfall for 3017/2018 is £14,200 (target was £50,904). No cuts in services are currently foreseen.

40. 2017 Youth Council Projects

- i) Ukulele Work Shop and Open Mic Night at HitB Youth Cafe.
Another successful night was reported with approximately 28 young people in attendance. The next event is Friday 28th April 2017: 5-6pm ukulele workshop and 7-9pm Open Mic Night.

- ii) Youth Mental Wellbeing event at HiTB Youth Cafe
Youth Cllr Estella Durnford organised a Mental Health Workshop with West Kent Mind. Approximately 10 young people attended. Another workshop with MIND is planned for Friday 15th June 2017 from 4pm to 6pm.

Youth Cllrs advised that Walthamstow Hall School had held assemblies to raise awareness. Youth Cllrs from Sevenoaks School advised that the 6th Form had held assemblies and that they would take forward the request that years 7 upwards also receive assemblies raising awareness of mental wellbeing.

- iii) Theatre Workshop to be held on 4th May 2017 at HiTB
Youth Cllr Elise van den Hoek invited young people to attend her forthcoming Youth Theatre workshop and advised that she has been trained by the National Youth Theatre and will base the workshop on characters and devising. The youth work shop runs from 5-6:30pm. Youth Cllr Elise van den Hoek advise that she will also be holding an assembly at Granville School for year 7 to advertise. The Committee Clerk advised that all schools had been emailed information of this workshop and would send a reminder out *[done 28.04.2017]*.

- iv) Live on the Vine Summer festival arrangements
Due to a Clash of Events, the date has been re set to Friday 21st July 2017. Youth Councillors to ask their friends and peers to attend. A compere is sought. This role may be split amongst youth councillors wishing to volunteer on the night.

It was agreed that there be a maximum of 20 stalls comprising home grown food, local market food stalls or local business from Sevenoaks with some games stalls. Youth groups to be invited so they may fund raise or increase their membership such as the girl guiding and scouting groups.

Youth Councillors to encourage people to come via their social media contact groups. Youth Councillors would approach those involved in Young Entrepreneur projects at their schools.

41. Invitations for Youth Councillors

- i) Youth Advisory Group [YAG]
It was noted that Youth Councillors had been invited but were unable to attend on this occasion. Apologies had been sent by the Committee Clerk.
- ii) KYCC Anti Bullying Campaign
It was agreed that the Committee Clerk scan and email the booklet to all Youth Councillors *[done 28.04.2017]*.
- iii) KYCC Elections
It was noted that the Kent Youth County Council Elections for 4 seats runs from Monday 6th to Sunday 19th November. Currently Youth Councillors Sam Chard and Tom Chapman are also KYC Councillors until 2018.

42. Anti-Social Behaviour

The Town Clerk advised that Sevenoaks Town, amongst several other towns within Sevenoaks District is suddenly experiencing an increased unfathomable level of Anti-Social behaviour in its open spaces and parks. Such a high level of problems had not been experienced since the same period since 2010. Catapults using stones are being aimed at cars, floodlights and buildings windows, people and animals. The Town Council has asked all residents to inform the police of such criminal events and then inform the Town Clerk.

Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks District Council are working closely with the police to track and find this group of youths believed to be 11 – 14 years of age. It was noted that two 14 year olds are making and selling catapults.

Youth Councillors suggested that:

- i) the police make themselves known more to schools within assemblies and advise all the consequences in later life this would cause them:
 - e.g. such behaviour could lead to a personal Criminal Record, which in turn could mean no access to some countries in later life or even being unable to seek some jobs [e.g. legal career] etc.
- ii) Schools discuss this within PHSE for whole year groups

43. Youth Shelter Update

The Town Clerk advised the current elected committee that their previous Youth Council serving for the term 2014-2016 had initiated and carried out a young person's survey for a Youth Shelter to be sited within Greatness Recreation Ground and confirmed that this would be installed in the near future. Youth Councillors to be invited to the opening ceremony.

The Town Clerk advised that adults locally are communicating grave concerns. It was noted by the Youth Council that this was a covered seat and that similar unfounded concerns had been raised prior to the installation of the Skate park.

44. Dates of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 14th June 2017 in the Council Chamber.

- **Addendum** for further discussion at the next meeting
The Town Clerk advised that Youth Councillors may wish to have their Youth Council work accredited. The Committee Clerk will send out details of how this may be achieved and bring a report to the next meeting of Youth Council. Individuals to contact the Committee Clerk if interested.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 6.50 p.m.

