

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
SEVENOAKS YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON 12th DECEMBER 2017
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER at 6:05pm**

Youth Councillors Present:

Charlotte Humm, Elise Van den Hoek, Katie Willis, Oliver Firth-Humm, Phoebe Crichton, Sam Chard and Tom Chapman

Youth Councillors Apologies:

Ana Lawther, Annabelle Durnford, Estella Durnford, James Armitage, Katherine Magee, Malcolm Briery, Samuel Panagrosso, Stefane Ellis and Zak Young

In Attendance

Cllr R Parry [*arrived 6:07pm*], Cllr M Canet and Cllr A Eyre
Linda Larter MBE, Chief Executive/Town Clerk
Michèle MacDonald, Committee Clerk

1. Election of Chairman:

Two Youth Councillors stood for election to this position and made statements why they should be considered for the position of Chairman:

- i. **Youth Councillor Elise van den Hoek from Sevenoaks School**
- ii. **Youth Councillor Sam Chard from Tunbridge Wells Grammar School**

Elise van den Hoek was duly elected Chairman of the Youth Council for the 2017-2018 term and took the chair.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

Only one youth councillor put their name forward. Phoebe Chrichtlow was duly elected as Vice Chairman.

3. Election of Treasurer:

Only one youth councillor put their name forward. Katie Willis was duly elected as Treasurer.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: to note and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2017 subject to the amended of the date from 4th to 6th September 2017. To note that the meeting due to have been held on 1st November 2017 was Inquorate.

5 FINANCE REPORT

RESOLVED: to note that the balance at the commencement of the second year of this Youth Council stood at £969.64. It was noted that We Teach Music is currently hiring the HOUSE in the Basement on a trial basis quid pro quo to offset their charge of £150 per Open Mic Night to save money for Sevenoaks Youth Council and promote HiTB.

6 IDEAS FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

The 2016 workshop ideas were reviewed and discussed with the aim to build on these over the 2017/2018 period. In particular:

RESOLVED:

- a) to ask Highways to consider two additional **zebra crossings** within Sevenoaks Town:
 - i. Either side of the entrance on Bradbourne Vale Road to Knole Academy. Many pupils walk from Bat & Ball traffic lights area.
 - ii. In the High Street near the restaurant Otto at 37 High Street, TN13 1JD in view of the many pupils walking to and from Sevenoaks School.

For safety reasons, this request is made by Youth Councillors as young people are less perceptive of the speed of vehicles than adults and all considered that both areas have need of a zebra crossing.
- b) To **fundraise** for HOUSE in the Basement and an additional charity at the summer Festival Live on the Vine and at the 2018 Christmas Lights Switch on Event. Youth Councillors to have stalls at the event such as tombola, guess the name of the teddy bear, guess the weight of jar, guess the names of the reindeer at Christmas Lights Switch etc.

It was noted that

- i. some schools select a charity of the term and Youth Councillors, Elise van den Hoek, Phoebe Crichtlow, and Kattie Willis attending Sevenoaks School will liaise with their tutors to seek permission to select HOUSE in the basement to receive any funds raised with the sale of cakes on Fridays.
- ii. Sevenoaks School youth councillors will seek permission from their Heads of Service to host activities from 2pm to 4pm at HOUSE in the basement.

7 HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT YOUTH CAFE

RESOLVED: to note the reports for:

- a) September to October 2017
- b) November 2017.

The Town Clerk explained the reasoning behind the opening of the HOUSE in the Basement /youth Café in the Centre of town in 2012. At that time, the nearest Youth Facility was in Swanley. Sevenoaks Youth Councillors undertook a survey and all youth at that time [2009-2011] agreed it would be best to have one central Youth Café in the middle of the town to avoid and hopefully stop territorial issues. Since the KCC Commissioning funding ceased in December 2016, it has been difficult to find funding and the idea to build more facilities instead of building upon the existing ones seems a duplication of effort. HOUSE in the Basement is open Wednesday to Friday and all-day Saturday with a Tuesday Club for the less abled aged 11-24 years.

It was agreed to view a four-minute film produced by Sevenoaks Youth Council when seeking funding for the opening of a Youth Café. Youth Councillors asked for the next Youth Council meeting in January to be held at HOUSE in the Basement.

The Town Clerk confirmed that food sales at HOUSE in the Basement were on the increase with the help of Tesco and Waitrose under the Food Share system and Mark and Spencer who continually donate free food.

All agree to add "Future Projects" on the agenda going forwards.

8 EVENTS

It was noted that:

- a) Youth Councillors be invited to either attend to help on the night or accept the invitation to attend the HOUSE in the Basement Christmas Party on Saturday 23rd December from 5 to 8pm where possible.
- b) Open Mic Nights in 2018 be held on Fridays as follows:
 - 26th January 2018
 - 23rd February 2018
 - 16th March 2018
 - 18th May 2018
 - 29th June 2018
- c) Live on the Vine Event in 2018 will be held on Friday 20th July

9 DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6.00pm

- 31st January 2018 in the HOUSE in the Basement, London Road TN13 1ZZ
- 21st March 2018 in the Town Council Chamber

There being no further items, the meeting closed at 6:50 pm.

AN ASIDE – BAT & BALL STATION

The Town Clerk informed the Youth Council of the good news:

The Heritage Lottery Fund has pledged £755,600 to enable the Town Council to restore the Bat & Ball Station by the end of September 2018, which will make it a more pleasant environment for the young people.

The Town Clerk asked youth councillors to consider volunteering with this project in several ways: carry out research, take part in activities and to contact her directly. Details would be on the agenda of the next meeting.