

Annual General Meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 6th November 2019
At Sevenoaks Town Council Chamber

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.45 p.m.

Present:

Roshni Agarwal	<i>Apologies</i>	Ola Kujawska	<i>Apologies</i>
Eva Azazoglu	<i>Apologies</i>	Emily Mahoney	<i>Apologies</i>
Alexander Black	<i>Apologies</i>	Megan Ng	<i>Apologies</i>
Sam Chard	<i>Apologies</i>	Louisa Phillips	<i>Apologies</i>
Phoebe Crichtlow – Vice-Chairman	<i>Present</i>	Michael Roberts - Treasurer	<i>Present</i>
Samuel Crawford	<i>Apologies</i>	Rose Spurling - Chairman	<i>Present</i>
Tasha Dambacher	<i>Apologies</i>	Gabby Tan	<i>Apologies</i>
Ronnie Day	<i>Apologies</i>	Loic Thiry	<i>Apologies</i>
Charlotte Foulds	<i>Apologies</i>	Amy Vickers	<i>Apologies</i>
Oscar Goodwin	<i>Present</i>	Amber Warrender	<i>Apologies</i>
Matthias Jammot	<i>Apologies</i>	Jacob Watson	<i>Present</i>
Meera Jassi	<i>Apologies</i>	Katie Willis	<i>Present</i>
Ishwar Sharma	<i>Apologies</i>		

In Attendance: Cllrs Bonin, Canet, Clayton, Eyre, Raikes and Waite, Town Clerk and Senior Committee Clerk

60. Election of Chairman

Two youth Councillors put their names forward to be Chairman of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2019-2020. Voting cards were submitted and checked by the Town Clerk and Committee Clerk.

RESOLVED: That Rose Spurling be elected as Chairman.

Rose Spurling took the Chair and invited nominations for the election of Vice-Chairman and Treasurer.

61. Election of Vice-Chairman

One Youth Councillor put her name forward to be Vice-Chairman of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2019-2020.

RESOLVED: That Phoebe Crichtlow be elected as Vice-Chairman.

62. Election of Treasurer

One Youth Councillor put his name forward to be Treasurer of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2019-2020.

RESOLVED: That Michael Roberts be elected as Treasurer.

- 63. Apologies for Absence**
Received as detailed.

- 64. Appointment of Youth Council Representatives to the Youth Services Committee**
One Youth Councillor put his name forward to be Youth Council representative to the Sevenoaks Town Council for the period 2019-2020. It was agreed that those members of the Youth Council not present be consulted to see if there was interest in being appointed to this role.

RESOLVED: That Jacob Watson be appointed as Youth Council representative to the Sevenoaks Town Council Youth Services Committee.

- 65. Invitations received from Sevenoaks Friends of Pontoise**
RESOLVED:

- (i) That Phoebe Crichtlow and Katie Willis be appointed as the Youth Council's representatives to attend the Sevenoaks Friends of Pontoise Gala Dinner in Sevenoaks on 23rd May 2020; and
- (ii) That consideration be given to participation in the Exchange visit (in Sevenoaks) 13th to 16th May 2021 nearer the time.

- 66. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 11th September 2019**
The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

- 67. Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Council Youth Services Committee held on 11th September 2019**
Received and noted.

- 68. Finance Reports**

The Treasurer presented the finance reports:

- (i) **Income and Expenditure for Youth Council's Running Budget**
Noted that following expenditure to date, and the receipt of the Tesco's Ground Works Grant and stall income of £20, the budget balance was £879.60.
- (ii) **Income and Expenditure for the Youth Council's Charity Fundraising**
Noted that fundraising had not yet commenced for the Youth Council's charity, Stem4. Discussion took place as recorded at Minute 70 below.

- 69. Youth Council's Two-Year Plan 2018-2020**

Youth Councillors reviewed progress against the proposals for their two-year term discussed in December 2018, and commented as follows:

- Item 1 (iv) The plastic free campaign had been successful but Youth Councillors needed to continue to promote
- Item 4 The introduction of a railcard for 16-17-year olds was welcomed and it was agreed to continue to press for the extension of the scheme to 18 year olds still in education

- Item 5 Map of Sevenoaks town to be brought to the next meeting to identify problem areas which might be suitable for zebra crossings/additional road signage
- Item 8 Promotion of Youth Council via social media had tailed off, Youth Councillors agreed to restart using Instagram
- Item 9 (iii) Phoebe Crichtlow and Katie Willis advised that the painting of the bookcase for House in the Basement Youth Café was ongoing; the Town Clerk asked them to advise her if funding for paint was needed
- Item 9(iv) Jacob Watson was congratulated on the success of the Chess Club at the House in the Basement Youth Café
- Item 10 Letter to be sent to Round Table asking about the possibility of using silent fireworks at future events
- Item 12 Noted that cycle path and traffic issues were being addressed in the Town Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan (See Minute 72 below)

It was agreed that the Youth Council would push forward with its priorities.

70. West Kent Communities Training Opportunity

It was noted that West Kent Communities had offered to provide a training course (funded up to £1000) for young people, joint hosted by the Town Council, in the House in the Basement and had asked for suggestions for the content of the course.

The Youth Council requested that consideration be given to dealing with mental health issues, including mindfulness, time and stress management skills. Message to be put on WhatsApp group seeking the views of Youth Councillors not present at the meeting. Noted that the Youth Café members were also being consulted.

71. House in the Basement Youth Café

It was noted that:

- The new manager Chris Essex was now in post
- Attendance had tailed off a little during the changeover of staff period but that the new manager would be promoting the Youth Café in schools and with local youth workers
- Music nights and the recent Halloween event continue to be popular

72. Fundraising for Nominated Charity Stem 4

Youth Councillors discussed fundraising ideas including a coffee morning at the Youth Café, bake sales, a sponsored run next year, a movie night, a stall at various festivals/fetes in the town. It was agreed that the level of interest in a movie night needed to be ascertained before moving forward on this.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Youth Council hold a cake sale at the Christmas Lights Switch on event on 29th November 2019 5.30 – 9.00pm
- (ii) That a WhatsApp message be sent to all Youth Councillors to draw up a rota of volunteers to man the stall and/or provide cakes on the evening

73. Christmas Lights Switch On

Agreed to provide a cake stall as detailed at Minute 70 above.

74. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Town Clerk introduced the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Sevenoaks prepared by the Town Council. The Plan provided a development vision and policies which would guide development over the next 25 years. A big consultation exercise would be launched in January 2020. The Town Clerk invited Youth Councillors to look at the document and submit comments. It was noted that the Plan included climate change concerns, cycle paths and other transport issues previously raised by the Youth Council.

The Plan is available to view here: <https://sevenoaksndp.wordpress.com/>

Youth Councillors queried whether the Town Council had joined some other local authorities in declaring a “Climate Emergency” and were advised that rather than making the declaration the Town Council had recognised the crisis and agreed to make climate change its number one priority, to be considered in all its actions. The Town Clerk undertook to circulate the priorities to Youth Councillors and to have an agenda item on the Plan at the next meeting.

The Youth Council requested that recognition of the climate emergency and what the Town Council was doing be added to the Youth Council website.

75. Date of Next Meeting – 4th December 2019

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 4th December 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.