

**Meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 11th September 2019
At Sevenoaks Town Council Chamber**

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.40 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		Megan Ng	<i>Present</i>
Sam Chard	<i>Present</i>	Louisa Phillips	<i>Apologies</i>
Phoebe Crichtlow		Michael Roberts	<i>Apologies</i>
Samuel Crawford	<i>Apologies</i>	Rose Spurling	<i>Present</i>
Tasha Dambacher (chairman)	<i>Present</i>	Gabby Tan	<i>Present</i>
Ronnie Day	<i>Apologies</i>	Loic Thiry	
Charlotte Foulds - (Vice Chairman)	<i>Apologies</i>	Amy Vickers	
Oscar Goodwin	<i>Present</i>	Amber Warrender	<i>Present</i>
Matthias Jammot – (Treasurer)		Jacob Watson	<i>Apologies</i>
Meera Jassi	<i>Apologies</i>	Katie Willis	<i>Apologies</i>
Ishwar Sharma			

In Attendance: Cllr Granville-Baxter, Cllr Shea, Town Clerk and Committee Clerk

In attendance for part of the meeting: Evy Drew, Co-chair Sevenoaks Friends of Pontoise, and Patrick Cheung, Recycling Co-ordinator, Sevenoaks District Council

Tasha Dambacher Chaired the meeting.

53. Presentations

a) Sevenoaks Friends of Pontoise

Evvy Drew advised that Sevenoaks had been twinned with Pontoise in France since 1964. She described activities undertaken by the organisation, in particular the annual four day exchange visit which alternated between the two towns. She invited two Youth Councillors to attend a Gala Dinner in Sevenoaks on 23rd May 2020 6.30 – 10.30pm, and the exchange visit to Pontoise 13th to 16th May 2021.

b) Recycling in Sevenoaks

Patrick Cheung gave a presentation setting out the recycling services provided by Sevenoaks District Council. There was a discussion about the materials that could or could not be recycled together with issues regarding reducing plastic use. Patrick also explained what happened to the waste once it had been collected.

The Youth Council commented that Sevenoaks had one of the lower recycling rates at 32.5%; Patrick advised this had now increased to 40% and explained some of the difficulties faced. The Youth Council considered ways people could be incentivised to increase their recycling and it was suggested that the Town Partnership could be asked to consider this. Patrick asked Youth Councillors to check whether their schools participated in clothes recycling and, if not, asked that they contact him if interested.

The Chairman thanked Evy Drew and Patrick Cheung for the interesting and informative presentations.

54. Apologies for Absence

Received from Roshni Agarwal, Eva Azazoglu, Samuel Crawford, Ronnie Day, Charlotte Foulds, Meera Jassi, Ola Kujawinska, Emily Mahoney, Louisa Phillips, Michael Roberts, Jacob Watson and Katie Willis.

55. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 3rd July 2019

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

56. Finance Reports

a) Income and Expenditure for Youth Council's Running Budget

Noted that following expenditure on two Open Mic events in April and May the budget balance was £1,009.20. As agreed at the meeting held on 13th March 2019, £150 had been committed as a donation to the Skateboard Day event in August.

b) Income and Expenditure for the Youth Council's Charity Fundraising

Noted that fundraising had not yet commenced for the Youth Council's charity, Stem4, but that Amber Warrender had contacted them to request leaflets and to arrange a speaker to attend a future meeting.

57. House in the Basement Youth Café

It was noted that:

- Charlotte Marchant the manager for the past two years had now left and a new manager, Shelley Reynolds had started last week.
- Part time staff Simeon, Paula and Daren had kept the youth café open, however on reduced hours. They continue to be supported by volunteers including from Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT).
- The number of young people attending the youth café remained good and several new younger members had recently started to attend.
- Now the new manager was in place, statistics would start to be provided as previously.

58. Recycling in Sevenoaks

Further to the presentation at Minute 53(b) above, the following matters were noted:

- A number of local businesses had signed up to the Plastic Free Sevenoaks Pledge and the Water Refill Scheme, Youth Councillors were advised to check the Town Council website for updated figures;
- The Town Clerk was planning to discuss the water refill scheme with Sevenoaks and Bat and Ball railway stations; and
- The Town Clerk advised that some towns had raised awareness by installing large sculptures/art installations that could be filled with plastic bottle tops, and she was exploring the possibility for Sevenoaks.

The Youth Council congratulated Gabby Tan on winning a Diana Award for inspirational young people for her environmental campaigns and initiatives and her work in the UK and Malaysia supporting refugee and asylum seeker education.

59. Date of Next Meeting – 23rd October 2019

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 23rd October 2019. This would be the Annual General Meeting and would include the appointment of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.