

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Services Committee Held on Wednesday 10 June 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Meeting commenced: 19:00

Meeting concluded: 20:00

Cllr Chloe Gustard (Chair)	Present	Cllr Catherine Daniell (Vice-Chair, Deputy-Leader)	Present
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Apologies	Cllr Claire Shea (Leader)	Apologies
Cllr Victoria Granville (Mayor)	Apologies	Cllr Gareth Willis	Present

Co-opted Members			
Sevenoaks Youth Council: Vacant		Sevenoaks District Council: Maxine Quinton PC Nick Hubbard	Present Present
Kent Family Hub:		House in the Basement: Daren Mountain	Present
Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust: Peter Robinson	Present	National Trust: Amy Sabine	Apologies
KCC Early Help: Debbie Bell	Apologies		

In attendance: Town Clerk, Committee Clerk and Work Experience.

156 - Chair and Vice Chair

Noted that at the Annual Town Council meeting held on 11th May 2026, the following appointments were made:

Chair: Cllr Chloe Gustard

Vice-Chair: Cllr Catherine Daniel

157 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: To receive and note the apologies for absences as above.

158 - REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

RESOLVED: To note there were no requests for dispensations.

159 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED: To note there were no declarations of interest.

160 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Services Committee held on Wednesday, 1st April 2026, as a true record.

161 - CURRENT & COMPLETED MATTERS REPORTS

161.1 - CURRENT MATTERS REPORT

Councillors noted that on the Youth Council website, there is a Database for work experience opportunities for SEN young people and other young people looking for work experience in the local area.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the current matters report

161.2 - COMPLETED MATTERS REPORT

RESOLVED: To receive and note the completed matters report.

162 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

162.1 - HiTB Manager's Update Report

The Committee heard from Daren Mountain that House in the Basement had been doing well over the last few months, with many of the young volunteers hard at work preparing the exterior of HiTB for the South and Southeast in Bloom judging, with some cleaning the steps and walls with the pressure washer, and others have been painting the wall with bugs and flowers.

It was also noted that Daren, as part of the detached sessions with SAYT, had been going to the Buckhurst play area due to reports of Anti-Social Behaviour but had not seen anything when they were there.

Daren reported that there were many different events planned over the summer holidays, from an upcycling event on the 19th of June, Dungeons and Dragons workshop, Fishing Sessions, African Drumming Workshop, Open Mic Nights and a podcast interview with some of the young people at HiTB.

Daren also mentioned that on the 12th of August, the House in the Basement will be doing their annual Broadstairs trip using three minibuses, one from the Town Council and two from Knole Academy.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the Manager of House in the Basement report.

162.2 - Finance Cost Centre Reports

RESOLVED: To receive and note the House in the Basement finance cost centre report.

163 - YOUTH OUTREACH BUDGET

The Councillors noted that the Youth Outreach Budget for 2026-27 is: £10,000.

They also noted at a previous meeting they had earmarked the remainder of the Youth Outreach Budget from 25/26 for summer events, at £3512.50

Allocated: £2,000 to Skate Park Event,

Remainder: £1,512.50 of Earmarked expenditure.

It was noted that it gave the Youth Services Committee a total Budget of £11,512.50

163.1 - GIRLS SKATEBOARDING SESSIONS

The Committee received a proposal to hold two sets of four free skateboarding sessions over the summer holidays for girls at the skate park in Greatness Recreation Ground. It was noted that the overall cost of this would be £740.

RESOLVED: To fund these sessions for £740.

163.2 - CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY AT THE SUMMER BANDSTAND

The Committee received a proposal to hold five free children's activity sessions on a Thursday evening, 6 pm- 8 pm, during the Vine Bandstand music on the Vine events. It was noted that the overall cost for these sessions would be £2,120.

RESOLVED: To fund five children's activity sessions on the Vine during the Thursday evening 6 pm-8 pm Bandstand performances for £2,120.

163.3 - CHILDREN'S DESIGN A CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION 2026

The councillors noted that the Design a Light Competition has been running for five years and has seen a large number of applications each year. It was noted that the price for this had increased since last year, and councillors noted that previously they had received sponsorship from a local company and hoped that this could be achieved again.

RESOLVED: To earmark £750 for this project, subject to finding a sponsor to match fund the project for a fifth year.

164 - REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED PARTNERS

164.1 - SDC- Community Safety Team

The committee heard from PC Nick Hubbard on Operation Nebular, which is in relation to the antisocial behaviour that had occurred at the Buckhurst Environmental Park, Leisure Centre and Car Park. He reported that they had received a spike in calls from this area. Due to this, they are currently working on the SARA Problem Solving Plan to help address the anti-social behaviour at the site. They have put together a group made up of local residents, businesses, Police Officers, council staff, and Youth Workers.

It was noted that this plan would be looking at the long-term solutions. The councillors noted that in the plan document, the plan outlined communication with local schools and asked for the draft communications to be shared with the Town Council before being sent to schools.

It was also noted that the Environmental Park was leased by Sevenoaks Town Council.

PC Hubbard reported that earlier in the year, an annual operation took place called Operation Spectre. This operation is designed to help educate people on knife crime and the current laws and dangers associated with knife crime. As part of this operation, members of the team had gone to Sevenoaks station and set up a stall in the entrance for people to engage with and talk to them about the dangers of knife crime. As part of this, undergrowth

searches were carried out at the Vine looking for hidden knives; they reported that none were found.

Maxine reported that they have been working in partnership with Chipstead Lakes to help secure the site to prevent situations similar to those we had seen in other parts of the country, where young people had gone to open bodies of water on a hot day and had suffered from cold shock.

164.2 - SAYT

Peter reported that SAYT had now employed a new Youth Worker who was helping them to update their website and social media presence.

It was also noted that they are looking at how they can improve their outreach to young people who may not know who they are. One such way they are looking to do this is by trying to get permission for schools to visit the playgrounds during lunchtime and engage with the Young People.

Peter also reported they currently use the MUGA at the Bat and Ball Centre, which during the summer is great, but they are seeing more boys than girls attending these sessions and are currently trying to work out how to engage more girls as well as work out a plan for the colder winter months.

165 - UPCOMING EVENTS

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the upcoming events.

166 - PRESS RELEASE

RESOLVED: to issue a press release on funding the Girls Summer Skateboarding session and funding the Thursday evening Children's Activities on the Vine during the Bandstand performances.

There being no further business the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed
Chair

Dated