

**Minutes of Sevenoaks Town Partnership Meeting held at the Town Council Chamber
On Wednesday 12th September at 6.30 p.m.**

Executive Board:

Cllr Stephen Arnold (Chairman)	Sevenoaks Town Council	Apologies
Cllr Andrew Eyre (Vice Chairman)	Stag	Present
Linda Larter	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Tony Clayton	Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association	Present
Cllr Avril Hunter	Sevenoaks District Council	Apologies
Neil Jackson	Coolings	Apologies
Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks Society	Present
Jane Parish	Sencio	Apologies
Mike Williams	Sevenoaks Round Table	Apologies
Austin Blackburn	Go Coach	Present
Roberta Ware	Francis Jones Jewellers	Present
Glenn Ball	Local Architect	Apologies
	Blighs	Apologies
Mark Tuvey	Sevenoaks and District Chamber of Commerce	Present
Elizabeth Dolding	Warners Solicitors	Present

Also in Attendance:

Stephanie Harrison – My Sevenoaks Community

Cllr Simon Raikes

Cllr Marilyn Canet

As the Chairman was not present at the meeting Cllr Andre Eyre (Vice Chairman) chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

As noted above. Apologies also received from Cllr Richard Parry, Cllr Mrs Rachel Parry and Cllr Pam Walshe.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Partnership Meeting held on 8th August 2018 were received and agreed.

4. Friends of Bat & Ball Station meeting held on 14th August 2018

A copy of the minutes were received and noted.

5. Sevenoaks Business Awards 2018

An update was received from the Committee Clerk. Plans for the evening were on schedule and would take the same style as previous years. Any help from members would be appreciated on the night with the take down at the end of the evening.

6. Purple Tuesday 13th November.

A report was received and noted. It was agreed that the Committee Clerk would contact local businesses about the project to see who would like to be involved this year. The Town Partnership would discuss at a later date plans for an event in 2019.

7. Member Organisations

Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association – The Group was currently in talks with Govia Thameslink regarding the planned 2019 high speed service from Bat & Ball (via Otford or Swanley) to London Bridge. The group was also in talks with other stations regarding supporting Sevenoaks Town Council's proposed Community Rail Partnership.

Go Coach – Some slight issues had occurred since the schools had returned. A new contract had been awarded to Go Coach by Kent County Council for the school journeys for Weald of Kent Gramma School Annexe.

A new electric bus would be on loan to Go Coach shortly and a tour on the bus would be arranged for a date in the near future. It was noted that the new electric bus would save around 1/3 on fuel costs but the initial outlay to purchase a bus was higher than their diesel counterparts, approximately £250,000. Further details regarding introduction of electric buses would be discussed between Sevenoaks Town Council and Go Coach.

Sevenoaks and District Chamber of Commerce – The annual charity Golf Day would take place on 13th September at Nizels Golf Club.

Membership numbers continue to grow and it was noted that Julie had now been appointed to Chief Executive.

New Patrons of the Chamber were noted; Warners, Welham Jones and Sanlam with a fourth to be announced shortly.

Sevenoaks Senior District Action Forum – Current membership stood at 1150 with the group working on issues such as loneliness and sports for the older generation e.g walking football. Anyone wishing to know details about the forum were asked to contact Cllr Marilyn Canet.

Francis Jones Jewellers – Business was very busy at present. Recently customers had been highlighting that they had fallen for fraud scams.

Warners – Recent recruitment had gone very well with all vacancies now filled.

My Sevenoaks Community – The businesses was going from strength to strength with the website and Facebook page combined receiving up to 70,000 hits a week. Great feedback was being received and lots of new stories added to the website weekly.

Breast Cancer Care/Pink Week – The following events would be taking place during Pink Week.

6th October – Pink Race at the Vine Gardens: 9.15am leave from Vine Gardens. Walkers to meeting outside Laura Ashley at 9.30am

9th October – Film Night at the Stag at 6;45 call 01732 450 175 to book tickets.

13th October – Quiz Night at the Sevenoaks Community Centre at 7pm to book tickets please email info@thechinaman.co.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council – It was noted that a letter had been received regarding the closure of Tesco Metro in the High Street. It was requested that the Sevenoaks Town Partnership reply to the letter with questions as to what will happen to the store once Tesco leave and any possible development of the site.

Business Hub – Funding for the project had now been applied for. It was requested that businesses complete the online survey as this evidence will be used for the funding process and business plan.

<https://goo.gl/forms/Usks4KuGACHe43Kt2>

Christmas Lights – It was noted that the Christmas Light Switch on event in the town would take place on 30th November.

Stag – Business going well with a few recent changes to the Finance Department. Current vacancies were: Part Time Deputy Events Manager and Box Office Staff.

Scams – Recent issues with scams online and over the telephone were discussed. It was agreed that the Town Clerk contact Sevenoaks District Council to see if a coordinated response to scams in the area could be arranged, particularly for older people.

8. Dates of Next Meetings

24th October 2018 at the Town Council Chamber. This would be the Sevenoaks Town Partnership AGM.

9. Press Release

It was agreed to continue to produce press releases regarding events as when needed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45 pm.