MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2026

504. PRESENT – Councillors Mrs K. Mills (Mayor), I. Plant (Deputy Mayor), G. Bentley, S. Ellis, D. Faulkner, M. Downie, Ms M. Wells, C. Richardson, Mrs S. Walley, J. Jervis, P. Jackson, Miss Z. Routledge, P. Routledge, A. Thomas, Mrs P. Upton, Ms V. Wheeldon and D. Wilson.

505. APOLOGIES – Councillors J Aberley, T. Cann and T. Durose

506. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs I. Plant and Ms. V. Wheeldon recorded an interest in any planning matters as they are Members of the Planning Applications Committee at SMDC.

507. SECTION 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None.

508. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE/SCC/SMDC/OTHER AUTHORITIES REPORT

Cllr G. Bentley stated that the County Council had released some funding for the proposed school on the North East ward following approval of Phase II of the Persimmon Homes development. He added that highways had been given a County wide budget of £15 million for road defects, including potholes and grids.

509. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

510. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2026

The minutes of the meeting of the Full Council were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

511. REPORT OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026

All items on the report were accepted and approval was given to all items recommended by the Committee.

512. REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2026

All items on the report were accepted and approval was given to all items recommended by the Committee.

513. REPORT OF THE LEISURE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2026

All items on the report were accepted and approval was given to all items recommended by the Committee.

514. PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL – DELEGATED POWER TO FINANCE & RESOURCES

Council approved the payment of the Council's invoice for the Service Level Agreement with AES for 2025/26 which had been received just prior to the meeting, and therefore there was no requirement for delegation.

515. COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT – FOR REVIEW MARCH 2026

The Clerk advised that the Council Risk Assessment was being reviewed under both the work that was being undertaken in respect of the Assets, and also as part of the additional work towards the Parish Council's Association Bronze Award. Whilst the document is not yet finalised, it will provide a more robust structure for managing risk across Council, and will comply with the conditions of the Council's Insurance Policy.

516. VACANCY ON THE CHEADLE WEST WARD - UPDATE

The Clerk advised Council that an Election had been called for the vacancy in the West Ward, stating that the District Council had received notification that ten registered electors had submitted a request to hold an election. The Clerk stated that a provisional date of Thursday 16th April had been arranged by the Elections team at SMDC, and that there had been a request for a Council decision on the issuance of Polling Cards. A wide discussion took place in respect of the Election, with many Councillors showing concern as to the expense that this would generate and particularly the potential closure of the two primary schools that had been identified as Polling Stations. Councillors asked if the names of the ten electors who had called for an election were available, however the Clerk confirmed that he had not received this information. Cllr G. Bentley stated that he was one of those who had called for an Election. He stated that elections were a more democratic process than the Co-Option process, and it should be the people of Cheadle who decide who represents them. Cllr Bentley stated that there were alternative locations for Polling Stations that would not affect the schools, however a number of Councillors remained concerned about the closures and also the cost implication to public funds. Following a lengthy debate on the issuance of Polling Cards, Council voted by 10 votes to 7 not to issue Polling Cards, due to the protection of public funds. This was a named vote as below:-

Councillor Mrs. K. Mills (Mayor)	**Against**
Councillor I. W. Plant (Deputy Mayor)	**Against**
Councillor J. Aberley	***Not in Attendance***
Councillor T. Cann	***Not in Attendance***
Councillor M. Downie	**For**
Councillor T. Durose	***Not in Attendance***
Councillor G. Bentley	**Against**
Councillor S.A. Ellis	**Against**
Councillor D. Faulkner	**For**
Councillor P. Jackson	**Against**
Councillor J. Jervis	**For**
Councillor C. Richardson	**Against**
Councillor P. Routledge	**For**
Councillor Miss Z. Routledge	**Against**
Councillor A. Thomas	**For**
Councillor Mrs P. Upton	**Against**
Councillor Mrs S. Walley	**Against**
Councillor Ms M. Wells	**For**
Councillor Mrs V. Wheeldon	**For**
Councillor D. Wilson	**Against**

517. TOWN COUNCIL LOGO – COUNCIL TO CONSIDER REQUIREMENT FOR UPGRADE.

This item was deferred for a further discussion with those who were involved in the current logo, and to assess some design ideas that had been put forward for consideration.

518. CONFIGURATION OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES – APPROVAL OF FORMAT

This matter was discussed with the Clerk informing Council that the options for the formatted .gov.uk e-mails would wither be initials or full first names. It was decided that Council would adopt full first and second names as the appropriate format.

519. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – UPDATES/MEETINGS

It was reported by the Locality Champion, Cllr I. Plant, that there would be a meeting with the Chief Executive of the District Council on Tuesday 10th March 2026 in terms of Asset Transfer, and that the meeting had been arranged through his PA. Councillors were advised that the attendees would be himself as Locality Champion, The Town Mayor and the Clerk. Councillors felt that there should be some direct representation of the Town Council, and following debate it was agreed the Cllr Mrs P. Upton should also attend. This was proposed by Cllr Ms. V. Wheeldon and seconded by Cllr A. Thomas.

520. REPORT ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

521. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs K. Mills, informed Council that she would be attending the 100th Anniversary of the Cheadle Unit of St Johns Ambulance on Saturday 7th March at the Wellspring Methodist Church in Cheadle, and that all Councillors were welcome to attend. The Mayor also confirmed that she would be attending the International Women's Day event in Cheadle on Sunday 8th March.

Confidential

522. REPORT OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE ON MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2026

The report of the Staffing Committee was approved for all items on the recorded minutes. The Clerk asked Council to support Rachel Parker in her new role as Town Clerk when she starts on April 1st.

523. UPDATE ON THE SOUTH MOORLANDS LEISURE CENTRE

Councillor Ian Plant provided Council with an update on the proposals for the South Moorlands Leisure Centre, including the proposed adaptations to the internal spaces and swimming pool.

There being no further business the meeting was brought to a close.

Signed……