MINUTES OF THE CHEADLE TOWN COUNCIL BUISNESS, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2023 AT THE CHEADLE FIRE STATION AT 7PM.

329. PRESENT – Councillors P. Keeling (Chair), G. Bentley (Vice Chair) J. Mason, C. Clark. B. Charlesworth P. Routledge and Z. Routledge

330. APOLOGIES – Councillors W. Willis and Mrs V. O'Shea

331. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

332. SECTION 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS – None

RESOLVED ITEMS

333. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2023

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted an accurate record.

334. BTEC WORKING GROUPS – UPDATE ON MEETINGS

The Chair confirmed that two of the Working Groups had met and started to progress the projects relevant to their working group. He stated that the next Working Group to meet would be the Environment Working Group, which would meet on the following Monday, 30th November.

335. BTEC PROJECT LIST – REFRESH AND REVIEW ACTIONS

The Chair provided a brief resume of the projects that have been allocated to the respective Working Parties, and confirmed that actions have now been allocated to Members. It was agreed that this Agenda Item will remain on future Agenda's as part of the update process for Full Council.

ITEMS CONSIDERED FOR RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL

336. TREE PLANTING SMDC GRANT

Cllr B. Charlesworth informed Members that there was a Grant Fund of £400 which could be applied for via SMDC which could be put towards the effective planting and protection of trees in the town. Members agreed to put this forward as a recommendation to Full Council.

ACTION PLAN – ITEMS FOR UPDATE AND PROGRESSION

337. ZERO CARBON DAY – PROPOSED DATE AND LOCATION

Cllr B. Charlesworth informed the Committee that following the positive response to the event held at Cheadle Primary School, at which there had been a demonstration on green energy and solar energy, he wanted to put forward a motion to hold a Zero Carbon Day in the town, and proposed that this could be prepared for the Spring of 2024. Members felt that the proposal would require some more thought prior to delivery, and agreed to put the idea to the Environment Working Party for progression.

338. GREEN SPACES ON CHEADLE CAR PARK

Cllr G. Bentley stated that he had been looking at the small areas of land that sit on the Cheadle car park and which house the Animal War Memorial. He stated that the areas are grassed/lawned, with planting areas, and are currently maintained by SMDC. Cllr Bentley stated that the areas frequently looked unkempt, and proposed that SMDC provided better maintenance or that Cheadle Town Council took over the responsibility through the BTEC Committee. Cllr Bentley stated that he had been in negotiation with Cllr Matt Swindlehurst in order to ascertain ownership, and it was agreed that once the information was available, a motion would be put forward if viable.

339. CHEADLE RAILWAY – UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMDC

Cllr G. Bentley informed Members that the current lease agreement in place for the railway was due to run for another 7 years, however SMDC were in the process of carrying out a feasibility study on the former railway site, with SMDC Regeneration Officer, Marc Briand, leading on the project.

340. CHEADLE HIGH STREET LINE MARKINGS AND LAYOUT UPDATE

Councillors fully understood that replacement of the line markings for the High Street were the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council, however following the recent re-surfacing, there had been some discussion with County representatives about the layout of the line markings. It was confirmed that discussions with County Councillor Mark Deaville were ongoing, and that there had been an opportunity to put forward local recommendations for High Street Parking and Service Delivery.

341. COMMUNITY HUB – COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FORMER PREMISES OCCUPIED BY CHEADLE & TEAN TIMES NEWSPAPER

Cllr B. Charlesworth put forward a proposal to consider the building as a potential Community Hub. The Clerk advised that a business case would need to be drafted, and that any recommendations to Full Council would need to include options for purchase, maintenance and use.

342. EMPTY SHOPS IN CHEADLE - UPDATE

Cllr P. Routledge confirmed that he, along with Cllr P. Keeling and Z. Routledge had completed and exercise that had identified all of the empty shops and office spaces available in the town, as part of the Business Working Party. It was agreed that this document, when finalised would go to the Full Council with a recommendation to include these spaces on its website and through the SMDC Regeneration Programme.

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

Signed…….