MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7th APRIL 2025

590. **PRESENT –** Councillors Mrs P. Upton (Mayor), Mrs K. Mills (Deputy Mayor), G. Bentley, C. Clark, B. Charlesworth, P. Routledge, P. Keeling, D. Wilson, S. Ellis, P. Jackson, I. Plant, M. Staton, Ms V. Wheeldon, Ms L. Wood Williams and Miss Z. Routledge.

591. **APOLOGIES –** Councillors J Aberley, A. Thomas, M. Haines and Ms M. Wells.

592. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs K. Mills declared an interest item 13 on the Agenda as an employee of Staffordshire County Council.

Cllr G. Bentley declared an interest in any matters relating to the town Lengthsman.

593. **SECTION 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS**

None.

594. **STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE/SCC/SMDC/OTHER AUTHORITIES REPORT**

Police Sargeant John Edwards and PCSO Adrian Waters attended the meeting and gave an update on an incident that had been reported at Hales Hall pool over the previous weekend. He confirmed that there had been an altercation at the location and that Staffordshire Police were continuing to investigate the incident. Sgt Edwards stated that it was not believed that those involved were local to the town at that stage, however he also confirmed that those involved were known to each other, and that he believed it to be an isolated incident. Council asked Sgt Edwards to provide updates and reassurance through the media where possible, and confirmed the reporting pathways that were available to anyone who wished to report matters to Staffordshire Police. PCSO Waters provided an update on ASB in Cheadle and stated that compared to other areas in the Staffordshire Moorlands, the numbers were low and down overall by 11.79% on the same period last year. Sgt Edwards further confirmed that investigations remained ongoing into the reported suspicions of criminal activity in Cheadle and Tean that had been shared on social media, and assured Council that Staffordshire Police do monitor social media accounts in order to identify local incidents that may require Police attention.

595. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Joe Apsey attended the meeting by invitation, and gave a fabulous presentation on his ongoing work in memory of his brother, Tom, who was instrumental in the process of providing a skate park on the Tean Road Recreation Ground. Joe described Tom as ‘very creative’ and a huge skateboard fan, and spoke about his battles with anxiety and depression during his life. In order to recognise Tom’s contribution to the provision of the skate park, Joe asked for the approval of a memorial painting on the side of one of the ramps, which he said would have a ‘lightbulb’ theme, a poem written by Tom and recognition of Tom’s favourite charity, MIND. Councillors were very supportive of the initiative and thanked Joe for his presentation. Unanimous approval was given to the project and arrangements would be made for Joe and his family to access the site and install the Memorial.

596. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2025

Approved and confirmed as a correct record, pending an amendment to add Councillor C. Clark to the list of Councillors present..

597. REPORT OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 10th MARCH 2025

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

598. REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 17th MARCH 2025

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

599. REPORT OF THE LEISURE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 17th MARCH 2025

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

600. REPORT OF THE BTEC COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 31st MARCH 2025

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

601. REPORT OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING FROM WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2025

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

602. REPORTING ANTI-SCOIAL BEHAVIOUR IN CHEADLE - ROLE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Council discussed the wide-ranging subject of anti-social behaviour, and what role it had to play in terms of tackling local issues around the subject. Cllr B. Charlesworth reported that Council should consider taking a more pro-active approach, with representation on multi-agency teams who were set up to report on such matters. Cllr Mrs K. Mills advised Council that there was a process in place for making referrals through Staffordshire County Council, and that people should be encouraged to report incidents of anti-social behaviour to the Police in order that agencies could determine a more accurate picture of the scale of incidents, and therefore look to introduce measures to combat such behaviour. Staffordshire Police reported that ASB was low in Cheadle, however some Councillors felt that this was because many incidents were being reported on social media outlets as opposed to reporting through the Staffordshire Police Website or 101 and 999 systems. Cllr G. Bentley reminded Council and Police that there was some Neighbourhood Watch set up in the town, and Police confirmed that they monitored social-media reports in the local area. Cllr Mrs K. Mills stated that she would look at attending one of the multi-agency meetings and report back to Council with some advice on Council representation.

603. <u>WELCOME TO CHEADLE SIGNAGE – UPDATE ON PROGRESS</u>

Cllr P. Keeling confirmed that he had been working with Neil Rowlinson on the Welcome to Cheadle signage, and that it was now complete. Cllr Keeling was thanked for his work with this project, and it was agreed to write a letter of thanks to Neil Rowlinson for his time and commitment to improving the town.

604. <u>REPORT ON OUTSIDE BODIES</u>

None

605. <u>MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>

The Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs P. Upton, reported that Party in the Park 2025 would take place on Sunday 10th August 2025.

The Mayor also asked Councillors to put all items for the Agenda to the Town Clerk in good time, in order that requested items could be considered for inclusion.

Through the Mayor, the Clerk informed Council that Robert Pritchard had been booked to come and talk to Council about Devolution, and how this may affect Parish & Town Councils in the future. This would be on Tuesday 27th May 2025. It was agreed that surrounding Parishes could be notified, should they want to send representatives.

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

Signed……