MINUTES OF THE CHEADLE TOWN COUNCIL LEISURE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20th APRIL 2026

598. **PRESENT** – Councillors I.W. Plant (Chair), Mrs P. Upton (Vice Chair), S. Ellis, P. Routledge, Miss Z. Routledge, J. Jervis, T.Cann, M. Downie Mrs S. Walley and C. Richardson.

599. **APOLOGIES** – Councillors T. Durose, D. Wilson, Mrs K. Mills and D. Faulkner

600. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –** Councillor I Plant declared an interest in the confidential item relating to memorial issues as the mason is personally known to him.

601. **SECTION 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS -** None

602. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF MONDAY 16th MARCH 2026**

Approved and confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

603. **COMMUNITY REASSURANCE UPDATE – IF ANY**

The Committee were provided with an update below from Community Reassurance.

CR Update Spring/Summer 2025

This year, we have been blessed with plenty of sunshine that has attracted a wider flow of visitors and provided a dry green space for all to enjoy. No doubt, the good weather has contributed to towards the active and friendly atmosphere as described by many throughout the summer. CR has recently received feedback from a returning parent who spoke of a positive change after previously experiencing intimidation from groups of teens with their vulgar antics whilst her children played in 2023.

Following on from January's ASB evaluation report, CR has been present and consistent with engaging the large groups and targeted individuals related to the identified incidents & concerns over the previous summer season.

*Promoting social Inclusion and desirable behaviours through various activities and discussion. Such as Ramp Challenges, preparation & practice for peer-led scooter competition. Trips out with SCYP to Rudyard Lake team building water activities. Cinema and McDonalds. Multi generational tea & cake afternoon for socialising and conversations.

*Healthy Eating skills such as herbal fusion, tea tasting from the herb garden & nettle eating. Backwood foraging session were they helped to pick blackberries, to make cordial and linden berries to make forager's chocolate. These fun sessions included discussions around the importance of healthy foods and drinks for mind, body and energy.

*Other organised activities, such as the bike repair project and stoke city sports were very well received with a good number of participants. CR has received positive feedback from the Stoke City Instructors. Currently in conversation with Chain Reaction for a second bike repair workshop scheduled for October.

CR continues to build positive community relationships and has seen ASB improvements, despite a few incidents on the bowling green, electric bikes and damage on the tennis court. CR has been working closely with the P.C.S.O's to provide a regular visible presence with co-ordinated chats and advice that have included parents where appropriate for a few individuals.

604. ASSET TRACKER UPDATE

The Committee reviewed the current status of asset-related actions:

- Footpaths (Cemetery and Bowling Pavilion): quotations pending.
- Wooden play equipment: removed. Replacement options to be considered under confidential items. The play area remains closed due to unsafe ground conditions and will be inspected weekly.
- Skate park groundworks: the Clerk has contacted the contractor to confirm a commencement date.
- General groundworks: quotations to be considered under confidential items.

605. CHEADLE TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS – MAINTENANCE PLANS & RISK ASSESSMENTS

No further updates were presented. The Committee agreed that this item should remain on the agenda for ongoing monitoring and review of progress.

606. CHURCHILL ROAD PROJECT – UPDATE

Councillor I. Plant confirmed that the tendering process is underway, with responses currently awaited from prospective contractors.

607. UPDATE ON CHEADLE CEMETERY EXTENSION

Councillor I. Plant provided an update regarding planning conditions. Following a recent meeting with Hewitt & Carr, the required documentation will be submitted to the Planning Authority on 20 April 2026.

608. TOWN BUNTING REPLACEMENT AND LEGACY PLAN FOR FUNDING PROPOSALS

The Committee approved the proposal to install bunting brackets along the High Street for submission to SMDC in support of funding applications.

609. COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR LEGACY PLAN FOR SMDC ENGAGEMENT

The Committee considered potential initiatives for inclusion in the SMDC legacy plan. A proposal to restore town centre street signage was suggested. Councillor Downie will obtain further information for consideration. Members were invited to submit additional proposals at the next meeting.

610. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING & BUNTING INSTALLATION AND ADDITIONAL

Councillor S. Ellis noted that certain decorative items, including Christmas trees at the entrance to the High Street and coloured stars, were not installed this year. Councillor I. Plant will investigate this matter with the contractor. The bunting item was deferred to the confidential section for further discussion.

611. COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR POWER SUPPLY SOCKET – FAR SIDE OF THE BOWLING PAVILION

The Clerk was instructed to contact the original contractor responsible for the bowling pavilion development to investigate the cause of the power socket fault. Should the issue not be attributable to the contractor, the Clerk is authorised to arrange repairs up to a value of £1,000 to ensure availability for forthcoming events. If costs exceed this amount, an extraordinary meeting will be convened.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

612. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AND BUNTING INSTALLTION AND ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

The Committee reviewed the 2 quotations received and, due to time constraints, agreed to proceed with the existing provider Kreative Bunting for the supply and installation of 160 x 10 metres lengths of bunting at the previously established standard. It was further agreed that all associated services would be subject to review and re-tendering ahead of 2027.

613. TENNIS COURT REPLACEMENT NETS

Item moved to confidential as costings now available for consideration. The Committee approved the replacement of tennis nets at a cost of £175 per net. Should the posts require replacement, the most cost-effective supplier will be selected, with estimated costs ranging from £400 to £550. Consideration was also given to the potential for multi-use of the courts outside of the tennis season

614. QUOTES FOR CONSIDERATION FOR TEAN ROAD TODDLER AREA

Councillor P. Upton presented an overview of quotations received and summarised the results of the public consultation (31 respondents). The majority preference was for Option 1, with a recommendation to include a sensory panel at an additional cost of approximately £700. The Committee agreed to recommend the KOMPAN quotation, inclusive of the sensory panel, to Full Council for approval.
General feedback from the consultation included requests to reopen the toddler area promptly, improve maintenance of existing equipment, and provide activities for a wider age range.

615. QUOTES FOR CONSIDERATION FOR GROUNDWORKS TEAN ROAD PLAY AREA

The Committee reviewed the quotations and agreed that a trench edge design offered the most sustainable solution. The KOMPAN quotation was selected, with a request to include works associated with the accessible roundabout to ensure best value. The revised quotation will be presented to Full Council.

616. QUOTES FOR CONSIDERATION BASE FOR ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLE

This item was deferred pending receipt of the required specifications.

617. COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER COSTINGS FOR REPLACEMENT OPENING TIMES SIGNAGE

The Committee approved the cost of £85 for replacement signage to improve visibility. Councillor P. Upton was instructed to proceed with the order.

618. MEMORIAL COMPLAINTS CHEADLE CEMETERY

The Clerk provided an overview of complaints received regarding unauthorised works undertaken within the cemetery. Two memorials have been deemed unsafe and will be removed. The memorial mason responsible for the unauthorised works does not hold the required licence and has failed to comply with current regulations. It was agreed that the individual will be formally notified in writing and prohibited from undertaking any further work within Cheadle Cemetery with immediate effect.

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

Signed…….