MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2026

263. PRESENT – Councillors P. Routledge (Mayor), J. Jervis, (Deputy Mayor), G. Bentley, S. Ellis, I. Plant, M. Downie, M. Wells, C. Richardson, S. Walley, A. Thomas, P. Upton, T. Cann, D. Faulkner, D. Wilson, V. Wheeldon

264. APOLOGIES – Councillors J. Aberley, K. Mills, P. Jackson, Z. Routledge and T. Durose

265. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllr J Jervis declared an interest in any matters relating to the maintenance contract as his partner has submitted an interest in the cleaning contract and abstained from the vote on the agenda item.

Cllrs Upton, Wheeldon & Plant declared an interest in any matters relating to the oak project as they are trustees. All 3 members abstained from voting on the relevant item.

266. SECTION 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None.

267. SUPPORT THE OAK PROJECT – ACT AS A GURANTOR FOR A LOAN OR ADMINSTER THE LOAN ON BEHALF OF THE OAK PROJECT CIO

It was agreed that this agenda item would be considered first due to members of the public being present in the Chamber. Standing Orders relating to speaking once were suspended to allow an open discussion on the proposal. Cllr V. Wheeldon provided a brief overview of the proposal to explore the feasibility of the Town Council either acting as guarantor or facilitating a £300,000 loan on behalf of the Oak Project CIO to secure funding for the purchase of the building through the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). The Clerk advised that extreme caution should be exercised and that no commitment should be considered until appropriate professional advice had been obtained. Following discussion, the Council resolved to seek legal and financial advice regarding the proposal and the potential risks associated with the arrangement.

A named vote was taken. The motion was carried with 8 votes in favour and 8 abstentions.

Cllr G. Bentley – Abstain
Cllr L. Bentley – Abstain
Cllr T. Cann – For
Cllr M. Downie – For
Cllr S. Ellis – For
Cllr D. Faulkner – For
Cllr J. Jervis – Abstain
Cllr I. Plant – Abstain
Cllr C. Richardson – For
Cllr P. Routledge – Abstain

Cllr A. Thomas – For
Cllr P. Upton – Abstain
Cllr S. Walley – For
Cllr M. Wells – Abstain
Cllr V. Wheeldon – Abstain
Cllr D. Wilson - For

Standing orders were reinstated.

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

Cllr G. Bentley reported that Staffordshire County Council had repaired over 5,000 potholes across the Staffordshire Moorlands. He also advised that Cheadle Academy and local authorities were introducing a Family Hub, which would include some form of youth provision.

Cllr I. Plant informed Council that the MYActive project had been delayed and would be reviewed by Cabinet in December. Council requested involvement in any proposed changes and sought clarification as to whether the football facilities would remain open during the refurbishment period. Cllr Plant agreed to raise these matters with SMDC and report back to Council.

269. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Tony Joins raised questions regarding the MYActive development and changes proposed for the main hall. He commented that the current layout allows three indoor bowls and a badminton court to operate simultaneously. However, he had been advised that following refurbishment there would only be sufficient space for two indoor bowls and no badminton provision. Mr Joins also enquired whether padel tennis or pickleball facilities had been considered. Cllr Plant confirmed that these activities were not currently included within the refurbishment proposals.

270. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2026

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

271. REPORT OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2026

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

272. REPORT OF THE LEISURE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026

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

273. REPORT OF THE LEISURE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

All items contained within the report, with the exception of Minute 239, were accepted and approval was given to all recommendations made by the Committee.
Minute 239 was referred back to Full Council for further consideration at the November meeting. The vote was tied at 7 votes for and 7 votes against. The Chairman exercised the casting vote in favour of returning the item for full review.

274. REPORT OF THE BTEC COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

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

275. UPDATE ON CHURCHILL ROAD DEVLOPMENT PROJECT

Cllr P. Upton updated the Council on the successful opening event for the new play area and pump track. The access point has been identified at the far side of the children play area following an inspection, this will be included within the contractors snagging to close off the area with a fence panel and the recent access request from Wrights Landscapes will not be granted by SMDC. The Clerk & Mayor will sign the authorisation form for SMDC to confirm install of the fence panel. The Council representatives will continue to work with SMDC regarding the next phase on the site.

276. COUNCIL TO REVIEW AUDITED AGAR & EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT 2025/2026

The Council reviewed accepted the audited AGAR for 2025/26 and the external Auditors report.

277. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

There were no further updates at this time due to the Government pausing Local Government Reorganisation proposals within the area.

278. LETS CELEBRATE TOWNS COMPETITION – LETTER FROM THE RT HON DAME KAREN BRADLEY MP

It was agreed to include the item within a BTEC agenda for the Committee to consider.

279. REPORT ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None

280. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor asked for volunteers to support with the poppy appeal and the Firework event raising funds for his charity.

Confidential

281. REPORT OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026

The report was reviewed and approved. Council agreed that the opening and closing of the Tean Road Recreation Ground toilets should be included within the Gate Key Holder Service. All recommendations contained within the report were approved.

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

Signed……