MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2026

174. PRESENT – Councillors P. Routledge (Mayor), J. Jervis, (Deputy Mayor), G. Bentley, S. Ellis, I. Plant, M. Downie, Ms M. Wells, C. Richardson, Mrs S. Walley, P. Jackson, K. Mills A. Thomas, Mrs P. Upton, T. Cann, L. Bentley, Z. Routledge, D. Faulkner

175. APOLOGIES – Councillors J. Aberley, D. Wilson, V. Wheeldon and T. Durose

176. 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.

177. SECTION 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None.

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

Cllr G Bentley provided the Council with a brief update from Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and their plan to tackle the highway infrastructure and road surface improvements to highways within Staffordshire laying road chippings & top coat to give road surfaces a further 10 year lifespan and are actively repair footpaths. Cllr Thomas requested an update from Cllr G Bentley from the SCC on the new school that is to be delivered within the North East Ward. Cllr Bentley advised that updates have been sent out previously and since then there had been no further updates to provide.

179. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Tony Joins addressed the Council following the government announcement earlier in the day regarding the pause to LGR and the implications that this would mean. Cllr I Plant would provide an update on this matter within the agenda item. Council thanked Mr Joins for bringing this matter to Council.

180. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH JULY 2026

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

181. REPORT OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 13th JULY 2026

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

182. REPORT OF THE LEISURE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FROM MONDAY 20th JULY 2026

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

183. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

It was agreed that the following Councillors would join the Committee to ensure the minimum membership - Councillors M. Wells and A. Thomas

184. COUNCIL TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENTS

Council approved the Council Risk Assessment in principle with the relevant amendments would be made as and when required as this would be a working document. The Cemetery Risk assessment was approved.

185. COMMUNITY GOVERANCE REVIEW

Following the information received from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council who indicated that this would be lengthy process along with the potential to cost tens of thousands pounds it was agreed not to move forward with the proposal.

186. UPDATE ON THE ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT ON TEAN ROAD AND ADDITIONAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

The Clerk provided the Council with a brief overview of events, the travellers gained access to the site on Wednesday 15th July via Mill Road gate entrance by cutting the padlock & chain as well as the main entrance. Once access had been gained the following day the Clerk along with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs/Vice Chairs reviewed the options available and following guidance from the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. Enforcement officers were instructed to issue the relevant eviction notice. The Travellers agreed to comply with the notice and left site on the Sunday 19th July. Environmental clean up teams with arranged. Some the issued caused across the Town were highlighted but the Tean Road site was left in a relatively good condition. The Leisure & Operations Committee carried out a site visit and scoped options to enhance security to prevent this in the future. Parking bollards were suggested and quotes are on the agenda for consideration in confidential items.

187. UPDATE ON CHURCHILL ROAD SITE

Councillor P. Upton advised the Council that the pump track is open for use, the development has passed the ROSPA inspection and relevant risk assessment is in place with the inclusion of a water sign which has been installed. The planning compliant that was issued to the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council regarding the pump track has been resolved and the residents had received the relevant communication to confirm this from the District Council and the site doesn't require planning permission as this is falls under the permitted development scope. The play area is currently under development and has also received a ROSPA inspection with a view minor reports. There are still works to be completed and the play area remains closed. Cllr Upton advised Council that the official opening of the new development is likely to take place on Sunday 27th September. The second phase of the site will include football pitch, toilets and a small changing facility, goal storage, and a perimeter footpath which will go through the relevant procurement and consultation process with the Town Council. Cllr Wells highlighted the verge adjacent to the Pump Track would benefit from been cut back so the area was more visible. This was welcomed by Council and would be looked into further.

188. REMINDER TO COUNCILLORS .GOV.UK EMAIL ADDRESSES SHOULD BE USED FOR COUNCIL BUISNESS

The Clerk reminded Members that the .gov email addresses should be used for Council Correspondence. There are a few members with on going issues that the Clerk will look into further with the view that all members will then be able to access the Councils emails to comply with assertion 10.

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

The Clerk advised that the AGAR had yet to be received and that an extraordinary meeting may need to be called to meet the relevant deadlines.

190. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Cllr I Plant advised Council following the Government announcement earlier today that LGR has now been paused. Town and District Elections will go ahead as planned in May 2027 as the shadow elections will not take place due to the pause. The Asset expression of interest will also now be paused until further information is available. Cllr Jackson added that thoughts to all officers and personal should be taken into consideration as this is their lively hood and very unsettling times for them, this was acknowledged and agreed by members.

191. UPDATE ON TEAN ROAD GATES

The Clerk advised members that the gates and archway are now in situ and the works are fully completed. Members agreed for Thank you letter of appreciation for the workmanship and hardwork to the relevant parties involved in the repair works to the gates. Letters will be fashioned to Mr Lee Trumble, Mr Jim plant and Mr Julian Jefferies.

192. REPORT ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None

193. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor, Cllr Philip Routledge sort permission and confirmation to hold a firework event on 31st October to raise funds for his charity. There was deliberation at this time as to who was responsible for the event and any cost involved. This was moved to Confidential due to commercially sensitive costings.

Confidential

194. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR RESTORATION WORKS FOR THE GATES AT CHURCHILL ROAD

Members felt further quotes were required to establish best value, the item was deferred and delegated to Finance & Resources Committee to review further once further quotes could be obtained and a preferred option but forward for consideration for the grant application. The Specification would be forwarded to Cllrs G Bentley & M Wells. Cllr P Upton confirmed that there was high potential that the restoration works cost of 75% could be covered with a Grant from Moorlands Partnership. These works will be approved in principle with the stipulation that they would require further review if the grant was unsuccessful.

The proposal to remain with the current temporary barrier and not reinstate the gates was with drawn following a debate and the above motion was put forward and carried.

195. HAPPY PIG CONTRACT NOTICE OF TERMINATION

The Council were provided with the notice of Termination and that the Staffing Committee have since issued tender advertisement for the replacement service. Cllr Plant put forward a motion to write to Mr Pete Brown of Happy Pig to thank him for his long and dedicated service to the Town Council, this was agreed and a letter of thanks will be issued from the Clerk on behalf of the Council.

196. REPORT OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE ON 11TH AUGUST 2026

The report was reviewed and approved as a correct record along with any proposals for consideration.

197. REPORT OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2026

The report was reviewed and approved as a correct record along with any proposals for consideration.

198. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE COMMUNITY REASSURANCE PROGRAMME AND RENEWAL

Cllr Jackson updated Council on the programme and the costings/funding history and sort a full review of the programme how it can be funded, best value for money and any potential funding seen as the funding that had once been £5,000 per year has now dropped to £2,000 per year. It was agreed that the current contract would come to an end in April of 2027 and new contract/SLA would be under review and in place for the new financial year. Staffing Committee will be responsible for the Contract renewal, Finance & Resources for the affordability/funding opportunity and Leisure & operations for the supervision and requirements. This motion was approved and agreed.

199. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE QUOTES FOR THE ADDITIONAL SERCURITY MEASURES FOR TEAN ROAD RECREATION GROUND

This item was deferred to Leisure & operations for a full review of the security measures for the site and the best course of action that would be financially viable.

200. THE MAYORS FIREWORK FUND RAISING EVENT

The Mayor, updated the Council on the costings for the event. Following the Mayor seeking further information from the Company who will deliver the event it was then confirmed that this is not a Town Council event, no financial implications or responsibility nor organisation for the Town Council. Keith Flunder will run the event with Hales Hall and any monies raised will be donated to the Mayors Charities. The Council agreed to these terms and welcomed the event for the Town

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

Signed……