

MINUTES of a meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Forest Room, Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2023

Present: Councillor R Boam (Chairman)

Councillors M Ball, A Barker, D Bigby, Blair-Park, R Blunt, M Burke, R Canny, D Cooper, D Everitt, T Eynon, M French, J Geary, T Gillard, K Horn, R Johnson, S Lambeth, P Lees, J Legrys, K Merrie MBE, Morley, R L Morris, P Moulton, J Page, E Parle, G Rogers, N J Rushton, A C Saffell, C A Sewell, S Sheahan, J G Simmons, N Smith, Sutton, A Wilson, J Windram, L Windram, A C Woodman and M B Wyatt

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Mr A Barton, Mr G Hammons, Mrs C Hammond, Thomas and Miss E Warhurst

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

## **3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor R Boam said a few words regarding his year as Chairman. He thanked all officers and Members for their support throughout the civic year, particularly with his charity work for Hospice Hope. He advised that he had raised just over £3,500.

Nominations were sought for the Chairman for the ensuing year.

It was moved by Councillor R Blunt that Councillor R Morris be appointed as Chairman of the Council for 2023/24. The motion was seconded by Councillor T Gillard.

It was also moved by Councillor J Legrys that Councillor T Eynon be appointed as Chair of the Council for 2023/24. The motion was seconded by Councillor D Bigby.

As two nominations had been received, a vote was taken for each nominee, the result of which was tied. Therefore, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Chairman exercised his second and casting vote. It was

RESOLVED THAT:

Councillor R Morris be appointed as Chairman of the Council for 2023/24.

Councillor R Morris received the Chairman's chains and signed the Acceptance of Office. He thanked Members for electing him as Chairman and presented Councillor R Boam with his Past Chairman's badge.

## **4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

Nominations were sought for the Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

It was moved by Councillor R Blunt that Councillor K Horn be appointed as Deputy Chairman of the Council for 2023/24. The motion was seconded by Councillor T Gillard.

Chairman's initials

It was also moved by Councillor J Legrys that Councillor T Eynon be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Council for 2023/24. The motion was seconded by Councillor D Bigby.

As two nominations had been received, a vote was taken for each nominee, the result of which was tied. Therefore, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Chairman exercised his second and casting vote. It was

RESOLVED THAT:

Councillor K Horn be appointed as Deputy Chairman of the Council for 2023/24.

Councillor K Horn received the Deputy Chairman's chains and signed the Acceptance of Office.

## **5. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER**

Nominations were sought for the Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard that Councillor R Blunt be appointed as Leader of the Council for 2023/24. The motion was seconded by Councillor A C Saffell.

It was also moved by Councillor J Legrys that Councillor S Sheahan be appointed as Leader of the Council for 2023/24. It was seconded by Councillor D Bigby.

Before a vote was taken, in agreement with the Chairman, Councillor R Sutton addressed the meeting in relation to the expectations of his constituents and the decision on leadership for members to consider.

As two nominations had been received, a vote was taken for each nominee, the result of which was tied. Therefore, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Chairman exercised his second and casting vote. It was

RESOLVED THAT:

Councillor R Blunt be appointed as Leader of the Council for 2023/24.

Councillor R Blunt thanked Members for his appointment and vowed to do his best for the people of the District,

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman thanked Members for placing their trust in him by electing him to the role. He welcomed the newly elected Councillors and hoped that they enjoyed their ensuing terms of office. He also announced that he would be holding regular 'Chairman's Coffee Mornings' and would like to invite Members to attend, more details would follow.

A Member commented on the outcome of the recent District election and the resulting numbers within the political groupings. Statements were made from all sides of the Chamber regarding the decisions taken to form alliances and some concerns was raised as the political numbers meant future decisions taken by the Council would be controlled by the Chairman's casting vote.

## **7. LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman's initials

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R Blunt announced the appointments and delegations of executive functions for the forthcoming year as follows:

Leader – Councillor R Blunt  
 Deputy Leader and Community Services Portfolio – Councillor M Wyatt  
 Infrastructure Portfolio - Councillor K Merrie  
 Planning Portfolio – Councillor T Saffell  
 Corporate Portfolio – Councillor N Rushton  
 Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio – Councillor A Woodman  
 Business and Regeneration Portfolio – Councillor T Gillard

As in previous years the Executive responsibilities were to be delegated to the Cabinet to take decisions collectively.

Comments were made from the Leader of the Labour Group in relation to the make up of the administration and the Leader of the Council responded with some background information on how the decision was taken to form the alliance.

## **8. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

No questions received.

## **9. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

No questions received.

## **10. MOTIONS**

No motions were received.

## **11. PETITIONS**

No petitions were received.

## **12. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2023.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **13. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND GROUPS, ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND DEPUTY CHAIRS**

At this point in the proceedings, the Chairman moved to adjourn the meeting to allow further discussions on the nominations for Committees and Community Bodies. It was seconded by Councillor J Legrys. Therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 7.00pm and reconvened at 7.30pm.

The Chief Executive presented the report to Members. Updated details of all nominations were set out in the additional papers which were circulated at the meeting following the adjournment.

Chairman's initials

It was announced that the Labour Group was in favour of the nominations as circulated subject to the Chair of the Local Plan Committee, for which Councillor D Bigby was nominated. Therefore, a separate vote on this committee was required.

The appointments for Committees and Groups as circulated at the meeting, subject to the Chair of the Local Plan Committee was moved by Councillor T Gillard and seconded by Councillor J Legrys.

The appointment of Chair of the Local Plan Committee as circulated at the meeting was put to the vote, the result of which was tied. Therefore, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Chairman exercised his second and casting vote. It was

RESOLVED THAT:

Councillor J Simmons be appointed as Chair of the Local Plan Committee.

The appointments for the remaining Committees and Groups were then put to the vote.

RESOLVED THAT:

The appointments to the Committees and Groups as circulated at the meeting, subject to the Chair of the Local Plan Committee, be agreed.

#### **14. SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

The Chief Executive presented the report to Members.

It was moved by Councillor K Merrie, seconded by Councillor T Gillard and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Scheme of Delegation in Part 2 – Section G of the Council's Constitution be agreed.

#### **15. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMUNITY BODIES**

The Chief Executive presented the report to Members. Updated details of all nominations were set out in the additional papers which were circulated at the meeting following the adjournment earlier in the meeting.

A comment was received in relation to the omission of Coalville Town Football Club Committee from the Community Body list presented to Members. Councillor J Legrys formally nominated Councillor J Geary as the representative on this body as he has been for many years.

Officers agreed to investigate this omission and suggested that Council delegate the appointment to this body to the Chief Executive on this occasion. All Members agreed.

By affirmation of the meeting it was

RESOLVED THAT:

- a) The representatives be appointed to serve on the Community Bodies as circulated at the meeting.
- b) The authority to appoint Councillor J Geary to the Coalville Town Football Club Committee be delegated to the Chief Executive.

Chairman's initials

## 16. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023/24

The Chief Executive presented the report to Members.

A comment was made in relation to the importance of adhering to the schedule with no unexpected cancellation of meetings as has occurred during the last municipal year.

It was moved by Councillor K merrie, seconded by Councillor T Gillard and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Schedule of Meetings 2023/24 be approved.

## 17. ANNUAL MEMBER CONDUCT REPORT

The Chief Executive presented the report to Members.

It was moved by Councillor K Merrie Seconded by Councillor N J Rushton and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Member Conduct Annual Report 2022/23 be endorsed.

## 18. EVENTS LIST

The Chief Executive presented the report to Members.

Members felt that it was appropriate to provide a list of events for transparency, but it was recommended that officers continue to include additional events throughout the year should the need arise. It was agreed that the Holocaust Memorial Day was a welcomed addition to the list, but it was suggested that race, ethnicity and disability be added alongside religion in the protected characteristics as these were the other aspects of the Holocaust and other genocides. The Leader and Chairman fully supported the suggestions and would take the comments back to officers.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor N J Rushton and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Events List as detailed at Appendix A be adopted for the 2023/24 financial year.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7.00pm and reconvened at 7.30pm**

**Councillor M Ball left the meeting at 7.40pm**

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.54 pm