MINUTES of a meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on MONDAY, 8 JUNE 2026

Present: Councillor P Lees (Chair)

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

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Mr A Barton, Mrs A Crouch, Mrs C Hammond, Ms R Tapping, Mrs A Thomas and Mrs R Wallace

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Barker, D Bigby, N Smith and A Wilson.

23. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

In relation to item 10 – Community Governance Review Draft Recommendations, the Interim Monitoring Officer confirmed that a dispensation had been granted for all Members, therefore Members did not have to declare an interest on this occasion.

There were no declarations of interests.

24. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council gave an update on the recent engagements and events attended, including community and charity activities. A video was then shared about the Chairman's chosen charity, Canine Partners, to demonstrate the great work they do and the difference they make.

25. LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor R Blunt, Leader of the Council, introduced new guidance aimed at improving working relationships between councillors and officers, emphasising mutual respect, clearer expectations, and alignment with national standards on behaviour in public life.

Members welcomed the initiative. Some concerns were shared regarding the adherence to procedures at council premises, particularly around building access.

26. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

No questions were received.

27. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No questions were received.

28. MOTIONS

No motions were received.

29. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

30. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2026.

It was moved by Councillor P Lees, seconded by Councillor J Simmons and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman of the Council as a correct record.

31. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor N Rushton, the Infrastructure Portfolio Holder, presented the report as detailed in the additional papers and moved the recommendations. It was seconded by Councillor A Woodman.

During discussion, Members acknowledged the significant work undertaken to date and the level of consultation responses received. Comments were made in respect of the options for parish and town council arrangements within the Coalville area, including considerations around the viability of smaller parish councils, the potential for fragmentation, and the importance of local identity and accountability.

Concerns were also raised regarding the financial implications of the proposals, including precept levels, special expenses, and the need for clear financial information and options appraisal to be provided as part of the consultation to ensure residents were fully informed. Officers confirmed that work was underway with to provide clearer financial information for the consultation.

RESOLVED THAT:

1) That the proposals as set out in section 3 of the report be adopted by the Council as draft recommendations for the purposes of the Community Governance Review.

2) The draft recommendations be published for consultation purposes from 1 July to 13 September 2026 inclusive.

3) The results of the consultation be reported to Full Council on 16 November 2026.

32. CAPITAL UPDATE

Councillor K Merrie, Corporate and Finance Portfolio Holder presented the report and moved the recommendations. It was seconded by Councillor M Ball.

During discussion, Members expressed strong support for the proposal, highlighting the importance of investing in the District's industrial heritage, the regeneration benefits of the project and its role in enhancing tourism and community use of the site.

RESOLVED THAT:

The addition of £2,455,000 into the active Capital Programme for the Moira Furnace Visitor Experience Improvement Programme (Phase 2) be approved.

33. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor T Gillard, Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder, presented the report and moved the recommendations within the agenda and additional papers. It was seconded by Councillor N Rushton.

RESOVLED THAT:

1) Councillor D Everitt be appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee.

2) Councillor R Johnson be appointed as a representative on the Cliffe Hill Quarry Liaison Committee.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.22 pm