

# CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the City of Durham Full Parish Council held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 at 19:00 in Room S1, Sixth Form Centre, St. Leonard's Catholic School. Durham. DH1 4NG.**

**Present:** Councillors E Scott (Chair), E Ashby, J Ashby, V Ashfield, L Brown, S Cahill, R Cornwell, A Doig, J Elmer, D Freeman, G Holland, R Ormerod, C Reeves and M Ross.

**Also present:** Parish Clerk Adam Shanley and Mr Dave Wafer (Strategic Traffic Manager, Durham County Council).

The Parish Council meeting began with all present observing a one-minute silence in remembrance to the late Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner Ron Hogg CBE.

## **1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE (OR NOT) APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE FROM TODAY'S MEETING**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Atkinson.

## **2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

Cllrs L Brown, A Doig, E Scott and R Ormerod declared an interest in the report on grant funding for the organisation OASES.

Cllr R Cornwell declared an interest in item 12.

Cllrs V Ashfield and E Ashby declared an interest in item 16.

## **3. PRESENTATION BY DAVE WAFER, STRATEGIC TRAFFIC MANAGER AT DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ON PROPOSED NEW BUS STATION ON NORTH ROAD**

Dave Wafer, Strategic Traffic Manager from Durham County Council provided a presentation on the proposed new bus station on North Road and advised that it is hoped that the project could be delivered next year.

Parish Councillors broadly welcomed the proposals and the Chair went around the room for questions.

The Chair firstly made a plea for the steps to the entrance of the bus station to include some assistance for the visually impaired.

Cllr R Cornwell advised that he felt that the use of the proposed taxi rank outside Santander should cease at midnight and the taxi rank relocated to some suitable bus stops, as bus services will have ceased by then.

Cllr G Holland expressed concern about the anti-social behaviour and security of the current station and the need for the new station to include both facial recognition CCTV and security.

Cllr G Holland also felt that a ground heat pump and/or ground loop system under the bus parking area with a black, heat absorbing surface should also be part of the plans.

Cllr R Ormerod felt that the toilets should be chargeable immediately once the building is open.

Cllr R Ormerod advised that there is a need for a defibrillator in the station. Dave advised that the County Council had already committed to this.

Cllr V Ashfield expressed disappointment that the police are not yet committed to have a space within the station, i.e. in the space upstairs.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that the stain glass window design is very welcome particularly with a local connection. Cllr V Ashfield asked if this could also be done to the front of the building, notably the large expanse of glass of the main doors.

Cllr J Elmer advised that there is a need for all bus companies to use electric buses and for DCC to positively press that they do switch to electric as is already the case in other cities.

Cllr E Ashby made the point about the bus station belonging to the whole of the County and not just the Parish area of the City of Durham Parish. Cllr E Ashby asked if all surrounding Parish Councils council be invited to make a contribution to the security after 10pm.

Cllr L Brown advised that she felt that on-going maintenance of the green roof and wall etc is vital.

Cllr J Ashby advised that he felt that the increase in footpath space welcome but asked if this could be supplemented with some visible or sound warning on street that a bus is coming around the corner of the building.

Cllr J Ashby advised that there should be more toilets for women.

There being no further queries, the Chair thanked Dave Wafer for his presentation to the Parish Council. Dave Wafer left the meeting at this point.

#### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

#### **6. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

##### **Planning Committee**

Cllr R Cornwell presented the Minutes from the meetings held on 8 November, 22 November and 6 December 2019. There being no queries from Members, Cllr R Cornwell proceeded to Committee reports.

##### **Verbal update on Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 consultation.**

Cllr R Cornwell advised that the Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to the County Council who are now taking this forward. The process was delayed by purdah and the General Election, but the Regulation 16 consultation is now taking place. It ends on 17 February, i.e. three weeks on Monday. Cllr R Cornwell advised that the Neighbourhood Plan *Roadmap* clarifies the scope of this, i.e. Publicity under

Regulation 16 should not be confused with the earlier pre-submission consultation (Regulation 14). The two are quite different. The Regulation 14 consultation carried out by the neighbourhood planning body would have allowed anyone to comment on any aspect of the plan and for modifications to be made, if necessary. Following the Regulation 16 publicity period, any representations made will be passed to the independent examiner. This means that they will only be considered within the remit of the independent examination (i.e. whether the neighbourhood plan proposal meets the basic conditions).

Cllr R Cornwell advised that this is not clear from the publicity circulated by the County Council, and expectations may have been raised. Once the consultation has closed the County Council will publish the responses received but the Parish Council doesn't get a formal opportunity to comment on them, and neither does the County Council. They are passed direct to the Independent Examiner

Cllr R Cornwell advised that the appointment of the aforementioned Independent Examiner is now underway and we expect to have a list of possible names shortly, and the actual choice of examiner should be made by mid-February, i.e. about the same time as the consultation closes. We are consulted on that choice. It was **agreed** that the Planning Committee should respond to that consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr R Cornwell advised that the next stages are the Examination, a referendum, and if that gets the necessary 50% majority, adoption. The best estimate is that this will happen in the final quarter of this year.

Cllr R Cornwell advised that Carole Dillon, who has been the contact for the past three years and more, is leaving the County Council to become a Planning Inspector. Cllr R Cornwell advised that Carole has offered critical help which has been much appreciated and Cllr Cornwell proposed that the Clerk write to her to express the Parish Council's thanks. It was agreed that the Clerk should write formally to thank Carole Dillon on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **Verbal update on the County Durham Plan Examination in Public (EiP).**

Cllr R Cornwell advised that, since the last Parish Council meeting, the four sessions originally planned for the Examination in Public ended (on 4 December) and on 17 December the Inspector issued 56 Action Points to the County Council, to be answered by 10 January. It was also open to other parties, e.g. the Parish Council, to respond as well. Cllr R Cornwell advised that the Committee Members corresponded by email and decided this was not necessary. The Clerk and Parish Chair did not disagree.

Cllr R Cornwell advised that, having read the Council's responses, the Inspector decided he needed a further session to deal with housing land supply and this will take place on February 6. Cllr R Cornwell advised that the Parish Council has not been offered a place at the table, but will attend as interested onlookers. Cllr R Cornwell also advised that the Parish Council may wish to make written comments, however having seen what the City of Durham Trust plans to say, Cllr R Cornwell

advised that it was his view that there is nothing further that the Parish could usefully add. It was agreed that the Parish Council makes no written representation on this matter but that the Clerk circulate the response by the City of Durham Trust to all Members.

#### • **Environment Committee**

Cllr V Ashfield presented the minutes from the meeting held on 26 November 2019. There being no queries from Members, Cllr V Ashfield moved on the Committee reports.

#### **Professional promotion of pocket ashtray project.**

Cllr V Ashfield reminded Councillors that last year the Parish Council agreed to the design and purchase of 5,000 pocket ashtrays as a means of tackling cigarette-related litter in the Parish.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that the 5,000 pocket ashtrays are now complete and have been delivered to the Parish Council office and that the Environment Committee has been looking at ways of promoting the pocket ashtrays as the effectiveness of the scheme will depend on how well it is promoted to the local community.

To that end, Cllr v Ashfield advised that the Parish Council Environment Committee is looking for approval of a £1,000 budget towards carrying out a professional promotion of the pocket ashtrays. One proposal is to create a professional video to promote the pocket ashtrays online. The pocket ashtrays will also be mentioned in an article of the Parish Council's newsletter to be distributed in February 2020.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that the Committee would be looking to identify the hotspot areas for cigarette-related litter.

It was **agreed** that £1,000 should be allocated towards the professional promotion of the pocket ashtrays and that the Environment Committee should take responsibility of doing this.

#### **Introduction of code of non-usage of diesel generators in the market place and funding of electrical socket and cabling.**

Cllr V Ashfield advised that the Environment Committee has been working with the Durham Markets Company in an attempt to eradicate the use of diesel-run generators in the market place.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that air quality in Durham is very high on the agenda and in particular with parts of the Parish being within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) of the County Council.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that she was very pleased to report that the Markets Company has agreed to introduce a code of non-usage of diesel generators and has also agreed to introduce this in the application form whenever a user of the market place applies to rent a space.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that the Parish Council is requested to support the introduction of the code of non-usage of diesel generators in the market place. Furthermore, in order to support users of the market place to "go electric", Cllr V Ashfield advised that the Parish Council has also been asked to fund the provision and installation of two

13A socket supplies at a high level at the top of the entrance tunnel to the Indoor Market.

It was **agreed** to support the code of non-usage of diesel generators and also to fund the installation of electrical sockets and cabling.

### **Licensing Committee**

Cllr L Brown presented the minutes from the Licensing Committee meeting held on 29 October. There were no queries from Members on these minutes.

### **Finance Committee**

Cllr A Doig presented the minutes from Finance Committee meeting held on 23 October. There were no queries from Members on these minutes. Cllr A Doig having declared an interest in the grant application from OASES, the Clerk presented the new project proposed by OASES.

### **Update on allocation of grant funding from 2019-20 budget**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that, originally it had been agreed that the sum of £1,700 should be awarded to OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists) for a scheme they applied for in April 2019. Later in the year, a representative of OASES contacted the Clerk to advise that the original scheme was undeliverable due to other applications for grant funding being unsuccessful. An alternative, scaled-down scheme "Planting up Neville's Cross" was presented to Councillors in November and it was agreed that the sum of £1,000 should be awarded for this scheme.

The Clerk advised that OASES has now contacted the Council to advise that the revised scheme agreed at the November Full Parish Council meeting is also undeliverable due to permissions to plant on public land not being received.

The following alternative scheme has now been presented for consideration:

#### **Neville's Cross School Orchards**

***St Margaret's Primary, Neville's Cross Primary and Durham Johnston have all now confirmed they would all like to plant an orchard of fruit trees (all apple trees) in their school grounds.***

***The project will cost £1,001 to deliver an orchard planting session with the children at each school. Each orchard would have 8 fruit trees, each planted with bonemeal, a tree stake, tree tie and a rabbit-proof guard.***

***The budget also includes the costings for a site visit/orchard planning visit at each school, as well as the costs of sourcing and delivering the fruit trees and associated paraphernalia prior to each planting session. The objective of planting trees (24 in total) in Neville's Cross remains the same, with the added bonus that these will bear fruit.***

***Last year, we successfully planned, sourced and planted 7 school orchards. Delivering tree planting in school grounds has a lot less red tape around it than community planting so it is a much simpler process.***

***Please could you let me know if the Parish Council would be happy for us to spend the £1000 in this way.***

<b>Neville's Cross School Orchards</b>	
<b>TASKS</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Site visit/orchard planning meetings with Lead Teacher	£96
Fruit Tree and material sourcing and delivery	£128
Orchard Planting Session	£288
Trees (8 trees/school)	£300
Stakes, soil improver, ties and guards	£189
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,001</b>
Children and adult size gloves and spades provided as match in kind from OASES	

The Clerk advised that all schools have confirmed to OASES that they will take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the trees.

It was **agreed** that the funding of £1,000 should be allocated to this project.

## **7. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair provided a verbal update on matters arising since the Full Parish Council meeting on 28 November 2019.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council's new Facebook page was now up and running and reminded members to get in touch if they'd like a story put on the page by the Clerk.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council's Christmas Civic event had been very successful and thanked the Clerk for his work on this. This is something the Parish Council is keen to continue with.

The Chair advised that the February Full Council meeting would be an opportunity to revisit the Parish Council Strategy agreed last year.

The Chair also advised that the Parish Council ought to invite the new Member of Parliament as a speaker. It was agreed that that the Clerk invite the new MP Mary Kelly Foy.

The Chair presented a sign for a new "Happy to Chat" bench in Neville's Cross Ward and advised that this was part of a campaign to tackle loneliness and social isolation. The Chair also highlighted an e-mail sent out earlier in January from Durham County Council via the Parish Clerk to state that there were no plans for the former DLI Museum and she was aware of a number of Members being disappointed about this. The Chair asked if Members agreed that this be highlighted in a press release.

Cllr E Ashby advised that she would have concerns about doing this and felt that the Parish Council should instead seek to work proactively with the County Council on a community initiative for the site.

Cllr D Freeman advised that he was in favour of the press release and Cllr L Brown advised that she felt the building being left vacant was disrespectful to the friends

and families of former service men and women; some of whom have their ashes scattered on the site. The majority of Members agreed that a press release should be sent expressing disappointment at the lack of any plans for the site and also seeking to work collaboratively with the County Council to find a future use for the building.

## **8. REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL INTERNAL CONTROLS**

The Clerk presented a paper to Members on the internal financial controls the Parish Council has in place to mitigate risk and advised that the Parish Council would soon be undergoing an internal audit for the current financial year. It was **agreed** that Mr Gordon Fletcher be appointed as the internal auditor for 2019/20.

## **9. REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL RESERVES FROM 2019/20**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that they are required to review level of reserves during the budget and precept setting process. The Clerk advised that the level of general reserves held by the City of Durham Parish Council to date are as follows:

General reserves	-	£45,000.00
Contingencies	-	£15,000.00
Total	-	£60,000.00

As part of the budget process and determination of the precept figure for the coming year, the Clerk advised that the Council should determine whether their level of reserves is sufficient and also if there is any surplus that could be used to offset the amount of precept levied.

The Clerk advised that, at the year-end, a report will be presented to the Council listing any necessary transfers and unexpended amounts and it is suggested that any available funds that are not already earmarked for other purposes or are unspent should be transferred to the General reserves. The Clerk advised that, at present, it is forecasted that the total spend of the Parish Council by the end of this financial year will be £125,000 - £130,000.

Councillors agreed to note the information relating to general reserves and also agreed to examine the situation at year-end when there may be non-earmarked funds that can be transferred to general reserves.

## **10. PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21**

The Clerk advised that there is a need for the Parish Council to formally agree its budget for the financial year 2020/21.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the draft budget included in the report had been considered at all Committees and was agreed at the Finance Committee on 7th January 2020 to go forward for Full Council approval.

The total budgets per Committee were agreed as follows:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Proposed expenditure (2020/2021) against priorities (£)</b>
<b>Planning Committee</b>	<b>4,300.00</b>
<b>Business Committee</b>	<b>14,000.00</b>
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>
<b>Environment Committee</b>	<b>47,000.00</b>
<b>Full Council</b>	<b>109,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL POTENTIAL PROVISION IN 2020-2021 AGAINST PRIORITIES</b>	<b>175,800.00</b>

## **11. PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council needs to formally submit its precept request for the coming financial year.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council has received notification from the County Council that the tax base for the City of Durham Parish area has increased by 67.8. Therefore, should the Council resolve to maintain the same charge as the current financial year, the precept will still increase slightly to £154,488.05 (an increase of £2,364.19).

The Clerk advised that, at the last Finance Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, the Finance Committee agreed to recommend the Band D Council tax charge for the Parish Council remains the same as the current financial year. This is in view of the level of reserves currently held by the Parish Council and the spend to date.

It was **agreed** that the Band D precept charge should remain the same as the financial year 2019/20

## **12. REQUEST FOR PARISH COUNCIL TO FUND PART OF 'NOSTALGIA DAY' 2020 EVENT**

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council has received a request by Colin Wilkes to fund part of the 'Nostalgia' day community event on 8<sup>th</sup> May which he is organising.

The Clerk advised that Colin has recently established a community interest company which is intended to be a not-for-profit organisation aimed at carrying out activities in the local community interest.

### **Request from Colin Wilkes:**

For the past 10 years or so we have held a Nostalgia Day to act as an attraction particularly for families (whose children study WWII on the curriculum) and those who may have lived through/remember the War. We have found it to be a popular event held in Market Place and Millennium Square.

The event attracts into the City people and families who may not normally use the City centre on a regular basis. With City Centre footfall continuing to decrease, it is vitally important that efforts are made to promote 'experiential attractions' which give people a reason to come into Durham.

This year with all the celebrations to celebrate VE day the usual Bank Holiday Monday has been moved to Bank Holiday Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Together with our partners we are hoping to 'push the boat out' to create a greater attraction involving some Primary School children. Consequently, we contacted local primary schools to see if they would be interested in joining in and Langley Moor Primary School have expressed a willingness to participate.

Currently the event consists of:-

Big Band  
Lindy Jazz Dancers  
Vintage Jeeps  
World War II Living History tableau with vehicles  
1940's vintage bus  
Two singers for that period  
The Big Sing  
Vintage Market

All of the above have been funded between ourselves and Walkergate Leisure.

This request is for a contribution from the Parish Council to help cover the involvement of The Time Bandits in providing: -

3 period re-enactors.

An authentic WWII Field Kitchen with period food.

2 visits into the Langley Moor Primary School one to explain the scenario to staff and one to hold a workshop for the children.

The aim is to recreate a simulated air raid on Durham involving the children having to be evacuated. This will, in turn, get the children to reflect on what life would have been like as a child at the time of the Blitz.

The re-enactors will set up a civil defence and Home Guard stand with correctly costumed interpreters and full handling collection of military and home front/civilian items.

**The budget for the above is £800 and a contribution towards that to enable the event to reach out to more families would be really appreciated.**

We are also looking to involve the 'mini medics' who are children, similar to the mini police, who can act as 'medical staff' looking after the children.

The intention is to create an innovative, but fun, portrayal to bringing to life an important period of history outside of the classroom.

Many thanks for your consideration of support and any further queries please do feel free to just get in touch.

Colin Wilkes

Ends

The Clerk advised that he had discussed this with Colin who has advised that, should the Parish Council approve this request, the Parish Council will be credited with part funding the event in all promotional material intended for this event.

Cllr J Ashby advised that he hoped that the event would be educational rather than entertaining. Cllr J Ashby advised that he was evacuated and it was not entertaining and he hoped that this event would portray the seriousness of what occurred and not trivialise this.

Cllr E Ashby asked if this would be a re-enactment of an evacuation with air sirens going off in the Market Place during the day.

Cllr R Ormerod advised that he felt that Brandon and Byshttles Parish Council should make a contribution to this event given that one of their schools is involved in the performance.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should make a contribution of £800 towards this event and should also have a member of the Parish Council on the organising team for the event. Two Councillors abstained from the vote.

### **13. SELECTIVE LICENSING SCHEME FOR COUNTY DURHAM**

Cllr J Ashby presented a report on the proposed licensing scheme for landlords in County Durham.

Cllr J Ashby advised that a selective licensing is a discretionary scheme for local authorities and covers privately rented properties. The Housing Act 2004 allows local housing authorities to designate areas for Selective Licensing to support the improvement of privately rented properties, providing certain conditions are met. Cllr J Ashby advised that such a scheme was under consideration for County Durham with Durham City hopefully being a priority area due to the number of student HMOs in the Parish area.

Cllr J Ashby advised that, in areas designated, landlords must apply for a licence if they want to rent out a property, this includes landlords who rely on lettings agents to manage their properties on their behalf. This means the council can check whether they are a "fit or proper person" to be a landlord or letting agent, as well as making other stipulations concerning management of the property and appropriate safety measures. The stipulations are listed in the licence conditions and the conditions are at the discretion of the local authority.

Cllr J Ashby advised that this report had now been considered at both the Planning and Environment Committees of the Parish Council as this had themes cutting across the work of both Committee.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council expresses support for the County Council's intention to seek a Selective Licensing Scheme covering the whole County.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council supports the proposal that Durham City should be treated as a priority area for inspection and to make that case to the County Council.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should request that the Parish Council be included in consultations on the emerging application and business plan.

It was **agreed** that a working group of the Parish Council be set up to take the proposal forward on behalf of the Parish Council. The membership of the working group was **agreed** as Cllrs J Ashby, V Ashfield, L Brown and S Cahill.

## **14. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **- Community Engagement Task Force Group**

Cllr J Ashby presented a report on the meeting of the Community Engagement Task Force Group, held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 as follows:

1. Cllr Alan Doig and I attended as Parish Council representatives at the Durham University Community Engagement Task Force meeting held on 16 December 2019.
2. Under the item for partner updates, Cllr Doig outlined the current position on the Neighbourhood Plan, flagging up the consultation about to be carried out by the County Council prior to an Independent Examination and subsequent referendum. I gave a brief account of the County Plan Examination in Public hearing on Durham University and student accommodation.
3. One of the agreed main items for the Task Force meeting was progress with the Superhighway for pedestrians, cyclist and wheelchair users. The University's lead officer for this very welcome project introduced the representatives from COLAS, the company delivering the scheme. The sequence and timetable for carrying out the 13 stages of work were described, and a commitment made to provide regular updates to the Task Force.
4. The other agreed main item was to have been an update on the University's Sustainable Travel Plan, for which Durham County Council were invited. Unfortunately, neither the University's travel planning team nor the County Council's officers were in attendance. In their absence, Hannah Shepherd, the University's Community Liaison Officer, gave an abbreviated presentation on the University's aspirations to achieve a fully sustainable travel operation. She highlighted the need to have full travel survey data on students and staff; students bring a very great number of cars to Durham, and DSU is undertaking a survey of numbers and usage.
5. Hannah also presented data on the outward spread of HMOs into suburban parts of the city and noted that bus services do not reflect this changing pattern. She is considering whether there should be a formal investigation into meeting the sustainable travel needs of the new distribution of students. There may be a working group established.
6. The next meeting of the Task Force is on 23 March 2020.

Ends

### **Durham University Residents' Forum**

Cllr J Ashby presented a report on the meeting of the Durham University Residents' Forum, held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 as follows:

1. Cllr Alan Doig, Cllr E Ashby, Cllr R Cornwell and I attended the DURF meeting held on 10 December 2019 as members of our residents' associations but Parish Council

colleagues may be interested in some of the matters discussed, particularly as our Clerk Adam Shanley also attended as a guest speaker.

2. Concern was expressed at the start of the meeting that neither the Police nor the DCC lead officer for the Neighbourhood Warden Service were present despite absolute assurances that they would always attend. This was regrettable as there continues to be dissatisfaction over the unsettled state of affairs regarding the withdrawal of Police responsibility for dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour and the uncertainty as to the adequacy of the County Council's resources to respond quickly and effectively. Parish Council members will be aware that issues are not being addressed as they used to be. Cllr Alan Doig made clear that it is essential to sort this out and to provide a factual note setting out step-by-step what to do and who to contact when there is an incident.
3. The 'Livers-Out' letter had been distributed in October by most of the nine Residents' Associations in the Parish and Gilesgate. Some Residents' Associations deliver to all houses whereas some deliver only to known student houses. It was noted that unfortunately neither the Police letter nor the Neighbourhood Warden letter had been distributed despite assurances. The DURF letter will be reviewed at the April 2020 meeting.
4. The Actions and Issues Register (AIR) has been updated to reflect the agreed next priority area for DURF - a compulsory, self-financing landlord registration scheme. I described the County Council's plans to consult on a County-wide scheme, hopefully starting with Durham City. A copy of the current AIR as updated is attached.
5. Our clerk gave an excellent presentation on the Anti-Social Behaviour conference and the 15 suggested action points. I regret to report that the chair of DURF took exception to several of the action points, as if Adam was asking DURF to adopt them whereas he was giving a factual report on what people at the conference had listed as ideas. Adam was also able to provide an update on the Parish Council-funded Warden Service.
6. The President of DSU outlined the new Community Strategy which provides a firm basis for better involvement with residents and organisations including the Parish Council.

Ends

Due to the confidential nature of the following items, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and the public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the LGA 1972 Act and section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. At this point in time the press and the public were asked to leave the room.

## **15. UPDATE FROM ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SUB-GROUP MEETING**

The Clerk presented a report of the latest ASB-sub group meeting, held in January and advised that work is ongoing to agree cross-organisation solutions to tackle anti-social behaviour.

#### **16. UPDATE ON ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE – THE WOODMAN INN PUB, GILESGATE**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Woodman Inn pub had been successfully listed as an asset of community value. However, correspondence had now been received to state that the owners now wished to sell the pub.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should allow the local residents' group to take the lead on bidding to purchase the pub.

#### **17. DE-REGISTRATION OF THE COACH PARK AS COMMON LAND**

The Chair advised that the County Council had submitted a response to the latest letter of objection from the Freeman and Parish Council (along with other objections). The Chair also advised that the Planning Inspectorate had advised that there would be no public inquiry into the de-registration of the common land and that an unaccompanied site visit and assessment of both the release land and the replacement land would be carried out by an Inspector and a judgement be made thereafter.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should request a further letter be sent to the Inspectorate from the Parish Council's and Freeman's Barrister on this matter.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed,

**Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council  
(27<sup>th</sup> February 2020)**