

City of Durham Parish Council

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25 November 2020

Access details for Zoom Licensing Committee meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87390445694>

Meeting ID: 873 9044 5694

Dear Business Committee Member,

In accordance with both the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of local authority and Police and Crime Panel meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, I hereby give you notice that a meeting of the **Business Committee** will be held in **via Zoom** on **Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 1pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. Welcome and apologies**
- 2. To receive any declarations of interest from members**
- 3. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 22 October 2019**
- 4. To receive any public participation comments on the following agenda items. Please email the Parish Clerk parishclerk@cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk to register to speak**
- 5. Report by retail consultant Graham Sault on work in Durham City – reports attached.**
- 6. Report from local businesses on the impact of the Parish Council's actions to support local businesses – report attached.**
- 7. Consideration of Business Committee budget for Financial Year 2021-22**
- 8. Busking in Durham City Centre – report included.**
- 9. Engagement with local stakeholders in Durham City**

And, pursuant to the provisions of the above-named Act, I Hereby Summon You to attend the said meeting.

Adam Shanley

Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Business Committee held on Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at 11:00 in Room 1, Alington House. 4 North Bailey, Durham DH1 3ET

Present: Councillors E Scott (in the Chair), V Ashfield, E Ashby, G Holland and R Ormerod

Also present: A Shanley (Clerk) and Mr Graham Soutl.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Cllr E Scott declared that she is a member of Durham Business Club.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27th AUGUST 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th August 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

5. DISCUSSION WITH MR GRAHAM SOULT, RETAIL CONSULTANT AND MEMBER OF DURHAM BUSINESS CLUB ON PARISH COUNCIL ROLE IN PROMOTING LOCAL BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed Graham Soutl, retail consultant and member of Durham Business Club to the meeting. The Chair advised that Graham was in attendance to discuss what the City of Durham Parish Council could do to promote local businesses in the area.

Graham began by briefly outlining the work he currently does in Chester-le-Street and the impact this has had on the High Street in that area. Graham also advised that he was providing one to one help to retailers in Chester-le-Street on how to grow their businesses. Graham also advised that he was being funded by a number of letting agents to fill retail units in Chester-le-Street.

Graham advised that there were a number of things the Parish Council could do to promote businesses in the area; specifically, the Parish Council could use social media to promote businesses and help them to amplify their messages, make relationships with retailers and get to know their needs and also advise any prospective new retailers that they could gain professional support from an expert on how best to sell their goods and services to customers.

Cllr G Holland advised that he felt that A-board advertising had a big role to play in advertising areas such as Fowler's Yard. Cllr E Scott advised that she felt that Durham needed an "INDYDurham app" much like that which is available for areas such as York.

Cllr R Ormerod advised that he felt that areas such as York had done a very good job in supporting their Independents and he felt that Durham should look at these areas as examples.

Cllr G Holland asked what the Parish Council could do to reduce rents for businesses, such as supporting a profit share only rent whereby the landlord would receive 20% of the profits as the rent. Graham advised that he had seen this work successfully in other areas.

Cllr G Holland also advised that he felt that empty units should pay double the rates in order to encourage landlords to get a new retailer in the unit.

Cllr V Ashfield and Cllr G Holland advised that what they felt was missing in Durham is training for (in particular) employees of independents on how to provide an excellent customer experience.

Cllr E Ashby advised that a problem in Durham is that stores often closed at 17:30pm and there is a need to encourage retailers to remain open later.

The Chair thanked Graham for his time and coming to speak with the Business Committee. At this point, Graham left the meeting.

6. PLANNING FOR PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS SEMINAR IN JANUARY 2020

Members agreed that the Parish Council should host a Business Seminar at the end of January and this should take place early morning at 08:00am at the University's current Business School.

It was agreed that the Clerk should seek special guest speakers for the event – Dame Margaret Barbour, Jonathan Ruffer and a speaker from the Learning Curve Group were suggested as speakers for the event.

Members agreed that the Seminary should focus on the topic of "What does Durham need to become the most successful retail centre in the UK?"

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Parish Council Business Committee ought to take place at the end of January along with the Business Seminar.

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 Business Committee

ITEM 8: BUSKING IN DURHAM CITY CENTRE

Councillors are reminded that it was agreed at the October Full Council meeting that the issue of busking in Durham City would be considered by the Parish Council's Business Committee ahead of formally contacting the Chief Executive of Durham County Council on this matter.

'Busking' is performing music, dance, street theatre or art in a public space for the purpose of receiving contributions from members of the public.

No licence is required to busk unless you are raising money for a charity, in which case you must hold a valid charity collection permit from the County Council.

As part of the motion presented to Full Council, Councillors agreed to call on Durham County Council to develop a policy on busking in Durham City centre which prevents damage to business whilst allowing street music to be performed and enjoyed. In formulating the policy, Durham County Council would also be urged to take advice from the Parish Council at all stages.

At the meeting, it was recognised that street entertainers, including buskers, can make a valuable contribution to the vibrant culture and atmosphere which exists in Durham City. However complaints can arise if the volume, duration and frequency of the noise is excessive for residents or local businesses. In July of this year, the local press reported that the County Council had received a complaint regarding busking noise levels.

In some cases, noise from buskers can be dealt with as a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and an abatement notice served. Breaching an abatement notice is an offence. A nuisance however has to impact on the use or enjoyment of the complainant's own property and therefore does not include noise from busking cannot if you are walking past or shopping.

Loudspeakers are regulated under section 62 the Control of Pollution Act 1974. Under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 no use of loudspeakers is allowed in any street after 9.00 p.m. and before 8.00 a.m.

Durham County Council has produced a leaflet which sets out advice on this issue and this is attached to the papers with this Agenda.

Other local authority areas have developed and adopted a voluntary Busking and Street Entertainment Code of Conduct in order to encourage responsible busking and street entertainment. In those areas where this activity is having a detrimental effect on the locality, the local authority has introduced a Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in order to enforce rules on busking.

An example of this can be found here: [Busking and Street Entertainment Policy \(rbkc.gov.uk\)](http://rbkc.gov.uk)

DECISION REQUIRED	For Members to consider the report as set out above and to decide how to approach Durham County Council on the issue of busking in Durham City.
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