

City of Durham Parish Council

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24th April 2019

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 I hereby give you notice that a **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** will be held in **ROOM 2, ALINGTON HOUSE, 4 NORTH BAILEY, DURHAM, DH1 3ET** on **WEDNESDAY 1st MAY AT 12:30** to transact the following business: -

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**
- 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16TH APRIL 2019.**
- 5. MATTERS ARISING**
- 6. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES,**
 - i) Update on DSU Snow Clearance Voluntary Project**
 - ii) Update on Clean and Green tasks**
 - iii) Involving young people**
 - iv) Business frontages**
- 7. AOB** (Please note for discussion only, not decision making)
- 8. TO IDENTIFY FUTURE TOPICS FOR DEBATE WITH DCC OR OTHER PARTNERS**
- 9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.**

14th May (6pm) (agreed)

28th May (6pm) (proposed)

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

Adam Shanley
Clerk City of Durham Parish Council

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on 16th April 2019 at 17:30 in the Lantern Room, Durham Town Hall, Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ.

Present:

Councillors V Ashfield (Chair), J Atkinson, E Ashby, J Elmer, S Cahill and M Ross.

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley, Ian Hault and Belinda Snow (DCC Officers) and 6 members of the public.

1. WELCOME AND RECEIPT FOR APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed all attendees. Apologies were received from Cllrs J Atkinson and R Ormerod.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Cllr S Cahill declared an interest in Item 7 on the Agenda, owing to his employment at Durham Students Union.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr V Ashfield welcomed all members of the public and invited them to pose their queries to the DCC Officers and the Environment Committee. Queries were received as follows:

Janet George (member of the public) advised that she was concerned about student noise in the streets during term time and rubbish bins being left out on the streets when the students leave for the holidays. Mrs George advised that letting agents were not taking the bins back in.

Derek (member of the public) advised that he was also concerned about bins being left out and felt that this was a significant problem in Claypath.

Pam Jackson (member of the public) advised that she was concerned about bins being left out on the green area behind the Chains instead of being returned to nearer the flats.

Bob Gadd (member of the public) advised that parking was his main concern in Neville's Cross. Mr Gadd advised that he had experienced nuisance car parking on a regular basis, with Redhills and St Monica's Grove being a particular area of problem. This is one of the few locations offering free car parking and dropped kerbs were being blocked by cars parking in front of them.

Mr Gadd also asked whether a sign could be erected to indicate to HGVs and motorists that there is no access to Durham City Centre from the A167. Mr Gadd advised that he had experience of heavy lorries mistakenly going down this route. The "one way" signs for Redhills are too far from the A167.

Tony Cleaver (member of the public) advised that he shared the concerns as Bob Gadd and felt that all of the cars parking in their current locations and frequency is an accident waiting to happen. Mr Cleaver also highlighted the expansion plans of the University and was concerned about the impact the likely additional cars would have. Mr Cleaver also advised that a number of the car parking spaces currently in the city centre were proposed to be removed as part of the new business school proposals for the University.

Ellie Desmond (member of the public) advised that she was attending on behalf of the Gilesgate Residents' Association and advised that the Association were particularly concerned about dog fouling taking place.

Cllr V Ashfield also advised that she had received an e-mail from a local resident, Rosemary Zakwrevski who advised that she was concerned about bins being left out on the street for long periods of time and bins being filled to capacity and tipping over, worsening the litter situation. Cllr V

Ashfield advised that she supported an idea by Rosemary to ask whether bin lids can be weighted in some way to stop the lids blowing off and litter being blown on to the streets.

Mr Hoult addressed each issue individually. On parking, Mr Hoult advised that parking did not fall under his remit, however Mr Hoult advised that he was happy to take the contact details of those members of the public who were concerned about this issue and pass this on to his colleagues who deal with this specific issue.

Derek advised that he felt that the number of cars was only set to rise and this was an extremely important issue for local residents.

Cllr E Ashby advised that she was working with others on the domestication of the A167 and she was aware that residents who lived on the left of the A167 coming into Neville's Cross had significant parking issues.

On dog fouling, Mr Hoult advised that officers at DCC are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to any dog walker who does not clear up after their dog. Mr Hoult and Ms Snow advised that the local community needed to take a part in resolving this issue and inform DCC of any repeat or regular offenders.

Cllr V Ashfield asked whether DCC could consider setting up dog poo bag dispensers. Mr Hoult advised that DCC had launched the green dog walkers' scheme and the provision of bag dispensers may be something which the Parish Councils may wish to look into.

Mr Hoult also advised that DCC had issued a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Durham in relation to dogs and it is now an offence for owners to allow dogs to stray.

Cllr J Elmer asked whether DCC could potentially seek to purchase a motion-activated camera to resolve the issue of dog fouling. Mr Hoult advised that he would need to check with his colleagues in the legal department as there may be some legal issues preventing DCC from doing this.

On the matter of bins, Mr Hoult advised that if a property has more than six occupants living in the house, they were entitled to an additional bin at a cost.

Pam Jackson advised that she had requested a large communal bin for the Chains but the County Council had advised this would not be possible. Mr Hoult advised that he would take this back and see if he could do anything on this.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that bins being left out for long periods of time was an issue affecting the whole Parish.

Ms Snow advised that her team worked regularly with the university to try and resolve the issue of students leaving bins out whilst away for the holidays. Ms Snow advised that, in the first instance, her team would write directly to the students to have the bins put back in. If unsuccessful, Ms Snow advised that her team would then raise this with the landlords directly.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that she felt that the County Council ought to be going directly to the landlords in the first instance. Ms Snow advised that legislation required the County Council to contact the residents as a first point of call.

Cllr E Ashby asked whether it would be possible to have the bins and the backyards numbered. Mr Hoult advised that this is what DCC want to have as this resolved issues of bins going missing.

Mr Hoult offered that he and his team carry out a walkabout with the local residents' groups in order to resolve some of the issues at the forefront of everyone's minds.

Mr Hoult also recommended that members of the public report any issues as discussed this evening via the Durham County Council website.

There being no further queries, Cllr V Ashfield thanked all members of the public for attending the meeting and for raising their issues. 5 of the 6 members of the public left the room at this point.

4. DISCUSSION WITH IAN HOULT AND BELINDA SNOW RE: ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PROPOSAL.

Mr Hoult and Ms Snow presented their report and proposal in response to the clerk's request to them to consider the Parish Council contracting some time from an Environmental Enforcement Officer.

The Clerk thanked Mr Hoult and Ms Snow for their assistance to date on this issue. Mr Hoult and Ms Snow advised that they are happy to work with the Parish Council to facilitate any Service Level Agreement which fits the needs of the City of Durham Parish Council.

The Committee felt that the issues of residential and industrial waste/ littering, bins, dog fouling and nuisance car parking were the main issues they'd like to see addressed by the Environmental Enforcement Officer.

Mr Hoult advised that he was keen to emphasize that this would mean work over and above what the County Council currently provides and the Parish Council would be provided with reports by the officer on outcomes.

On costs, Mr Hoult and Ms Snow advised that 1 hour per week per annum would cost the Parish Council approximately £1,000 per annum.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their time and Mr Hoult and Ms Snow left the meeting.

The Committee resolved to put a recommendation before the April Full Council meeting to request for £5,000 towards this project.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2019.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising from the Minutes of 19th March 2019. At this point in the meeting, the Chair requested that rather than extending the meeting the remainder of the Agenda be discussed at a later meeting on 1st May as time had run out. The Committee agreed to have another meeting on 1st May at 12:30pm to discuss the remainder of the Agenda.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Environment Committee would take place on 1st May at 12:30pm.

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed

Chair City of Durham Parish Council Environment Committee.