

# City of Durham Parish Council

Office 3 D4.01d  
Clayport Library  
8 Millennium Place  
Durham  
DH1 1WA

Telephone 07704 525630  
Email: [parishclerk@cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk)

9<sup>th</sup> July 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 **OFFICE 2, CLAYPORT LIBRARY BUILDING, DURHAM. DH1 1WA on 16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019 AT 13:00** to transact the following business: -

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**
- 3. DISCUSSION WITH LEE MOWBRAY, DCC OFFICER ON MARKET TRADER CAR PARKING.**
- 4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019.**
- 5. MATTERS ARISING**
- 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**
- 7. ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2019** (report attached)
- 8. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES,**
  - i) Update on Good Neighbour scheme**
  - ii) Update on Clean and Green tasks**
  - iii) Involving young people**
  - iv) A167 – Working Group update**
- 9. AOB** (Please note for discussion only, not decision making)
- 10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.**

TBC

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 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 17:30 in Room 1, Alington House. Durham. DH1 3ET.**

Present: Councillors E Ashby, J Atkinson, L Brown, J Elmer and M Ross.

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley and Amy Mycock (OASES North East).

## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Clerk opened the meeting and asked if there were any nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr L Brown nominated Cllr V Ashfield for the role, this was seconded by Cllr E Ashby and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

## **2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

The Clerk asked if there were any nominations for the role of Vice-Chair. Cllr M Ross nominated Cllr J Elmer for the role, this was seconded by Cllr E Ashby and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

In Cllr V Ashfield's absence, Cllr J Elmer took the Chair.

## **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs V Ashfield and D Freeman

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

Cllr L Brown declared an interest in item 7 of the Agenda.

## **5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> MAY 2019.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

## **6. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk reported that the issue of the A167 would continue to be a priority for the Environment Committee.

## **7. PRESENTATION BY AMY MYCOCK, PROJECT OFFICER AT OASES (OUTDOOR AND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION SPECIALISTS).**

The Chair welcomed Amy Mycock from OASES to the meeting who was attending to provide information about what OASES does as an organisation.

Amy advised that OASES primarily works with schools to ensure that young people have access to outdoor learning experiences and global sustainability education. Through it's work OASES hopes to create a more sustainable world where all children can thrive. We aim to inspire, motivate and engage young people by

providing them with exciting educational experiences that will lead them to be enthusiastic learners.

Amy provided an overview of a recent project OASES is working on called Planting Up Neville's Cross.

Amy advised that Planting Up Neville's Cross aims to make Neville's Cross a greener and more colourful neighbourhood through community planting of trees, bulbs and flowers. Two primary schools (Neville's Cross Primary and St Margaret's Primary) and one secondary (Durham Johnston School) have been approached to be involved in the project. The schools will each receive:

- A whole school assembly/focus group presentation - to raise awareness of the project and encourage attendance at the community events (followed by a community bulb planting event).
- A class/focus group workshop - on the importance of urban trees (followed by a community tree planting event).
- A class/focus group workshop - on the decline of wildflowers nationally and their importance for biodiversity and pollinators. The opportunity to make a 'wildflower seed bomb' (followed by a community wildflower ground preparation event).
- A class/focus group site visit - to sow the wildflower seed bombs on the ground prepared through the community event.

Amy advised that whilst the main aim of the project is to enhance the local environment for years to come, benefitting the people who live and work there, by involving the young people of Neville's Cross in the project we hope to engender both care and pride in their neighbourhood.

The community of Neville's Cross have been consulted about the project and have had their say on the sort of planting that they would most like to see this project deliver: There are over 100 individuals who are part of the Neville's Cross Gardeners community group. A meeting took place to discuss community growing in Neville's Cross, and it was apparent there was a lot of interest in gardening beyond private gardens in the area. An initial survey on the type of vegetation people most wanted to see was completed by over 60 people on Neville's Cross Residents Facebook group. The results in order of popularity were 1) trees which can help to reduce air pollution, followed by 2) wildflowers in bare ground, 3) shrubs

Amy also advised that OASES had also been working to install more edibles in the City centre and was keen to hear the Parish Council's feedback on this.

The Clerk reported that OASES had submitted a grant application for the Planting Up project and it was **agreed** that Amy should attend the first meeting of the A167 Working Party meeting to see how OASES's priorities were aligned with the Parish Council's on this aspect of the Environment Committee's work.

## **8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

None received.

## **9. ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2019**

The Clerk reported that nominations were now open for the County Durham Environment Awards which reward great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit in County Durham.

The County Durham Environment Awards is an annual event rewarding projects that demonstrate great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit across the county. Nominations are now open for the 30th anniversary County Durham Partnership Awards.

The Clerk reported that these Awards are hosted by the County Durham Environment Partnership, with the aim of recognising the efforts of a range of organisations and individuals through a series of award categories.

The Chair expressed some concern about the involvement of one particular sponsor of the event.

It was **agreed** to defer decision on whether to participate or nominate an individual or organisation until further details about the Awards could be found out.

## **10. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES,**

### **i) Update on Good Neighbour scheme**

Cllr E Ashby reported that she and the Clerk had met with Charlie (DSU volunteer coordinator) to set the parameters for the project. Cllr E Ashby also reported that an advert had gone out seeking a programme leader for the Good Neighbour Scheme. At present, there had been no further feedback.

Cllr E Ashby also reported that the local Residents' Groups and Age UK ought to be consulted to find out where the needs were and which residents were in a particularly vulnerable category during times of bad weather. It was agreed that this should be done once the volunteer coordinator was in post.

Cllr E Ashby also reported that she had attended an event of the DSU highlighting the work of student volunteers and had found this event and the work of the students to be incredible.

### **ii) Update on Clean and Green tasks**

Cllr M Ross reported that she and Cllr V Ashfield had met with an individual who was keen to apply for the work to carry out litter picking, road sweeping, street sign cleaning. The Clerk reported that this would be more complicated than originally envisaged. Following consultation with DCC officers, the Clerk advised that licenses to move and dispose of waste would need to be sought, as well as a permit to be able to use the DCC waste centres. The Clerk advised that he felt it would be easier and cheaper to use DCC's own service and enter into an SLA with DCC for an enhanced service to that already provided. When considering the budget implications, the Committee agreed to postpone this scheme to the next financial year.

The Clerk advised that he had been made aware of a scheme carried out by other local authorities to provide residents with so called "stubbies" which were essentially portable, sealable pocket ashtrays which offered the opportunity to include branding and communicate messages to the public. The Clerk reported that other local authorities had carried out this scheme with a successful outcome. The Committee agreed that cigarette-related litter was an issue for the city centre and it was agreed that the Clerk should source a supplier for the provision of these pocket ashtrays and put a proposal to Full Council in June.

The budget to pay for this could be taken from the £5,000 allocated towards additional grass cutting in the Parish. £3,500 was taken from this budget to carry out this scheme. Members were also in agreement that local premises should be encouraged to sponsor the pocket ashtrays as an additional show of commitment to the scheme.

### **iii) Involving young people**

Cllr M Ross reported that she and the Clerk had met with a representative of DCC's transport team to look further into the proposal of subsidising transport for 16-18-year-old pupils of the schools within the Parish. Unfortunately, the budget allocated of £5,500 towards such a scheme was greatly insufficient as such a scheme would require upwards of £400,000 of funding and a scheme of subsidised transport already existed with certain operators. Cllr M Ross advised that she felt it may be a case of simply signposting pupils to the relevant scheme for them to ensure everyone eligible is benefiting from this.

Cllr M Ross advised that she would carry out further consultation with the schools to seek an alternative scheme for involving young people.

### **iv) Business frontages**

The Clerk reported that the £3,000 towards a Best Christmas Frontage Awards had been approved by Full Council. It was agreed that the Awards should be advertised from early September to ensure maximum involvement. The Clerk reported that he and Cllr J Atkinson would be meeting to arrange the structure of the Awards process and the Awards presentation ceremony.

### **v) Update on Neighbourhood Warden SLA following meeting with Belinda Snow, DCC Neighbourhood Warden Manager.**

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr M Ross had recently met with Belinda Snow and the SLA was now in place, with the new Neighbourhood Warden due to take up post on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Cllr E Ashby felt that more information for residents was needed on how this would work. The Clerk confirmed that he would put some guidance notes together for circulation to the various Residents Groups. The Clerk also advised that he would seek some branding for the Warden to wear to ensure that the Parish Council received the recognition for funding this additional service.

### **vi) A167**

It was agreed that the first meeting of the A167 Working Party should take place in June with local Residents Groups invited along with Amy from OASES. A report to the next Environment Committee would illustrate the tasks for the Working Party.

**11. AOB**

None received.

**12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Environment Committee should take place on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 13:00pm.

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

Signed,

Chair City of Durham Parish Council Environment Committee.

## **ITEM 7: ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2019**

Nominations are now open for the County Durham Environment Awards which reward great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit in County Durham. To coincide with world environment day, nominations have now opened for the County Durham Environment Awards. 2019 will mark the 30th year that the awards have been open to environmental champions.

The County Durham Environment Awards is an annual event rewarding projects that demonstrate great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit across the county. Nominations are now open for the 30th anniversary County Durham Partnership Awards. Applications can be done online until 19 July.

Self-nomination is permitted in all but the two individual volunteering categories. All projects or work must have been undertaken within the Durham County Council area.

The Awards are hosted by the County Durham Environment Partnership, with the aim of recognising the efforts of a range of organisations and individuals through the award categories below. Please see the attached brochure for more details of the awards and the available categories:

- **Built environment**
- **Climate change**
- **Community partnership**
- **Craftsmanship**
- **Greener business**
- **Natural environment**
- **Places and spaces**
- **Schools and colleges**
- **Volunteer group of the year**
- **Volunteer of the year - under 18**
- **Volunteer of the year - over 18**
- **Waste management**

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	Councillors are asked to consider any organisations they may wish to nominate for these awards.
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