

City of Durham Parish Council

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17th September 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 24th SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 17:15** to transact the following business: -

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**
- 3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27th AUGUST 2019.**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING**
- 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**
- 6. UPDATE ON TREE PLANTING AT THE SANDS**
- 7. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES,**
 - i) Update on Good Neighbour scheme**
 - ii) Update on Clean and Green tasks**
 - iii) Involving young people – Terracycle project and UN Climate Change teaching training**
 - iv) A167 – Working Group update**
- 11. AOB** (Please note for discussion only, not decision making)
- 12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.**

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 27th August 2019 at 14:00 in Room 2, Alington House. 4 North Bailey. Durham. DH1 3ET

Present: Councillors V Ashfield (Chair), L Brown and M Ross.

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Elmer, D Freeman and J Atkinson

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None received

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16th JULY 2019.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None received

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

None received

6. PROPOSAL TO CARRY OUT TREE PLANTING AT THE SANDS

The Chair advised that, with the development of the new County HQ building taking place, concern had been expressed about the loss of all the trees on the site. The Chair advised that she had discussed the proposal to carry out some planting of trees at the Sands with the Clerk, who had in turn discussed the proposal briefly with the Freeman who had been very amenable to the idea. Members considered what sort of trees could be planted in the area and agreed that Beech, Willow and Chestnut would be the best. Cllr L Brown remarked that November would be the best time for planting new trees. The Clerk advised that he was aware that the Woodland Trust offer free trees to community organisations and he would be happy to submit an application, however did advise that the County Council would need to grant permission for the planting of the trees. The Chair advised that the £500 from the Clean and Green budget for planting could be put towards this in case the trees were not free of charge. It was unanimously **agreed** that, subject to the County Council granting permission for the planting of the trees, a proposal should be put to Full Council on this in September.

7. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES,

i) Update on Good Neighbour scheme

The Clerk advised that they had heard no further from Charlie at the DSU on this. The Clerk advised that he would chase this and would hopefully seek a meeting with the new DSU Officer who was due to take over Charlie at the Students Union.

ii) Update on Clean and Green tasks

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council had agreed to become a partner with Durham in Bloom and to finance a flower exhibit for 2019. The Clerk advised that the Bishop's mitre flower display was in place in the Marketplace and was attracting a lot of public attention. The Clerk advised that this element of the Clean and Green tasks could be taken off the work list for this year, however there would be a need in advance of next year's event, should the Council agree to partner with Durham in Bloom next year, to decide on how the Parish Council would wish to contribute to the event.

The Chair advised that the Environment Committee had negotiated with DCC to tidy up land at Highgate and potentially turn the area into sensory garden/park. The Parish Council would need to carry out some re-planting in future years. The Clerk reported that at present only the Path had been cleared and none of the trees had been cut back as discussed with the officers. The Clerk advised that he would chase this up.

The Clerk reminded Members that an award for the best kept business frontage, including a competition for the best Christmas display by independent businesses; chains stores; indoor market stalls; non-retail units was agreed by Full Council together with an Award ceremony. The Clerk reported that he would be working with Cllr J Atkinson to arrange the event for this year and advertising would start on this from the end of September.

The Chair reported that DCC had offered free plants for replanting the gardens in front of The Sands flats in conjunction with Durham Sixth Form Centre students. However, no reply had been received from the student contact at the Sixth Form Centre and the timing for the Summer plants was now over. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact DCC Clean and Green officers and ask for the area to be cleared and to request costs for autumn planters.

The Clerk confirmed that the new Neighbourhood Warden had began her post and the Parish Council had been successful in securing the £5000 additional funding from the AAP. The Clerk advised that he felt that there was a need to advertise the fact that the Parish Council now has its own Neighbourhood Warden more and how to go about reporting issues to the Warden. It was agreed that a video should be created with the Chair of the Environment Committee to give further publicity about how members of the public can go about reporting issues.

The Clerk advised that he had heard nothing further from DCC Officers about the potential Service Level Agreement for a "handman" and advised that he would be chasing this up.

The Clerk advised that the deep clean and treatment of North Road from Neville's street to the North Road end of Framwellgate bridge was now complete and was looking excellent. The Clerk advised that this would be removed from the programme of work for this year.

The Clerk advised that there were no updates on the bike racks/ flower tubs since the last meeting. The Chair asked the Clerk to chase this up with Cllr E Ashby to see if there was any movement on this project.

The Clerk presented a design to Members for the cigarette pouches. Members agreed with the design as proposed and it was agreed that light purple and black would be the colours of choice for these and that the Clerk should order these as soon as possible from the chosen supplier. The Clerk advised that a strategy would need to be developed about how the Parish Council distributed and advertised these pouches.

iii) Involving young people

a. Terracycle project

The Chair advised that she had been looking further into the Terracycle scheme as discussed at the last meeting. She felt this would be a very good initiative to start off with in the Primary schools in the Parish. Cllr M Ross agreed with this and also felt that the Primary schools may be able to promote this scheme to the High schools in due course. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to all the local Primary schools asking if they wish to participate in the scheme, and, if so, the Parish Council would be able to fund either one large Terracycle collection box or two small collection boxes depending on the schools needs. The deadline for a response was agreed for 11th September to allow for the proposal to be put to the Full Council in September.

b. Environment training for teachers in the City of Durham Parish

The Chair advised that she had been made aware of a scheme currently being run by the North of Tyne Mayor to have every school in his region undertake to have at least one teacher in each school carry out an UN-accredited Environment training course.

The Clerk advised that he had been looking further into this. This is a free online course which teachers can do in their own time. The Clerk advised that he had a discussion with the programme leader who advised that 3,000 schools were currently participating and none of these were believed to be in the City of Durham Parish area. Cllr M Ross advised that she was aware of the time and funding constraints around teacher training and felt that the Parish Council would need to fund the teacher's time or at least part of this in order to be able to do this. The Chair reported that it would be a real pioneering initiative for the Parish Council to promote this to all schools in the area and agreed with the proposal to fund part of a teacher's time to do this. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to all schools on this and request expressions of interest. The deadline for a response was again agreed for 11th September to allow for the proposal to be put to the Full Council in September.

iv) A167 – Working Group update

Cllr L Brown reported that she had heard back from DCC officers that the gates and the additional signage in the A167 Working Party programme of work would not be possible as it was felt that these would be a highways risk due to issues with the line of sight. The flower planters however would be fine. Cllr L Brown also reported that she and Cllr E Scott would be funding Speed Indicator Display signs from their Neighbourhood budgets opposite Douglas Gardens. Cllr L Brown advised that she had received correspondence from residents concerning the lack of any signage coming down the hill towards Neville's Cross school about the 20mph speed limit and this would hopefully tackle this issue. Cllr L Brown also advised that there would hopefully be a meeting of the Working Group – including representatives of the local Residents' Associations in due course.

8. AOB

None received.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

The next meeting was agreed at 5:15pm on 24th September. It was hoped that the room in Clayport library would be available for this.

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.