

# City of Durham Parish Council

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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 **CLAYPORT DCC MEETING ROOM, CLAYPORT LIBRARY BUILDING, DURHAM DH1 1WA on 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT 13:15** 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 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019**
- 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 5. CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21**
- 6. 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**
- 7. AOB** (Please note for discussion only, not decision making)
- 8. 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 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 17:15 in Office 2, Clayport Library Building, Durham. DH1 1WA.**

Present: Councillors V Ashfield (in the Chair), J Atkinson, E Ashby, S Cahill and M Ross.

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley and Mr Ged Lawson (DCC Officer)

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Elmer and D Freeman

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

None received

## **3. DISCUSSION WITH GED LAWSON, DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICER ON TREE PLANTING PROPOSALS**

The Chair welcomed Ged Lawson to the meeting who was attending to discuss future tree planting in the City of Durham Parish area.

Ged started by advising the Committee that the County Council had recently been awarded £490,000 of central Government funding for the purposes of planting new trees as part of the Government's Urban Challenge scheme. Ged advised that none of this at present would be directed to the City of Durham Parish and would be directed more at open spaces with low tree cover where it is felt that additional tree planting could benefit the area. Ged advised the Committee to continue to monitor how this scheme is rolled out as it may be that proposed area for additional tree planting drop out of the scheme and the City of Durham Parish could apply for trees. Ged advised that the County Council were working with Karbon Homes to assist in delivery of the scheme.

Ged shared the plans for the replanting scheme DCC was proposing for the Sands area following the felling of a number of trees at the area to facilitate construction of the new County Headquarters. Ged advised that the line of trees between the coach park and the grass land of the Sands will potentially be retained.

The Chair thanked Ged for his presentation to the Committee and advised Ged of the scheme the Parish Council is hoping to soon be commencing to plant trees at the Sands area immediately east to the line of trees at the edge of the coach park. Ged advised that purple willow, crack willow, aspen, small leaf lime and black poplars would be a good species to consider planting in the area. Ged advised against planting any ash trees in the area as they are dying out across the County (due to Ash dieback).

Ged advised that whips would be best to plant in the area and he could look at some of the County's regional nurseries to provide these at a cost to the Parish Council if the Committee so wished.

On the security of the proposed trees by the Parish Council, Ged advised that it was often best not to overthink this as additional security had been known to attract vandalism to the trees. Ged agreed to work with the Parish Council on the delivery of their proposed tree planting scheme at the Sands. The Clerk advised that this would all be subject to the Freeman agreeing to the scheme.

Cllr E Ashby asked what had happened to the trees inside the Gala theatre which had disappeared. The Clerk advised that he would look into this and report back. The Chair thanked Ged for his attendance at the meeting. Ged left the meeting at this point.

#### **4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

None received.

#### **6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received.

#### **7. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSULTATION**

The Chair presented the proposed response to Durham County Council's Climate Change consultation which the Chair and Cllr J Elmer had put together on behalf of the Committee. The Clerk advised that this would need to be agreed by the Committee to go forward to the Full Parish Council meeting in October as the recommended response to the consultation. The Chair asked all Members to provide the Clerk with any amends no later than tomorrow (16<sup>th</sup> October) at 17:00pm so that this could be included in the Full Council agenda.

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

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

Cllr E Ashby reported that she had attended Freshers' Fair this year and Jess, the Opportunities Officer at the Students Union had a fantastic recruiting campaign for the Good Neighbour scheme and now has a number of students on board for the project. Cllr E Ashby advised that she hoped to have a meeting with Jess and the Clerk as soon as possible to discuss how to take the project forward.

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

The Chair presented a report on actions taken thus far on projects and to be taken in the near future.

The Chair asked about the bike racks project. The Clerk reported that he and Cllr E Ashby would be going to the Wood Pile to take a look at what could be offered. Cllr E Ashby also advised that she would soon be meeting with the Indoor Market Manager to discuss the proposal.

On the project for the designated quiet zone. The Clerk reported that he had requested a quotation from a local security firm to provide two quiet zone officers. The Clerk advised that he was still awaiting a reply to this. The Clerk did advise

that he had received a commitment from the County Councillors on the Parish Council that they would fund the signage and the noise monitoring equipment for this project. The Clerk had contacted DCC officers to see what would be possible.

The Clerk highlighted that the clean and green budget was already slightly over committed with projected spend taking the budget over the agreed £30,000. It was **agreed** that £2,500 should be moved from the A167 project and allocated to the funding of the Quiet Zone Officers for a trial period of approximately two months. It was also **agreed** that the designated quiet zone should be from North Road roundabout to Gilesgate roundabout.

The Clerk reported that the project for the Fenwick Lawson app was still in construction phase but reminded Members that £2,000 was still remaining for the Heritage Signage project.

### **iii) Involving young people – Terracycle project and UN Climate Change teaching training**

The Clerk reported that he had written to all schools and, as Members are aware, the funding for both the Terracycle scheme and the teacher training had now been approved by the Full Parish Council. The Clerk advised that he had only heard from a small number of schools however. The Chair and Cllr L Brown advised that they would chase the schools up on this.

### **iv) A167 – Working Group update**

Cllr L Brown advised that there was a meeting planned with DCC Highways officers to take this proposal forward. The meeting would involve the Clerk, Cllr E Ashby and Cllr L Brown.

## **9. USE OF SECTION 106 FUNDS IN THE CITY OF DURHAM PARISH AREA**

It was agreed that this would be a future Agenda item on the Environment Committee Agenda to see where section 106 funds could be applied for to meet Environment Committee project costs.

## **10. AOB**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the four stakeholders (AAP, Durham BID, Indoor Market Company and the City Centre Manager) agreed at the last Environment Committee meeting who had all agreed to take part in what they felt was a fantastic scheme in the best Christmas business frontage awards. The Clerk advised that he would be putting together some information on the scheme and would be meeting with Cllrs E Ashby and J Atkinson to take the project forward.

## **11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.**

The Chair advised that a proposed date would be circulated to Members in due course.

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 Environment Committee**

**ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21**

Item of expenditure	Cost
<b>PRIORITY 1: Clean and Green</b>	
Supporting Durham in Bloom + additional planting	£5,000
Purchase of plastic only bins	£3,000
Neighbourhood Warden	£10,000
Improving air quality in City centre	£1,000
Allotments	£1,000
<b>PRIORITY 2: Involving young people</b>	
Terracycle	£1,500
Establishing a City-wide youth Environment Committee	£5,000
<b>PRIORITY 3: Heritage</b>	
Development of Fenwick Lawson app - Durham heritage app	£5,000
<b>PRIORITY 4: Business frontages</b>	
Christmas frontage awards + Christmas event	£3,000
<b>PRIORITY 5: Noise</b>	
Developing the Quiet Zone proposal	£2,000
<b>PRIORITY 6: A167</b>	
Developing project from 2019-20 on domesticating the A167	£1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£37,500</b>

## ITEM 6: DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

### PRIORITY 1: Involving Young People - £5,500 budget

	Actions	Who	What	Actual spend
1.	Arrange for Council / Committee meetings held in schools	MR & VA	Visit schools	£0
2.	Young people involved in recycling issues	MR & VA	Visit / contact schools	£1,000
3.	Schools involved in UN Climate emergency Training	AS & VA	Contact schools	£1,500
				<b>Total: £2,500</b>

### Priority 2: Clean and Green - £30,000 budget

	Actions	Who	What	Actual spend
1	Neighbourhood Warden contract	AS	Litter, rubbish bins, dog fouling	£5,000
2.	Invite Oliver Sherratt to attend EC meeting	VA	Durham in Bloom Future plans	£2,500
3.	Grass cutting / cleaning SLA Sustainable planting	VA	Meet Andrew Jackson Discuss future plans and our ideas	£0
4.	Business Frontages	JA	Establish competition, awards and plaques	£3,000
5.	Pocket Ashtray	AS	Order for circulation in Dec 2019	£3,650
6.	Invite Dave Wafer to attend meeting	VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask him to outline his planning programme</li> <li>Present our issues</li> <li>Consider other aspects</li> </ul>	£0
7.	Cleaning North Road	AS		£14,487
8.	Replanting trees at The Sands	AS / VA	Present to Full Council for agreement	£500 allocated
9.	Bike Racks / Flowertubs / under Milburngate Bridge	EA	Order tubs	£1,500 allocated
10.	Quiet Zone Officers			TBC
				<b>Total: £30,637</b>

**Priority 2A: Clean and Green: Good Neighbour - £1,000 budget**

	Actions	Who	What	Actual spend
1.	Build partnership with DSU / SCA	EA	Discussions with the Students' Union and Student Community Action	
2.	Work with Neighbourhood groups to identify needs			
3.	Create strategy to meet need			
4.	Purchase of equipment			£1,000 allocated
				<b>Total: £1,000</b>

**Priority 3. A167 Traffic Calming - £3,500 budget**

	Actions	Who	What	Actual spend
1.	Create Working Group	EA/ES/LB	Include neighbourhood groups	
2.	Refuges	Working Group	Liaise with DCC	
3.	Flower Towers	EA / LB		
				<b>Total: £0</b>

**Priority 4: Heritage Signing - £5,500 budget**

	Actions	Who	What	Actual spend
1.	Propose consider the Fenwick Lawson App trail in conjunction with partners	Full Council	Receive input from Anna Lawson	£3,500
2.	Work to engage partners ...	Env Cttee	....	
				<b>Total: £3,500</b>

Items in **green** are those which have been completed or are well under way.  
 Items in **black**, are in progress or under consideration.