

City of Durham Parish Council

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of the City of Durham Parish Council's Environment Committee held in Lantern Room, Town Hall, Market Place, Durham City, DH1 3NJ on Thursday 13 December 2018 at 18.30.

1. Attendance.

Cllrs V Ashfield (in the Chair), E Ashby, J Atkinson, J Elmer, R Ormerod & M Ross.
Apologies were received from Cllr S Cahill.
In the absence of the Clerk it was agreed that RO take minutes.

2. Declarations of interest:

- RO declared a personal interest in item 6c as a resident of a street close to the A167.
- VA declared a personal interest in item 7a as a resident of Hillcrest re-snow clearance.

3. Public participation:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

4. Minutes of the meeting on 29 November:

- Item 5d: It was clarified that Sarah Billingham was not part of DCC Highways.
- Item 5d vi: It was agreed that "may soon be our responsibility" should have said "could become our responsibility".

5. Work programme:

- RO was impressed with the current work programme and its clear objectives.
- VA said it would continue to be a work in progress.
- It was noted that snow clearance and traffic were additional items but will be incorporated in the body of the plan.
- VA to invite Oliver Sherratt to attend February meeting of EC to discuss grass cutting and other projects. MR agreed to lead on grass cutting, EA on Millenium place project..
- It was noted that budget outlines would be needed by 20 December.

6. Priorities:

A. Young people:

A discussion took place on the proposed skatepark in relation to: use of scooters etc; environmentally sustainable materials (JE); and aesthetics (EA).

RO raised the issue of the role of the Clerk in relation to engaging with young people with regard to the skatepark. (The committee was of the view that it would be useful for the new Clerk to give a talk to Council in the near future about his role). EA will liaise with SC about his joining the working group with particular relevance to the EC's contribution to the budget.

MR & VA to begin school visits in January.

JA reported that there was no word yet from the University Theatre on progress. She will follow this up so the committee can discuss our involvement / budget.

B. Clean & Green:

Oliver Sherratt to attend February meeting to discuss his on-going projects. MR agreed to lead on grass cutting, EA on Millenium place project.

JE was interested to find out the County Council's balance of funding between roads and cycleways.

It was noted that Dave Wafer (Strategic Traffic Manager) from DCC has agreed to attend the January meeting.

A discussion took place on "green walls" and MR provided an example of one from another area.

JE said that the former Durham City Council had run a "Best Business Frontage" competition. Michael Hurlow was the contact.

C. A167:

EA said she was meeting with Cllr L Brown about the A167 and money from DCC budgets had already been committed. The requirement from DCPC budget is to be clarified.

D. Heritage Signage:

It was agreed to concentrate this year only on identifying and placing signs on buildings of historic interest. JE said the council should work with the City of Durham Trust over this. VA said that a small project was needed to gather information on historic buildings. JE offered to liaise with the clerk on this. A budget would be needed in the next financial year.

7. Other issues:

A) Snow clearance:

It was noted that in discussion with the Clerk VA and EA had agreed that the proposal on the multi-purpose vehicle and member of staff would not be discussed at the meeting of the Council on 20 December but that a working party would be proposed to examine this in more detail.

It was agreed to support the creation of a working party.

B) Traffic/cycling:

Covered in Item 6(B) above.

C. Grass cutting

Covered in Item 6(B) above.

8. Other matters:

The budget was discussed in some detail and outline costing were prepared (see appendix).

9. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meetings of the Environment Committee will be on Tuesday 15th January, Tuesday 19 Feb; Tues 19 March. Time to be agreed.

Signed

 15 Jan 19.

Cllr V Ashfield
Chair of Environment Committee