

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on 28th January 2020 at 14:00pm in DCC meeting room, Clayport library building. Durham. DH1 1WA.

Present: Councillors V Ashfield (in the Chair), E Ashby, L Brown, S Cahill, D Freeman and M Ross.

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Atkinson and J Elmer.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None received.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14th JANUARY 2020

The Minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of proceeds with the amendment to the statement regarding the split of the Committee working being agreed as proactive and reactive. It was instead **agreed** that the Agenda would be organised according to the timetable under discussion on item 7 of the current Agenda (28th January 2020).

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

5. DCC AIR QUALITY PRESENTATION: QUESTIONS FOR DAVE GRIBBEN AND PROPOSALS FOR JOINT ACTION WITH DCC

It was **agreed** that the following queries would be put to Dave Gribben at the next Tuesday meeting (3rd march 2020) of the Environment Committee:

- Why are there no up to date figures published regarding the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)?
- What is the County Council doing to ensure that bus operators are switching to electrical buses?
- Can we have more green walls in Durham City?
- Can there be a limit on the number of HGVs entering the City centre?
- What is the County Council doing to enforce the ban on students bringing vehicles to the City?
- Can we have more electrical vehicle charging points in the Parish?

It was **agreed** that Dave Gribben would be invited to the 3rd march Environment Committee meeting.

6. PROPOSALS FOR NEW BUS STATION ON NORTH ROAD – ENVIRONMENT CONSIDERATIONS

No further comments on the bus station were put forward beyond those expressed at the Full Council meeting during the presentation by Dave Wafer. The Clerk advised that he would be circulating a response to the consultation next week for Full Council approval.

7. TIMETABLE FOR ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2020/21 WORK

The Chair presented a programme of work for the Environment Committee for the year ahead.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should contact Andrew Jackson at the earliest convenience to discuss plans for Durham in Bloom 2020. The Committee advised that they would like to take a more proactive part of the planning for Durham In Bloom as part of the proposed increased funding.

It was also **agreed** that an alternative frontage award should be investigated outside that of Christmas. The Clerk advised that he would contact Carole Feenan and Adam Deathe to find out about other such awards throughout the year to ensure there is no duplication.

It was also **agreed** that the bike racks/ planters should be added to the programme for consideration. Cllr E Ashby advised that bike racks/ planters were still possible to procure from Victoria Lloyd-Gent at Durham County Council.

8. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:

• Consideration of Neighbourhood Warden report

Committee Members felt that the latest Neighbourhood Warden report needed to be improved and needed to include figures of exactly what had been carried out and achieved in the Parish. The Chair advised that she would be producing pro-forma for the Warden to complete as part of their reporting.

• Tree planting update

The Chair advised that the Freeman had agreed to allowing the Parish Council hold a community tree planning event at the Sands in February. The Freeman are keen to take an active role in this and will be part of the event. The Freeman are also keen to do tree planting at the riverbanks to further deal with the issue of flooding.

It was **agreed** that the tree planting event should take place on 14th February and that the Clerk should submit an order for rowan, birch, silver birch, hornbeam, maple, aspen and black poplar for the event.

It was also **agreed** that the Clerk should produce a poster for the event and also source the tools to carry out the planting.

• Setting up a new city-wide youth Environment Committee

The Chair advised that she had visited a number of schools who are keen to participate in the City-wide Youth Committee. The Chair advised that there were a number of matters which will need to be sorted in preparation for a first meeting in the half-term holidays and that she, Cllr M Ross, S Cahill and the Clerk would arrange as a working group.

9. AOB (Please note for discussion only, not decision making)

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

AFTERNOONS ON (Tuesday 2pm - 3.30)

28 Jan - CLAYPORT LIBRARY (DCC meeting room)

3 March - CLAYPORT LIBRARY (DCC meeting room)

31 March – CLAYPORT LIBRARY (DCC meeting room)

28 April – CLAYPORT LIBRARY (DCC meeting room)

EVENINGS ON (Wednesday 5.15 - 6.45pm)

12 Feb – CLAYPORT LIBRARY

18 March – CLAYPORT LIBRARY

15 April – CLAYPORT LIBRARY

13 May – CLAYPORT LIBRARY

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