

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on 3rd March 2020 at 14:00 in DCC Meeting Room, Clayport Library Building, Durham. DH1 1WA.

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

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley and Rebecca Henderson, DSU Policy and Campaigns Manager.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr J Elmer.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None received.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12th FEBRUARY 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

5. DISCUSSION WITH REBECCA HENDERSON, POLICY & CAMPAIGNS MANAGER AT DURHAM STUDENTS UNION ON THE PINCIDENT APP.

The Chair welcomed Rebecca Henderson, Policy and Campaigns Manager at Durham Students Union to the meeting. Rebecca welcomed the opportunity to discuss the Pincident software with the Parish Council.

Rebecca advised that Pincident is an anonymous, open source reporting tool created by Durham Students Union; originally as a means of logging incidents of sexual violence without reporting these to any statutory bodies.

The Clerk advised that the proposal of expanding this to include reporting incidents of late night noise disturbance had been discussed at a separate meeting. Rebecca advised that this would be possible though it would need to involve the creation of a new platform and a new reporting tool but one which would work in a very similar way to that of Pincident.

Rebecca advised that a technology specialist at the DSU would be willing to create this for the Parish Council at a cost and that she could facilitate a meeting to discuss this further.

At present the technology is not in app form but open source and is accessible to all members of the public.

A member of the DSU team is charged with pinning reported incidents on to the mapping technology included in Pincident and the new tool would also necessitate a member of staff at the Parish Council doing this.

The Clerk advised that he would be able to do this and, if successful, this may reduce the time spent answering complaint emails about late night noise disturbance.

The Clerk advised that the tool could be used as a means of targeting resources such as neighbourhood wardens where most issues were being reported. The Clerk also advised that the reporting form could also help with reporting issues.

Members were extremely enthusiastic about the proposal and it was agreed to take this forward as a project for consideration at Full Council.

The Chair thanked Rebecca for her time in coming to discuss this proposal with the Parish Council Environment Committee. Rebecca left the meeting at this stage.

6. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:

- **Application to the Woodland Trust for trees**

The Chair reminded Members that the application window is now open for more trees, free of charge from the Woodland Trust. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should submit an application for trees and that the Clerk should seek views from the community on where new trees could be located. Members felt that more trees could go at the Sands; particularly opposite the Sands flats and at the end of the Sands field closest to Ferens Close.

The Chair also advised that she would like some bulb planting to take place near to where the 114 trees were planted at the Sands by the Parish Council and members of the community on 14th February. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should investigate this further.

- **Update on Durham in Bloom 2020**

The Chair reminded Members of the discussions with Andrew Jackson regarding the Parish Council's involvement with Durham In Bloom 2020. The Parish Council Environment Committee had proposed flowering at Potters Bank, a raised flower bed at the Gilesgate roundabout coming off the A690, replanting opposite the Duke of Wellington, a raised flower bed coming out of the station and also funding the bishops mitre again. Cllr E Ashby asked whether the possibility of trees similar to those in Millennium Place could be installed in the Prince Bishops Mall. The Clerk advised that he would look into this with the manager of the Prince Bishops shopping centre.

The Chair also advised that she wished to have more planting take place above that proposed with the meeting with Andrew Jackson. The Clerk advised that he was waiting to hear back on the costs of the current proposals.

Cllr E Ashby advised that the greening of Millburngate Bridge, with support from Kier and their community project fund, was also being explored; whether this is to be done via the local residents' group or the Parish Council is yet to be decided.

- **Update on the City-wide Youth Working Group**

The Committee agreed that the Working Group involving Cllrs V Ashfield, S Cahill and M Ross should take this work forward. The Chair reminded Members that Full

Council had agreed the proposal along with Terms of Reference for the group etc. The Chair advised that she would be writing out to all schools following the decision of the Full Council.

- **Purchase of bins for plastic only recycling**

The Chair proposed that the Young People's Environment Working Group look into developing a project for plastic only recycling. This was agreed by the Committee.

7. AOB

Cllr E Ashby proposed that the project to commemorate Cllr Judith Atkinson involve the replacement of a bench at Gilesgate, close to where Cllr Atkinson used to live which included a plaque. Cllr D Freeman advised that the agreement at Full Council had been for a bench and had been the garden at Highgate. The Clerk advised that he was currently looking into this proposal however the Committee felt that the proposal of a bench at Gilesgate would be a better idea. The Clerk advised that he would look into this.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

AFTERNOONS ON (Tuesday 2pm - 3.30)

31 March – CLAYPORT LIBRARY (DCC meeting room)

28 April – CLAYPORT LIBRARY (DCC meeting room)

EVENINGS ON (Wednesday 5.15 - 6.45pm)

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