

# **CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on 29<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 14:30 via Zoom.**

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

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs L Brown and J Elmer.

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

Cllr V Ashfield declared an interest in the discussion relating to St Nicholas Church ground.

### **3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received.

### **5. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:**

- **Update on alternative project for Durham in Bloom 2020 fund**

The Clerk reminded Members that the alternative proposals for Durham In Bloom 2020 were as follows:

1. A bulb planting project across the entire parish area, with £1000 allocated to this priority.
2. (Approx.) £9,000 allocated towards a bus shelter roof greening project, subject to DCC permission.

The Clerk advised that he had been recommended a suitable supplier for the bulbs and that he was still awaiting permission from DCC on the green roofing of the bus shelters.

Cllr E Ashby asked about the exact location of the bus shelters as described in the report as:

**Shelter 10m From 97 Claypath 5m From Claypath, and  
Shelter 27m From 96 Claypath 8m From A690**

The Clerk advised that he would look into this and circulate the exact details from the Ordnance map. Cllr E Ashby advised that the bus shelters agreed to be proposed for green roofing were the ones at the bottom of Claypath.

- **Update on Youth Environment Working Party**

The Chair advised that there is currently no update on this matter but that she would follow up with all participating local schools as soon as possible.

- **Update on the launch of “PinPoint” ASB tool**

The Clerk advised that the PinPoint tool had now been launched and a communication had been sent out to all local Residents Groups about this as well as a press release. The Clerk advised that this had been picked up quite widely in the local press and that the Chair of the Parish Council Environment Committee had also done an interview with BBC Radio Newcastle about this. To date, a number of incidents had been logged with the tool from local residents and the Clerk advised that the figures for all incidents would be reported at the end of each month.

- **Proposal for mosaic under Framwelgate Bridge**

The Clerk reminded Members that the Environment Committee had agreed a preferred design for the proposed mosaic installation underneath Framwelgate Bridge. The Clerk advised that he had expected a full cost for the agreed design from the designer and had been chasing this but to date there is still no update on this. The Clerk advised that he would continue to chase this and provide details as soon as possible.

- **Proposal from North End Allotments Association**

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council agreed a budget of £2,000 towards allotments for the financial year 2020-21. The Clerk advised that the County Council has transferred the ownership of the North End Allotments to the Parish Council following the Parish Council’s agreement in February 2019. The Clerk reminded Members that the allotment site is currently managed by an allotment association and is self-funding. The Chair of the Environment Committee and the Clerk have had two visits to date to the site and the Clerk reported it is of a very good standard.

The Clerk advised that the association has recently contacted him with details of a proposal they wish to put to Councillors. The proposal includes:

1. To create a shelter approx. 2.1m high (at front) by 3.6m wide and approx. 2m deep, with the aim of providing a large enough area underneath for people to shelter if required, but it would mainly be used for storing wheelbarrows and tools. It would be constructed of wood and would have a sedum roof. The association would require funding for the materials and sedum roof. Members of the association will carry out the labour themselves.
2. To provide approx. 6 water butts and stands and rainwater goods where necessary to harness rainwater in areas where hosepipe supply is poor. The aim is to reduce water demand.

3. If there is sufficient funding left over, we would also like to provide a native mixed hedge in the area adjacent to Flass Vale, which is part of the nature reserve. The aim is to encourage birds and bees etc and added security for the allotments. The association would like to provide a hedge along the main southern boundary and plant it as part of our working parties.

The Clerk advised that, if approved, the Parish Council would likely purchase this directly rather than transfer the funds directly to the association.

Members agreed to the proposal as set out in the report and to recommend to Full Council agreement of this proposal.

- **Proposal for noise abatement**

The Clerk reminded Members that a budget of £2,000 towards tackling noise, air and light pollution was agreed by Full Council in January 2020 as part of the Environment Committee's budget for this financial year. In addition to this, a further £2,000 was agreed to develop a proposal for a "Quiet Zone" in Durham City.

The Clerk advised that reports of late night noise disturbance are by far the biggest source of complaints to the Parish Council by local residents and the Environment Committee has been looking to develop proposals to tackle this issue.

As part of this, Cllr E Ashby has been developing a proposal for additional signage with key messaging aimed at keeping noise to a minimum, respecting residents' right to an undisturbed night sleep, reminding everyone that Durham has residential as well as business and leisure areas, etc.

The Clerk advised that the proposal was for this signage be placed at key arrival points to the City for Late Night Economy customers, students, tourists, etc. Some possible locations for this include: the North Road bus station, Durham Railway Station, Durham BIDs advertising totems in Millennium Place and Elvet.

The Clerk advised that Durham BID has expressed support for this scheme and is willing to offer space for this signage in its totems on a permanent, free-of-charge basis.

The Clerk advised that Durham Railway Station has welcomed this proposal and is willing to allow the Parish Council to display this signage in the form of A boards on both platforms. LNER's Stakeholder Engagement Manager is also keen to discuss how the Railway Station can further support this proposal.

The Clerk advised that permission had also been sought from DCC for the display of boards in the bus station.

The Clerk advised that a local designer has also provided a quotation of £500 to create a professional design for the signage. This quote includes:

- A call with the designer to discuss messages/copy/call to action to include on the signage
- Design of three initial poster ideas to establish a look and feel (all options must include logos)
- Progression of chosen ideas into final design

- Supply all artwork in a print ready format

There would be an additional cost for the printing of signage for the A boards of approximately £50-£75.

Members agreed to the proposal and its associated costs as set out in the report. Members also agreed to delegate responsibility to Cllr E Ashby and the Clerk on the design and installation of this signage.

- **Discussion on St Nicholas Church ground in Durham City**

The Chair advised that she, Cllr E Ashby and the Clerk had had two meetings with representatives of St Nic's Church and the Orthodox Church regarding the ongoing issues of the Church ground on Providence Row. Currently there is an ongoing issue of ASB and flytipping in this area, the grounds are very overgrown and a number of headstones have been damaged or displaced.

At the last meeting on-site, which included representatives of the Orthodox Church, Kier and the Parish Council, the following action points were agreed:

- Kier has offered to provide temporary heras fencing to the entrance of the churchyard from Providence Row w/c 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020. This can be left open during the day whilst the contractors are working on the Chapel and will need to be locked during the evenings to prevent fly tipping, ASB.
- The heras fencing will also include laminated signs indicating that the site has CCTV.
- The Kier development opposite the Churchyard has a 360 degree camera with night vision which may be able to spot vehicles where fly tipping has occurred.
- Subject to PCC and faculty permission, the Parish Council may be able to fund dummy cameras in the churchyard and these can be positioned in trees near to the entrance.
- Patrick Gray (Orthodox Church) is looking into the issue of a motion-activated security light at the Chapel.
- The Clerk has reported the fly tipping to the County Council for clearing.
- DCC to attend the site and carry out some maintenance work. It is hoped that the Local Residents Group may wish to be active in maintaining the site.
- Kier agreed to keep the Parish Council updated on the community bid project and Adam Shanley would in turn notify Patrick Gray for a formal bid for improvement to the access road to the Chapel and introduction of services, e.g. water, sewerage, etc.

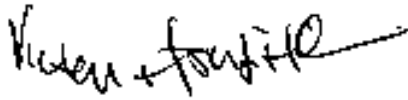
Members considered the proposal of purchasing dummy cameras and a solar-powered, motion-activated security light for the area and agreed to this, subject to PCC and faculty permission. The Clerk also advised that the Church may be looking to the Parish Council for a letter of support as and when their bid for the Kier community project is drafted.

**6. AOB (please note for information purposes only, not decision-making)**

**7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria + Tony H" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council Environment Committee**