

# CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 14:30pm via Zoom

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

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were 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 29th JULY 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

### 5. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:

I. Update on alternative project for Durham in Bloom 2020

The Clerk reminded Members that the £1,000 towards bulb planting had now been approved and the bulbs had been purchased.

The Clerk also advised that, due to concerns from DCC and the manufacturers of the bus shelters, the proposal for £9,000 towards greening bus shelter roofs is unfortunately not possible. The Clerk advised that both DCC and the manufacturers of the bus shelters expressed concern about the weight of the green roofing being too much for the standard bus shelters to cope with. DCC also expressed concern regarding dirty water dripping on bus users from the roof in the event that it rains.

As an alternative to the latter proposal, the Clerk advised that he had discussed alternatives with DCC and the Wear Rivers Trust and presented the following alternative proposal to Members:

Proposal	Delivered by	Cost	Notes
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Bulb planting across the Parish	Local Residents Groups, Parish Council, local schools, etc	£1,000	Already agreed by Full PC. List of proposed areas included in Sheet 2 in this document. Specification of bulbs to be purchased in Sheet 3.
Removal of invasive species in River Wear + possible tree planting on riverbanks in future.	Wear Rivers Trust WINNs project volunteers	£1,500	Full proposal and details of the project included in separate document.
Proposal for planting and improvement of area by North Road roundabout to replace benches and "design out" ASB.	Durham County Council	£500	Proposal comes from Neighbourhood Warden team as an alternative to benches. NB benches will hopefully be replaced with a seat for public convenience.
Enhancing the area next to North Road church, on the left where buses enter the bus station. Enhancing the area below Castle Chare, Milburngate, behind the bus stands Tree planting along the A167 northbound side, between Cock o' North roundabout and Merryoaks and also at Whitesmocks, close to the fields in both areas. Sustainable planting (i.e.	Durham County Council	£6,000 - £7,000	Durham County Council's Clean and Green team has offered this list of alternative projects which they are able to deliver in place of the bus shelter green roofing project.

roses) on road islands across the Parish, replacing seasonal bedding.			
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Members **agreed** to the proposal with two amendments:

Firstly, that the project for the Wear Rivers Trust be focused on signage, education and a smaller amount used for use of herbicides.

Secondly, that an alternative proposal for sustainable planting other than roses be agreed with DCC. The Clerk advised that he would seek an alternative from DCC.

## II. Update on mosaic installation under Framwelgate Bridge

The Clerk reminded Members that their preferred design for the mosaic installation had been agreed at a previous meeting, however the Clerk advised that the company who had proposed this design were outsourcing the work on this overseas and had not responded to multiple correspondence about a full cost of the design and installation of the mosaic. The Clerk recommended that the designer based locally who had submitted the design Option 3 be contacted to see if this may be something which she may be able to deliver. This was **agreed** by Members.

Some confusion still remained over the precise location of the mosaic and Members **agreed** to confirm the exact location with the Clerk ahead of the next meeting and the Clerk **agreed** to seek associated costs.

## III. Proposals for location of Woodland Trust trees

The Clerk advised that two proposed areas for the planting of the Woodland Trust trees had been put forward:

Firstly, the Friends of Flass Vale had requested all of the trees for Flass Vale.

Secondly, St Cuthbert's Hospice had requested a number of the trees on a plot of land that they manage. Cllr L Brown asked if this plot of land was actually based inside the parish boundary and the Clerk advised that he would check this.

The Clerk advised that the benefit of both of these locations is that they would have a dedicated team of volunteers to help maintain the trees.

It was **agreed** that both of these locations should receive the trees from the Woodland Trust. The offer to St Cuthbert's Hospice depending on whether the plot of land is based within the parish boundary.

#### IV. Update on removal of benches at the top of North Road

The Clerk advised that the benches at the top of North Road would be removed by DCC as a means of tackling and designing out ASB. The Clerk reminded Members that a proposal from the Neighbourhood Warden team to help improve this area was included in the proposals for alternatives to Durham In Bloom which had been agreed during the meeting.

#### V. Neighbourhood Warden SLA

Members considered the annual report on what had been achieved during the Service Level Agreement with DCC to fund an enhanced neighbourhood warden service. Members felt that this was an excellent use of parish funds and **agreed** to a proposal to Full Council that the Parish Council continues this SLA.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council would have a new Warden assigned to this SLA as the current Warden has been redeployed elsewhere in the County. This new Warden is an ex-PCSO and would be starting at the end of September. The Clerk advised that he would be seeking an introductory meeting between the new Warden and Members of the Parish Council.

#### VI. St. Nicholas' Church bid for Kier community project

Members considered the bid from St. Nicholas' Church for Kier's community project. This bid included making the churchyard on Providence Row a community garden space. Members **agreed** to write a letter of support for this bid.

#### VII. Update on noise abatement posters

Cllr E Ashby presented the draft noise abatement posters from the designer, advising that there may be some editing changes to the poster. Cllr E Ashby also advised that key stakeholders were being asked to support this poster and to include their logo in the poster.

Members felt this was a fantastic poster and thanked Cllr E Ashby for her work on this.

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

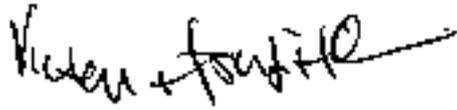
Cllr E Ashby asked if further consideration could be given to the Good Neighbour scheme. The Clerk advised that he would contact Cllr E Ashby separately on this project.

### **6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The date of the next meeting was agreed for 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

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

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Forth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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