

# **CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 14:30pm via Zoom**

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

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Cahill 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 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received.

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

#### **5a. To update and note:**

##### **i) Installation of Mosaic art work**

The Clerk advised that a report would be going to the Full Parish Council meeting in December for formal agreement of this piece of work. The University Hospital of North Durham had confirmed that they would be very happy to receive this mosaic art work as a thank you from the Parish Council to NHS staff who had worked throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The Clerk advised that the hospital was currently looking for a suitable wall within the hospital for this to be displayed. Members agreed to this proposal and for a report to go to Full Council on this.

##### **ii) Noise abatement posters**

The Clerk advised that the design for these posters is now complete and, as agreed at previous meetings, the Parish Council would be launching this once the Covid-19 pandemic is over so as to ensure that public messages weren't diluted. The public receiving clear messages around staying safe during the pandemic clearly taking a precedent over other matters.

##### **iii) Neighbourhood Warden report**

Members considered the report provided with the Agenda from the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Warden. Whilst Members felt that this report was very detailed, Members did express a preference for the pro-forma report produced by the Chair earlier in the year.

The Clerk also advised that he had received correspondence from the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Warden to say that he is to be promoted and will no longer be operating in Durham City. The Clerk advised that he had immediately contacted the Neighbourhood Warden Manager about this and asked who the Parish Council's new Neighbourhood Warden is going to be. To date, no response had been received. It was **agreed** that the Clerk and the Chair should follow this up as a priority.

#### **iv) Update on Woodland Trust trees**

The Chair advised that the Woodland Trust trees had now been delivered to the Chair of the Friends of Flass Vale and the group is hoping to have these planted in Flass Vale over the coming days and weeks (depending on Covid-19 risk).

#### **v) Young People's Challenge**

The Chair advised that she had again written to local schools regarding the project involving young people to help eradicate plastics in Durham. The Chair advised that she had heard back positively from four of the local schools in the Parish and they were due to submit their proposals for funding to the Parish Council's Environment Committee by the end of January as agreed.

#### **5b. To complete:**

##### **i). Proposal to fund a water dispenser in Durham City**

The Clerk advised that he had still not yet received a confirmed date for a meeting with Northumbrian Water to discuss this proposal further. The Clerk advised that he would continue to pursue this as a priority.

#### **5c. To decide:**

##### **i) Durham in Bloom: Update on Clean and Green proposals**

The Clerk reminded Members that the proposals for the alternatives to the Durham in Bloom project had now been agreed by the Parish Council. DCC had confirmed that they hoped to be able to deliver the agreed project in the Spring of 2021. The remaining matter to be decided was the location of the new bike racks kindly offered free of charge to the Parish Council by DCC's transport team. The Chair and the Clerk advised that they would investigate this further.

##### **ii) Further actions to reduce anti-social behaviour**

The Committee noted the ongoing concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in Durham City and it was **agreed** that a meeting with the Neighbourhood Protection Manager at DCC should be arranged to see if there is any scope in the Parish Council offering support for additional support in tackling alcohol and drug-related ASB.

### iii) Heritage project

The Chair reminded Members that next stage of the Heritage App is being developed and this is the 'Seven Hills of Durham' project. The Clerk advised that he had now heard back from DCC's Highways team who had carried out a risk assessment of the proposed route and the following had been raised as concerns:

Obelisk Lane – Footpath not suitable for full length. An alternative option to turn right on North Road and use crossing at Garden House to go through North End had been put to the Parish Council.

Potters Bank - Crossing point (between green 4 and 5) not suitable as restricted visibility. An alternative option to continue down Observatory Hill to join Quarryheads Lane at Durham School, continue to roundabout, cross at pedestrian refuge and go up Potters Bank to re-join the route had been put to the Parish Council.

These alternatives had been accepted by the original author of the trail and the Environment Committee agreed that these would be suitable alternatives.

The Public Rights of Way (PROW) team had also indicated that there were three areas in the trail which were actually privately owned and had indicated that the Parish Council would need to seek the landowner's permission to use the land before promoting the trail. The Clerk advised that he had already contacted St John's Church and the University to seek their permission for this and would report back as soon as possible to the Committee.

### iv) Best Christmas Frontage Awards scheme 2020

The Clerk reminded Members that the Frontages Awards scheme would be beginning in the coming days. It was **agreed** that the Clerk, together with Cllrs E Ashby and M Ross, should produce some suitable advertising for this event and promote this amongst local businesses. It was also **agreed** that the original judges along with the Parish Council's retail consultant (as replacement to Cllr Judith Atkinson) should be invited to be judges again this year.

## 6. CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22

The Committee agreed the following work programme for the coming financial year with the agreed budget proposals to go to the Parish Council's Finance Committee in January 2021:

#### Being a Voice

#### Involving young people £6,500

1A.	Programmes	Activities	Partners	Timescale	Budget
a)	YP Environment Group:	Meetings arranged 5 times a year	Schools, colleges, DCC	Wef Oct 20	£5000

b)	Climate Lobbying;	Pending Programme agreed by YP			£1,500
c)	Plastic commitment;	Pending Programme agreed by YP			
d)	Recycling awareness	Pending Programme agreed by YP			
e)	Walking and cycling	Pending Programme agreed by YP			

### Noise Abatement - £3,000

1B	Programmes	Activities	Partners	Timescale	Budget
a)	Signage	Design and	DCC		£0
b)	Evening wardens,	Partner meetings to establish			£3,000
c)	Taxing the night time economy		Link with Licensing Committee		£0

### Wellbeing

#### Clean air, Clean and Green city £21,000

2.	Programmes	Activities	Partners	Timescale	Budget
a)	Tree planting,	Order more trees Negotiate spaces	Climate Action Durham Freemen, DCC	Feb 2020 Sept – November 2020	0
b)	Improve unmaintained Footpaths, unadopted and green areas. NEED TO CONFIRM AREAS	Engage with YP at YPEC			10,000
c)	Encourage Walking, Cycling & Sustainable Travel (active streets)	Engage with DCC Cycling policy			1000
d)	Reduction of mess and rubbish.	Pocket ashtrays: Video promotion		April – May 20	0
e)	Durham in Bloom and planting	Work with DCC and volunteers			10,000

### Heritage Awareness - £6,000

3.	Programmes	Activities	Partners	Timescale	Budget
	Creation of a live app		Fenwick Lawson	April 20	3000
	Add mapping		Durham Pointers Partners 50/50		1000
	Improve transport facilities		DCC: Bus Companies		
	Improve mix of student and long-term residents		Planning Committee; DCC; Landlords ...		
	St. Nic's gates		St Nic's		Section 106 application
	Blue and green plaques				2000

### Positive Environment £15k

#### Appearance of the city

4.	Programmes	Activities	Partners	Timescale	Budget
	Neighbourhood Wardens	Pursue NW programmes	DCC AAP funding 50/50		10,000
	Easter and Christmas Business Frontages				5,000

### Climate Emergency £5,000

5.	Programmes	Activities	Partners	Timescale	Budget
a)	Encourage a green infrastructure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek green investment opportunities e.g. charging points</li> </ul>	DCC		2000
b)	Investigate energy research,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with Durham Energy Institute</li> </ul>	University		
c)	Encourage electric vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet bus companies. Meet with DCC</li> </ul>	DCC, Bus companies Promotion		1000
d)	Reduction of climate warming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek green investments Advertise;</li> <li>...</li> </ul>	Residents, DCC,		
e)	Reduction in plastic use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with YP at YPEC</li> </ul>	Market manager; Residents; YPEC	Market bins May – June YPEC: May 2020	1000

f)	Explore and encourage sustainable food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate availability</li> </ul>	Health food shops and providers. University Allotment holders		1000
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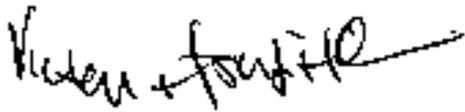
## 7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

12<sup>th</sup> January - 5.30pm

16<sup>th</sup> February - 2.30pm

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

Signed,



**Chair of the Parish Council's Environment Committee**