

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on 16th March 2021 at 14:00pm via Zoom

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

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr D Freeman.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None received.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

5. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:

5a. To note:

i) Installation of Mosaic art work

The Clerk advised that Gillian Curry is still trying to locate an appropriate wall at the University Hospital of North Durham for the mosaic art work to be installed. The Clerk advised that he had communicated the Committee's preference that this be installed in a more communal area of the hospital such as the canteen and he was awaiting feedback on this.

ii) Durham In Bloom priorities for 2021-22

The following priorities were **agreed** as part of Durham in Bloom 2021-22. The Clerk advised that he is working with the relevant partners to deliver these projects and would provide a further update on these at the next meeting:

Durham in Bloom priorities	Estimated costs
Bishops Mitre display in Durham Market Place	£2,500
Floral displays (potentially of CoDPC logo) next on banks running alongside the steps going up to the railway station	£1,000

Creation of a wildflower meadow at Aykley Heads	£1,000
Hanging baskets on Claypath x 12 @ £40 each	£480
Purchase of bulbs for community planting	£1,000
Wash bridge over A167 and introduce 2xfloral towers either end	£1,500
Floral display (potentially CoDPC logo) at Gilesgate roundabout	£1,000
Floral planting at Hallgarth Street roundabout	£500
Floral planting at Potters Bank roundabout	£500
Community planting projects with bedding plants to go to Resident Groups / graveyards/ common areas	£1,500
Flower towers on North Road x 2 (outside CEX and outside Sainsbury on corner of Highway)	£1,500

The Clerk reminded Members that the Council had agreed to allocate further funding as applicable over and above the previously agreed £10,000 budget for Durham in Bloom, drawing from the fund agreed for the improvements to unadopted areas of land.

5b. To complete:

I) Proposal to fund a water dispenser in Durham City

The Clerk reminded Members that a meeting had taken place between the Parish Council and Northumbrian Water on this proposal. To date no further communication or confirmed date for a follow up meeting with the technical and regulatory teams within Northumbrian water in order to progress this proposal. The Clerk advised that he would be in touch with Northumbrian Water again on this.

II) Young People's Challenge

The Clerk advised that he had now checked with the auditors and though it is not possible to provide funding prior to knowing what the specific projects are which each school is going to be undertaking as part of the Young People's Challenge, the Parish Council would be in communication with each school on this and the funding of £5,000 has been committed by the Parish Council on this priority.

III) Progressing the blue plaques scheme

The Clerk advised Members that a large number of applications had now been received for blue plaques in Durham City and a report on this for Full Council to decide whether a blue plaque is to be awarded will be coming to the April Full Council meeting.

5c. To decide:

i) Climate change commitment and plan

The Chair advised that the original plan was to go to Full Council in December 2020 on this priority. The Chair asked for this commitment and plan to go to Full Council with the proposal that this then go forward to the Committees of the new Parish Council after May 2021. The Committee **agreed** with this approach.

ii) DCC response on the use of glyphosates

The Committee noted that the County Council had now responded to state their reasonings for use of glyphosates and to state that these are being used in fewer cases across the County, however with no viable alternative to glyphosates, the County Council, along with other Local Authorities, is continuing to use these. The Committee **agreed** that the Parish Council had put a strong case for these not to be used and agreed to revisit this subject in one year to see if alternatives could and were being progressed.

iii) Proposal to install wildlife signage on Pennyferry Bridge and

iv) Proposal to install historical signage at Riverwalk

The Clerk advised that gaining permission for the installation of wildlife signage by the river banks is proving to be difficult. The Committee asked if it may be possible to have this installed at the river bank by Thai River, which the Committee understood to be owned by Riverwalk. Likewise, the Committee agreed that Riverwalk should be approached to ask about the historical signage to be installed at the Centre where there is a view of the market hall and Cathedral etc. The Clerk advised that he would approach Riverwalk about these proposals and report back to the next Committee meeting. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should look to fund the historical signage directly and a Section 106 application should be submitted for the wildlife signage if and when permission for its installation is granted.

v) Proposal for A boards prohibition zone in Durham City (from Licensing Committee)

The Committee **agreed** to fully support the Licensing Committee's proposal to have an A boards prohibition zone installed at both Silver and Saddler Streets and the Clerk advised that a report would be coming to Full Council on this matter, with a proposal that the Parish Council writes directly to DCC on this.

vi) Proposal for fruit trees to be planted in the City

The Chair advised that she had contacted the Clerk about the proposal to have fruit trees planted around the parish.

The Committee agreed to fund 15 new fruit trees (apple, pear and plum) for the following locations: by the Lowes Barn Community Centre, the Sheraton Park and St. Bede's Cemetery.

6. AOB (please note for information only and not for formal decisions).

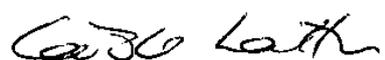
Cllr Liz Brown advised that Durham University had agreed to put *Shhh* beer mats in all of the University's college bars.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair advised that the date of the next meeting would be communicated in due course.

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

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Lath".

Chair of the Parish Council's Environment Committee