

# **CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 14:00pm via Zoom**

**Present:** Councillors V Ashfield, R Hanson, S Walker, R Freiderichsen, C Lattin and D Freeman

**Also present:** Parish Clerk A Shanley, Assistant Clerk C Thompson, Cllr Alan Doig, Cllr E Ashby and Hannah Shepherd (Durham University)

## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr C Lattin was elected as Chair of the Parish Council's Environment Committee. Proposed by Cllr D Freeman and seconded by Cllr R Hanson.

## **2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr V Ashfield was elected as Vice Chair of the Parish Council's Environment Committee. Proposed by Cllr D Freeman and seconded by Cllr R Friederichsen.

## **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

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

None received.

## **5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

## **6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Alan Doig advised that he was attending to hear the discussions at the meeting.

Cllr Esther Ashby advised that she was attending the meeting to hear the discussions on the *Shhh...* campaign and with a general interest in the work of the Committee.

Hannah Shepherd advised that she was attending the meeting to hear the discussions of the *Shhh...* campaign.

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr V Ashfield presented the work programme for the Parish Council's Environment Committee over the present financial year, this includes elements

taken from the Looking Forwards document agreed by Full Council. Members **approved** this programme as the Committee's work for the present financial year. The Chair thanked Cllr V Ashfield for her work in setting this programme. It was also **agreed** that Cllr R Friederichsen would format the programme into a user-friendly diagram as previously proposed to the Clerk.

## 8. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:

### 8a: To complete

#### i) Durham In Bloom priorities for 2021-22

The following priorities were **agreed** as part of Durham in Bloom 2021-22.

Durham in Bloom priorities	Estimated costs
Bishops Mitre display in Durham Market Place. This was <b>agreed</b> and is currently on order with DCC.	£2,500
Floral displays (potentially of CoDPC logo). It was <b>agreed</b> that the alternative location of the gradient area by the Railway station should be considered for this.	£1,000
Creation of a wildflower meadow at Aykley Heads. The Clerk and Cllr R Friederichsen <b>agreed</b> to work together on this project and to find a suitable location for this at Aykley Heads.	£1,000
Hanging baskets on Claypath x 12 @ £40 each. A floral tower to replace the hanging baskets was <b>agreed</b> at Clayport Library.	£480
Purchase of bulbs for community planting. Planting Oct – Nov 2021 was <b>agreed</b>	£1,000
Wash bridge over A167 and introduce 2xfloral towers either end. This was <b>agreed</b> and the floral towers are on order.	£1,500
Floral display (potentially CoDPC logo) at Gilesgate roundabout. <b>Agreed</b>	£1,000
Floral planting at Hallgarth Street roundabout <b>Agreed</b>	£500
Floral planting at Potters Bank roundabout <b>Agreed</b>	£500
Community planting projects with bedding plants to go to Resident Groups / graveyards/ common areas. It was <b>agreed</b> that the Clerk should purchase these bedding plants from a local supplier and distribute these via the local Residents' Associations.	£1,500
Flower towers on North Road x 2 (outside CEX and outside Sainsbury on corner of Highway). This was <b>agreed</b> and the floral towers are on order.	£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.

Cllr V Ashfield **agreed** to take on the logistics of the planting.

**ii) Young People's Challenge**

Cllr V Ashfield is currently liaising with local schools and will report back to the next meeting of the Committee. Cllr V Ashfield advised that the Young People's Environment Committee had been established prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and she hoped that this could commence in September.

**iii) Climate change commitment and plan**

Cllr V Ashfield and R Friederichsen **agreed** to work together to make amendments and report back to the Committee.

**8b. To decide:**

**i) Proposal to install wildlife signage at Riverwalk**

The Clerk advised that he was liaising with Riverwalk on this proposed signage, in particular over the issue of land ownership at the agreed location of below Thai River at the riverbank and he hoped to have a positive response for the next meeting of the Committee.

**ii) Proposal to install historical signage at Riverwalk**

The Clerk advised that he was liaising with Riverwalk on this proposed signage and hoped to have a positive response for the next meeting of the Committee.

**iii) Seven hills of Durham trail**

The Clerk presented the proposal for the seven hills of Durham trail. The Clerk advised that this project had been commenced by Mr David Miller, former member of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and had been agreed as the Parish Council's heritage project for 2021-22. The Clerk advised that the proposal would include cost proposals from producers of maps and also costs for the installation of the gates and signposts, as requested by Durham University in exchange for the use of their land at St. Aidan's college and Whinney Hill.

**iv) To decide on next steps for electric buses at Durham bus station.**

The Clerk contacted the bus companies and Arriva responded that they won't be renewing their bus fleet due to financial implications from Covid. They would be happy to support it in the future. It was **agreed** the Clerk would arrange a meeting with Go North East and the Committee and it will be on the next agenda.

**v) To decide on unadopted areas to improve in the parish**

It was **agreed** that the areas to be focused on would be: John Street, Bridge Street, St. Nic's churchyard at Providence Row (possibly for the next financial year) and Freeman's Quay.

It was **agreed** that costs should be investigated for having the areas highlighted at John Street and St. Nic's churchyard cleared so that some planting/ community based projects could take place.

It was **agreed** that floral planting could be an option for Freeman's Quay and Bridge Street.

**vi) To decide on when and how to promote the cigarette butt campaign.**

The Clerk presented the final video promoting the cigarette butt campaign. Members commended the previous Committee for this excellent video and campaign. It was **agreed** that 3,000 of the cigarette butt pouches be distributed by the Assistant Clerk to pubs, clubs, betting shops and the passport office (hotspot areas for this sort of litter) over summer and the remaining 2,000 be allocated to the college bars for distribution to students.

**vii) To decide on when and how to promote the *Shhh...* campaign**

It was **agreed** that the proposal of having *Shhh...* campaign signage installed at various hot spot areas of the parish be presented at the next Full Council meeting.

It was agreed that this should be launched in September/ October time when the students return for the next academic year. The areas this will be launched in include: Sheraton Park, Whinney Hill, the Viaduct area and Claypath.

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

The provision of alternative bins for recycling in the marketplace was discussed. The Clerk advised that he has discussed a proposal for alternative bins with the County Council's Clean and Green team and this is not possible. Cllr Victoria Ashfield advised that she is hoping to engage with the Markets Company and local schools to promote proper usage of these recycling bins.

**10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Chair advised that the next date of the Committee would be Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

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**