

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 11th October 2022 at 13:00pm via Zoom

Present: Councillors C Lattin (Chair), V Ashfield, L Brown, R Friederichsen and S Walker.

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor D Freeman.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None received.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13th SEPTEMBER 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2022 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

5. REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN

The Committee welcomed the excellent reports from the Neighbourhood Warden on work carried out in July, August and September and agreed that these should be made public. The Committee took the opportunity to thank Dale Clement for his work with the Parish Council and to wish him well in his new role with Durham Police.

The Committee warmly welcomed that Kirk Thiis and Antony Waterson would be the Parish Council's new neighbourhood wardens as part of the SLA with Durham County Council and looked forward to working with both in the future.

6. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:

6a. To decide:

I) To discuss continuing efforts to establish Warm Hubs in Durham – report from the Working Group

The Committee noted the excellent efforts of colleagues in seeking to establish warm spaces for those particularly effected by the rise in energy costs this winter.

The Clerk advised that the County Council is now providing grant funding of up to £1,000 per applicant to organisations with premises and who are willing to open these premises up to local residents. In addition, the County Council is also providing free of charge training on areas such as safeguarding, food hygiene, mental health first aid, etc.

The Committee **agreed** that the Working Group was sensible to concentrate on help to keep warm within the home and that the purchase of inventory such as hotties and duvets was the most sensible option and that these should be distributed via the warm spaces once established.

II) To consider the purchase of an electric vehicle charging point in the City

The Clerk reminded the Committee of the excellent presentation it had received at a previous meeting from the DCC officer leading on the rollout of the EVCPs. The Committee agreed that they would like to purchase an EVCP for the parish area; particularly in view of the small number available within the City and the fact that all diesel car sales will be banned from 2030.

The Committee **agreed** to propose to Full Council the purchase of the EVCP at £3,000 and for this to be located in the layby outside St. Cuthbert's Church in Neville's Cross Ward.

III) Durham in Bloom priorities – including requirement to purchase new bulbs for the Spring season.

The Committee **agreed** to allocate £2,000 towards the purchase of bulbs this year as part of its planting efforts for Spring 2023. Cllr L Brown **agreed** to look into this with the Parish Council's usual suppliers and to propose appropriate bulbs for the community.

It was **agreed** that these bulbs should be distributed amongst local residents' groups for planting across the parish area.

The Committee also took the opportunity to say a huge congratulations to the team leading on Durham in Bloom for their terrific success at this year's competition.

6b. To complete:

I) Improving the River Wear – joint project with the Wear Rivers Trust

The Clerk advised that the funding has now been paid to the Wear Rivers Trust and he was engaging with them on the projects as agreed by Full Council. The Clerk highlighted that a leaflet promoting volunteering with the Wear Rivers Trust is being created for 2023.

II) Planning a City-wide litter picking event

The Chair reminded all Members of the city-wide litter picking event taking place on Saturday (15th October) and thanked Members for their support for this event.

III) Progressing the *Shhh...11pm to 7am* campaign

The Clerk advised that the new stencils were being painted on pavements across the parish area once more and that he had purchased new signs as well.

The Chair particularly welcomed that the Shhh campaign had been extended up Gilesgate Bank and into the Sidings where she was aware there was an issue.

IV) Organising an unveiling event for the UHND Mosaic

The Clerk reminded Members that an unveiling event for the new UHND mosaic is set to take place on Friday 21st October and particularly thanked the Chair and Cllr S Walker for agreeing to attend this event along with representatives of the NHS Trust.

The Clerk advised that there would be some publicity going into the local press to highlight this project and the fantastic work of the artist Susan Warlock.

The Committee thanked the Clerk for his excellent efforts on this project.

V) Progressing the blue plaques scheme – including proposed unveiling of existing plaques.

The Clerk advised that the wording had now been agreed and the blue plaque for 20 Allergate had now been ordered.

The Clerk also advised that he is awaiting feedback from the nominator on the Neville House blue plaque and hoped to have an update to the Committee as soon as possible.

The Clerk also advised that he had had a very good meeting with the Principal of St. Hild and St Bede college on the unveiling of the blue plaque for the first female graduates of Durham University and advised that an unveiling event is expected to take place in November with the Women's Banner Group and other local representatives. The Clerk advised that all Parish Councillors would be invited to this event and to look out for an invitation from Simon Forrester at the college on this.

The Committee thanked the Clerk for his excellent efforts on this project.

6c. To note:

I) Renewing the planting in the planters at the Viaduct Area

The Committee **agreed** to purchase more plants for the planters in the Viaduct area.

II) Delivery of the "*What to do if you have a local issue in Durham*" leaflet

The Clerk advised that he was now only aware of part of Hastings Avenue which had not yet received the leaflet from the Parish Council and confirmed that he would be delivering these after the litter picking event on Saturday.

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

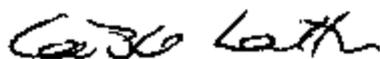
None received.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

8th November 2022

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all those present for attending and for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Signed,

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

**Chair of the Parish Council's Environment Committee
(8th November 2022)**