

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Monday 13th December 2021 at 16:30 via Zoom.

Present: Councillors S Walker (in the Chair), E Ashby, N Brown and G Nair.

Also present: A Shanley (Parish Clerk), Paul Howard (Durham BID), Joshua Rickard and Sophie Wilkinson (Durham Christian Union).

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Doig and H Weston.

2. To receive any declarations of interest from members

None received.

3. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 15th November 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2021 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. To receive any public participation comments on the following agenda items.

Paul Howard advised that he was attending the meeting to hear and contribute to discussions on items 5 and 6 of the Agenda.

Joshua Rickard and Sophie Wilkinson advised that they were attending the meeting to contribute to discussions on item 6 of the Agenda.

5. Update following discussions with Durham BID on a night time accreditation for the City

The Clerk updated Members that Pubwatch is seeking to re-establish itself, with the police now involved once more. The Clerk advised that an informal meeting of the Pubwatch group in Durham took place in November and the Clerk advised that he had been advised by the current Chair of the group Mr Lee Smurthwaite that he would welcome Parish Council representation at this group.

Paul Howard advised that he had attended the first meeting of the group in November and felt that this had gone very well.

Paul advised that, with Pubwatch having been re-established in the City, he felt that he could acquire funding – from the Welcome Back funding and elsewhere – to re-establish the Purple Flag scheme in Durham City once more.

Paul advised that he has been speaking with a provider who would be able to deliver training packages to re-establish Purple Flag. Paul advised that DCC has agreed funding towards training as part of this scheme and Paul advised that Durham BID's board has agreed funding for the City to go for an accreditation. Paul advised that he is soon to meet with Phil Carter, Durham Police, in order to discuss this further with him.

Paul advised that it would be up to the businesses themselves if Purple Flag does go ahead. Paul also advised that he would be happy to have a representative of the Town and City Centre Management Association attend a future meeting to go through Purple Flag with the Parish Council.

Members **agreed** that the presently proposed Parish Council licensing award would add to – as opposed to conflict with – the move towards Purple Flag accreditation. Paul also agreed this.

Members therefore thanked Paul for his continuing efforts with the Purple Flag scheme and also **agreed** to continue with the launch of the Parish Council award in January 2022.

6. Discussion with Durham BID and Durham Christian Union on supporting night time angels' initiative for the City

The Chair welcomed Joshua Rickard and Sophie Wilkinson from the Durham Christian Union to the meeting.

Sophie advised that the Durham Christian Union – on alternative Wednesday and Friday nights during University term time – usually set up a table outside the Gala Theatre in order to give out free hot drinks, water and snacks and to provide support to patrons of the night time economy in the City and help people to get home safely.

Joshua advised that the Union group is different from the Street Angels scheme in that this is entirely a static booth which provides support in getting home. Joshua advised that – for health and safety reasons – the Union group does not walk people home but does provide support in ensuring patrons are able to acquire a taxi.

Sophie and Joshua advised that they were looking for funding towards the purchase of either one or two gazebos as well as apparel and other equipment to support them in their work. The associated costs are as follows:

Funding for 2 gazebos and accessories plus jackets - £3,353.06

Funding for 1 gazebo and accessories plus jackets - £2,301.53

Joshua advised that the group usually had a team of 15-20 volunteers each night which is too many for one stand alone table.

The Clerk asked where the second gazebo would be located if this were to be funded. Joshua advised that the two locations proposed for the two gazebos are outside the Gala Theatre in Millennium Place and one outside Klutes or Jimmy Allen's on Elvet Bridge.

Cllr E Ashby asked how long the group had been operating. Sophie advised that she understood that the group had been going for quite a long time though the group had had to stop during Covid. Sophie advised that she and Joshua had recently become involved in running this group, which is now known as '*Club Mission*'.

Cllr E Ashby asked what particular hours the group operates on Wednesdays and Fridays. Sophie advised that the group is present on alternating Wednesdays and Fridays during term time. Sophie advised that the group usually operates between 10pm and 1:30am.

Cllr E Ashby asked about the risk assessment and insurance arrangements for the group and whether the group formally engages with Durham Police about the scheme.

Sophie advised that the group has not had any formal engagement with Durham Police though when out on a night time the Police on duty are always very positive about the work of the group.

Joshua advised that a risk assessment has been carried out and approved by the Durham Students Union however Joshua was unsure about what the exact insurance arrangements are for the group. Cllr G Nair advised that he understood that all student groups are covered by the DSU insurance. Joshua advised that he would check on this question.

Joshua and Sophie also advised that they had not seen any activity from a group known as 'Street Angels' and were unsure as to whether this group is still active in Durham.

The Clerk asked whether the purpose of the group's activity was in any way to promote Christianity to the public. The Clerk highlighted that the Parish Council is unable to fund activities which promote a particular religion. Sophie advised that the primary purpose of the group was to help people during a night time though the group is always happy to discuss Christianity with a member of the public who asks.

The Chair thanked Sophie and Joshua for the work that they and their team do and it was **agreed** that the Clerk should engage with the Union group on the issues of insurance and the Police's views on the group's activities before discussions on funding can progress.

At this point, Sophie and Joshua left the meeting.

7. Licensing Committee budget request 2022/23

Members agreed the following budget request for the Licensing Committee for 2022/23 as follows:

Item of potential expenditure	Cost (£)
Enhanced drug searching SLA with Durham Police	1,800.00
Hosting a licensing training event	1,000.00
Licensing accreditation award	1,000.00
TOTAL PROVISION IN 2022-23 AGAINST PRIORITIES	3,800.00

8. Consideration of the following licensing application(s) in the parish:

Application for the grant of a premises license by LFR Leisure Limited for Pizza Punks, Unit 12, The Riverwalk. Durham. DH1 4SL. It was **agreed** to object to this application under the licensing objective of preventing a public nuisance.

Application for the grant of a premises licence by Thistle Property Holdings Group Limited for Casa Peri Peri, Unit 17, The Riverwalk. 1 Framwellgate. Durham. DH1 4SL. It was **agreed** to note this application.

Application for the grant of a premises licence by Thistle Property Holdings Group Limited for Estabulo Bar and Grill, Unit 18. The Riverwalk. 1 Framwellgate. Durham. DH1 4SL. It was **agreed** to note this application.

Application for the grant of a premises licence by Mr Mohammed Asif Shariff for 11 North Road. Durham. DH1 4SH. It was **agreed** to object to this application under the licensing objective of preventing a public nuisance.

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

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. A. Khan', written in a cursive style.

**Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council Licensing Committee
(24th January 2022)**