

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the City of Durham Full Parish Council held on Thursday 10th April 2019 at 18:30 in the Lantern Room, Durham Town Hall, Market Place, Durham. DH1 3NJ.

Present:

Cllr E Scott in the Chair

Councillors E Ashby, J Ashby, V Ashfield, J Atkinson, S Cahill, R Cornwell, R Ormerod, M Ross and G Holland

19 members of the public.

18. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved by Council for Cllrs L Brown, A Doig, D Freeman and C Reeves.

19. Declarations of Interest

None received.

20. Public participation

The Chair thanked members of the public for attending the meeting and invited questions.

Janet George (member of the public) advised that she was attending the meeting as a representative of the SNCF group. Mrs George advised that she was opposed to the move of the County Headquarters and she hoped that the Parish Council would continue the fight against the scheme. Mrs George advised that she felt that the process by which the County Council had arrived at the decision on the HQ was poor and also advised that the SNCF would do anything it could to support the Parish Council in its fight against the new HQ.

Mrs Johnson (member of the public) thanked the Parish Council for representing residents on this important issue and urged Councillors to continue the fight against the move. Mrs Johnson felt that this is the biggest issue facing the Parish and there could be no better use of Parish Council funds than to challenge the decision.

Poppy (member of the public) advised that she would like to reiterate the thanks and support expressed by other members of the public and advised that 98% of the market traders were in support of the Parish Council's position on this issue. Poppy also advised that she had received correspondence from Kathryn Banks who also advised that she felt that legal action was needed.

Rosemary (member of the public) advised that she was very concerned at the potential loss of 65 trees and 4 groups of trees as part of an application to support the County HQ move and she urged the Parish Council to do something about this urgently.

The Clerk advised Rosemary that the particular application she was referring to was an item for discussion on the Parish Council Planning Committee meeting on Friday.

Elaine (member of the public) thanked the Parish Council for their work on this issue to date and representing the view of the vast number of people not just within Durham City but more widely across the region and beyond who were opposed to the move. Elaine advised that she felt that the application had been pre-determined, with Councillors reading out prepared statements at the 5th March County Planning Committee where the application was approved. Elaine advised that she was considering a complaint to the County Council and, if unsuccessful, to the Local Government Ombudsman over the way in which the decision was taken.

The Chair thanked members of the public for attending and for letting the Parish Council know their views on the matter. All members of the public left the room at this point.

Due to the confidential nature of the following items, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and the public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the LGA 1972 Act and section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. At this point in time the press and the public were asked to leave the room.

4. Durham County Council Headquarters Move


Councillors considered next steps to take in relation to the County HQ move, following a report from Simon Kelly of Richard Buxton Solicitors.

It was unanimously **agreed** to instruct Richard Buxton Solicitors to begin the process of seeking a judicial review on the decision of the new County HQ. Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders in relation to seeking three quotations for this work, owing to the current solicitors' extensive knowledge of the case.

It was unanimously **agreed** to instruct the Clerk to investigate further the crowdfunding options for the legal challenge against the HQ move.

There being on further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed,



Chair of City of Durham Parish Council.
25 April 2019