

City of Durham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the City of Durham Parish Council held on Thursday 24th February 2022 at 19:00 in the Main Hall, Durham Town Hall.

Present: Councillors L Brown (in the Chair), E Ashby, V Ashfield, N Brown, C Lattin, D Freeman, G Nair, E Scott, S Walker and H Weston.

Also present: Parish Clerk Adam Shanley and 15 members of the public.

1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE (OR NOT) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM TODAY'S MEETING

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Doig, R Friederichsen, R Hanson, G Holland and R Ormerod.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Cllr L Brown declared an interest in item 10 and took no part in the discussion on this item.

Cllr E Ashby declared an interest in item 9 and took no part in the discussion on this item.

Cllr E Scott declared an interest in items 9 and 10 and took no part in the discussion on this item.

3. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH JANUARY 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2022 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. DISCUSSION WITH JOY ALLEN, DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND ANDREA PATTERSON, ASB CHAMPION ON ASB MATTERS IN THE CITY

The Chair welcomed Andrea Patterson to the meeting and thanked her for her time in discussing ASB matters in the City.

Andrea began by thanking the Parish Council and offering Joy Allen's apologies for this meeting.

Andrea advised that she is currently 1 of 3 Victims Champions (ASB, crime and domestic abuse) which sit within Joy Allen's team. Andrea advised that it was her role to support the new PCC in her role in addressing residents' concerns about ASB. Andrea advised that she is here for residents and is independent of the Police.

Andrea firstly highlighted that a new national victim's law is soon to be published by the Government in the Summer 2022.

Andrea advised that she had received a lot of correspondence about the Community Trigger and it is clear that this isn't working as it should for Durham. Andrea advised that a national review of the Community Trigger is set to take place in August 2022.

Andrea advised that Joy is setting up an Independent panel to oversee how organisations respond to incidents of ASB, ensuring that the victims is top priority.

Andrea also highlighted that Joy has now published her Crime Plan and she hoped that the Parish Council and members of the public would take the time to consider this Plan as an important step towards tackling ASB in communities.

Dianne Ward (member of the public) asked Andrea what powers she has in her role to be able to tackle ASB for local residents. Andrea advised that the 3 Victims Champions have no power as far as dealing with individual cases is concerned but they are able to hold the Police to account through public accountability boards.

Emma Backhouse (member of the public) advised that she felt that transient noise is the main source of ASB in the Viaduct Area and this does not appear to have been addressed in the Joint response from DCC/ Durham University/ Durham Police.

Alan Hayton (member of the public) advised that the previous system under the former PCVC did work. (Former PCSOs dedicated to the City) Kay and Rebecca were excellent and they tackled issues directly.

Andrea advised that she has been advised that the University funds policing to a cost of £30,000/year but actually received £150,000/year in resource. Mike Costello (member of the public) advised that this wasn't the case.

Janet George (member of the public) advised that she is concerned about the culture within the Police and University. Janet advised that she feels that the City is the bottom of the list as far as the Police are concerned and the CRT (University Community Response Team) have been asked to change their approach to ASB complaints following bad reviews by students.

Andrea advised that the new victim's law would hopefully change this and said that the University also has to take responsibility for this issue.

Cllr E Scott advised that the University's view has always been that livers-out are private members of the public out in the community and they will not take action against complaints due to previous experiences of litigation.

Andrea advised that she felt that the landlords in Durham City also need to take a lot more responsibility for the behaviour of their tenants and proposed that the University be petitioned on this matter.

Cllr H Weston recounted a terrible experience of reporting ASB via 101 on 16th December 2021. Cllr Weston advised that she had submitted a formal complaint following this experience and had still heard nothing back about this. Andrea apologised for this experience and advised that 60 new 101/999 call handlers had recently been recruited with a further 30 to come.

Cllr E Ashby highlighted the role of landlords in tackling ASB and advised that the Parish Council's Business Committee is working on engaging more with landlords on issues in the City.

The Chair thanked Andrea for her presentation and time. Andrea advised that she would be happy to discuss any issues with Councillors or residents outside the meeting.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received under this agenda item.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

• Planning Committee

Cllr L Brown presented the minutes from Planning Committee meetings held on 12th and 28th January 2022. There were no queries from Members on the content of these minutes.

• Environment Committee

Cllr C Lattin presented the minutes from the Environment Committee meeting held on 11th January 2022. There were no queries from Members on the content of these minutes.

• Licensing Committee

Cllr S Walker presented the minutes from the Licensing Committee meeting held on 24th January 2022. There were no queries from Members on the content of these minutes.

7. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update on matters arising since the Full Parish Council meeting on 27th January 2022 as follows:

The Chair took the opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events. The Chair advised that this is a huge undertaking, largely led by the Parish Council and our partners the Durham Markets Company and the Parish Council looks forward to seeing this progress.

The Chair reminded Members that the official unveiling of the Ruth First mural is set to take place on 7th March and the Chair advised that it may be that the event will be joined by the new Vice Chancellor of Durham University. The Chair advised that further details on this would follow and thanked the Clerk and former Councillor John Ashby for their terrific work in commemorating such an important person linked to the parish. The Chair advised that this is particularly poignant given that this year marks the 40th Anniversary of Ruth's death.

The Chair advised that it was absolutely wonderful to see the Chinese New Year celebrations in Durham go so well in spite of the weather. The Chair advised that she particularly enjoyed seeing the Parish Council's own Councillor Elizabeth Scott catching

the lettuce. The Chair expressed her hope at this being a sign that the City is set for good luck and prosperity this year.

The Chair advised that she was aware at how moved Members were to see the update from the Parish Clerk last week regarding the Durham CitySafe (SWaN hub) scheme with the safety hub at St. Nic's church and the team saving a vulnerable man's life in the City. The Chair advised that this is proving to be an absolutely invaluable resource for the City and the night time economy and expressed that the Parish Council will no doubt wish to make the case for this scheme to continue after March 2022. The Chair thanked all the officers and volunteers involved in this project.

The Chair reminded Members that the Government has now published its long-awaited levelling up white paper. The Chair reminded Members that the Clerk has circulated the details of this to Members and asked all present to provide all feedback to the Clerk.

The Chair reminded Members that the County Council is currently consulting on a new economic strategy for the County. The Chair expressed the hope that the Parish Council's Business Committee on 22nd March will be able to review this on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chair reminded Members that the Parish Council has agreed to partner with the County Council on the production of a Conservation Area Management Plan for the City. The Chair advised that the Clerk is liaising with the relevant officers within DCC on this and a report will be coming forward to the next Full Council meeting. The County Council wish the Parish Council to enter into a formal undertaking committing the £10,000 budget towards paying for an officer to be dedicated solely to this work with delivery of the Plan expected to take 12 months.

The Chair reminded Members that the Fire and Ice festival is set to take place this week. This is always a great event which brings much-needed footfall to the City.

Finally, the Chair gave a very big thank you to everyone involved in the Parish Council's activities to add blooms and greenery to the parish. The Chair advised that the Clerk, Councillors and residents have been out at weekends doing work to help make the City as clean and green as possible.

8. PLANNING FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

The Clerk reminded Members that the 6th February 2022 marked the 70th Anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen's reign.

The Clerk advised that the Government and Buckingham Palace have announced a year-long Platinum Jubilee celebration for 2022. A main focus for the year-long celebration will be the extended bank holiday announced between Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council's Business Committee has delegated responsibility for events on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that he and representatives of the Business Committee have been involved in a series of meetings with key partners of the City in order to progress plans for the Bank holiday celebrations and throughout the year.

The Clerk advised that the following activities are being progressed locally in Durham:

- **Tree planting** set to take place by the Parish Council's Environment Committee and the Clerk is currently investigating the proposal of having a special oak tree planted at Wharton Park to mark this important year.
- The Parish Council's Environment Committee is progressing a "**Clean for the Queen**" **City-wide litter picking event** towards the end of May ahead of the weekend celebrations.
- **The lighting of a beacon on 2nd June 2022.** At present, the City has no beacon. The Durham City Freemen has offered a total fund of up to £10,000 towards the creation of a beacon as a gift to the City and has asked the Parish Council if it may assist in finding an appropriate location for the beacon to be lit. The proposal of having this sited on the battlements at Wharton Park is currently being investigated. The Cathedral has also been investigating lighting its own beacon at Observatory Hill on 2nd June.
- **A Public art and community engagement project delivered by** Local artist Beth Ross is being part-funded by the Freemen and Beth is seeking other funding sources.
- **Knitted public art** is currently in production by local WI groups, with a coronation theme.
- **A Durham Cathedral service** is currently being planned by the Cathedral and the Lord Lieutenant and this is expected to take place on Saturday 4th June 2022 in the afternoon. The main focus of this service is to give thanks to voluntary and community sector – causes known to be dear to Her Majesty's heart. Sue Snowdon will be dealing with invitations for this.
- **An afternoon tea party** hosted by both the Parish Council and the Lord Lieutenant immediately following the Cathedral service in the Town Hall is currently being planned for circa. 150 guests. Catering, decoration (including artwork showcasing Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne) and a musical accompaniment is expected for this event. It is hoped that Sue Snowdon may be able to give a speech and a toast to her Majesty is also planned.
- **An arts project involving local schools/ the University** producing hats (for which her Majesty is famed) to be on show at the Jubilee afternoon tea party on Saturday 4th June.
- On Sunday 5th June 2022, the Parish Council has been working with the Durham Markets Company on an **outdoor street party** involving a marquee, two live bands (steel drums and big band music), face painting, storytelling, family treasure hunt, creepy crawly display, arts and crafts and possibly lion dance. The event will also include a bring your own picnic with tables and chairs provided and the ice cream and teas and coffees vans in place. It is also hoped that themes such - as Her Majesty's **love of animals** can be incorporated into events on Sunday 5th June.

- Prince Bishops Place is also arranging to have a **red, white and blue umbrella display** (in place of the usual rainbow colours) along Umbrella Street as well as potentially hosting its own **street party** along the pedestrian areas of the shopping centre.
- It has also been proposed that the Market Place be dressed in **red, white and blue blooms** as added decoration to the street party. It may be that businesses may be able to support this.
- The City of Durham Trust is also looking to progress a proposal to have a **display of pictures of Her Majesty's reign located around the City**.
- Durham County Council is also planning a **Commonwealth celebration event** – an open air concert in Millennium Place – on 16th June 2022.

The Clerk reminded Members that recent attempts to recruit an assistant for the Parish Council have been unsuccessful and Members agreed at the January Full Council meeting that the tasks which would have made up this role – namely support for events and minute taking – be outsourced on a contractual basis.

The Clerk advised that the planning and work in organising events for the Jubilee will be substantial and it is therefore recommended that additional resource is essential to support the Council with this undertaking.

The Clerk advised that he has discussed the possibility of contracting the services of an assistant from the Durham Markets Company with the Markets Manager. The Markets Company is an organisation which is heavily involved in events in the City and the Parish Council has worked very successfully with the Markets Company on previous events for the City. The Markets Company is able to provide an events assistant for the Jubilee on a contractual basis for 4 hours per week at an hourly cost of £15.

A separate budget has been agreed for assistance for the Clerk and this funding will not be drawn from the Parish Council's events budget.

A total of £22,000 has been agreed as part of the Parish Council's events budget for 2022-23. This specifically included a commitment to deliver Jubilee event(s), Remembrance Sunday and Christmas event(s).

At a recent roundtable meeting with partners, the Clerk advised that the AAP has indicated that they have funding available towards Jubilee event(s). A minimum grant of £5,000 can only be allocated and all applications will take 8 weeks to determine.

The Clerk advised that, whilst the Parish Council has a significant budget for events for 2022-23, it is considered preferable that AAP funding should be sought in order to free up Parish Council funding for any future events the Council may wish to support.

The Clerk advised that it is therefore proposed that the Parish Council submits an AAP application to fund all events the Council is involved with on the Saturday 4th June 2022 and Sunday 5th June 2022.

The Clerk advised that, in view of the timeframes involved however, maximum flexibility is required and it is therefore proposed that decisions on funding from the Parish Council's events budget for the Jubilee weekend be delegated to the Clerk and the Business Committee, in case there is a need to draw funding directly from the Parish Council.

The Chair expressed a hope that the Charter Trustees could also take an active role in planning events for the Jubilee weekend.

Members unanimously **approved** the report and noted that planning is taking place for the Jubilee celebrations.

Members unanimously **agreed** to the submission of an AAP grant for funding Jubilee event(s), with the flexibility that funding from the Parish Council's events budget may be allocated to these events.

Members unanimously **agreed** to the contracting of additional resource from the Durham Markets Company for the purposes of delivering these Jubilee events, as set out in report provided.

Members unanimously **agreed** to delegate all budgetary and organisational responsibility to the Clerk and the Business Committee to deliver these events.

9. SECTION 106 CONSULTATION - DCC CLEAN AND GREEN - REFURBISHMENT OF FOUR PLAY AREAS

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council is currently looking to refurbish items of equipment at four play areas within the Elvet and Gilesgate Electoral division. The Section 106 application has been submitted to fund the entirety of the costs associated with this work at a total of £53,058.65 and the Parish Council is being consulted on this funding allocation.

The Clerk advised that the relevant parks are as follows:

Wharton Park - DH1 4FJ

Replace existing ground flush roundabout which is defective and install a new modern design ground flush roundabout that provides a low maintenance alternative.

The Chains - DH1 1QZ

The chains play area is currently lacking a swing frame which residents believe would be well received by the local community. DCC propose to extend the existing fence line and install a single bay swing frame and new modern self-closing gate.

Allergate - DH1 4ET

Allergate play area currently has 2 wooden swing frames which are old and coming to the end of their life due to rot, DCC propose to install 2 new swing frames of a metal construction which would reduce any maintenance implications, to improve the play area we would also look to improve surfacing under three other items of equipment and install

a new modern self-closing access gate that would reduce the likelihood of young children running onto the nearby street.

St Oswald's - DH1 3DQ

St Oswald's is a popular play area due to its close proximity to the nearby St Oswald's school, it currently has a wooden balance beam and stepping stones installed which are coming to the end of their life due to rot. DCC propose to remove the items and install a new modern trim trail for the benefit of the local children, the trail will aid in the child's development allowing them to practice valuable life skills such as balancing and coordination. As part of the funding DCC would also look to refurbish existing surfacing on site which is worn and in need of replacement.

The Clerk reminded Members that funds totalling £280,106.31 are presently available from 11 separate developments which have taken place in Elvet and Gilesgate.

The Clerk advised that, at its January meeting, the Parish Council supported, subject to an appropriate application being submitted by the relevant group leading on the project, a list of projects for use of Section 106 funds in the Elvet and Gilesgate division. The total cost of these projects was estimated at £279,000. This included a £3,000 fund for new swings to the playpark at the Chains.

The Clerk advised that all relevant documentation to support this application has been provided as an attachment to the agenda.

Cllr D Freeman advised that he and Cllr R Ormerod have supported this project and would be looking for approval of use of this funding.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that this application had come as quite a surprise to her and expressed the need for more public consultation with Section 106 projects.

Cllr E Ashby highlighted that a lot of funding was allocated towards swings at the playpark in front of the Chains. Cllr E Ashby expressed that residents of the Chains have already had their view blocked by bins and wooden bin covers and wasn't sure how residents would feel about swings being in front of their properties.

Cllr E Ashby also highlighted that there were very few children within close proximity to the Chains and therefore a piece of equipment which is more inter-generational might be more appropriate as an amendment to this part of the scheme.

Some Members also expressed the hope that the Chains park could be kept the same size.

Cllr D Freeman advised that he and Cllr R Ormerod were committed to playparks within the Elvet and Gilesgate division.

Cllr E Scott advised that it wouldn't be possible for the Parish Council to suggest an amendment to a Section 106 project and it would either be a case of supporting or objecting to a scheme.

Cllr E Scott also advised that some projects may actually be more aligned to Towns and Villages funding rather than Section 106 and that she would be happy to meet and discuss this with relevant stakeholders.

Roz Layton (member of the public) advised that Elvet Residents Association is unhappy at the St. Oswalds proposal as they feel it isn't appropriate for the area.

Cllr E Ashby proposed that the Parish Council objects to this Section 106 application and this was seconded by Cllr V Ashfield.

Four Members agreed to support the application, two Members objected to the application and two Members abstained. It was therefore **agreed** that the Parish Council should support the application.

10. CONSULTATION ON AAP PRIORITIES FOR 2022/23

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council is being consulted on the AAP's community priorities for 2022/23. The Clerk reminded Members that Durham City is covered by the Durham AAP Area, of which Craig Morgan is the co-ordinator.

The Clerk advised that AAPs were introduced to give residents a say on how DCC services are provided. This consultation is an opportunity to give our views on the community priorities for each AAP area for 2022/23.

In 2018, residents were asked what their priorities were for their communities. Over 8,500 responses were received from across the county including the views of over 3,300 secondary school pupils. From the 10 themes, residents helped to prioritise which were most important to each area.

The Clerk advised that, during 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, the AAPs, along with money from County Councillors' budgets, allocated £12.4 million and helped bring into the county over £12.2 million of matched investment to deliver 2,833 local projects. In 2020/21, they worked towards the common priority of Community Recovery due to Covid-19, instead of the usual priority choices for individual AAP areas.

The Clerk advised that the closing date for all responses is 11th March.

Cllr V Ashfield advised that she felt that more investment is needed in youth projects.

Cllr D Freeman advised that he felt that each AAP should have their own priorities as opposed to priorities County-wide.

Cllr S Walker advised that she felt that the Durham AAP's priorities should be aligned as much as possible to the Parish Council's agreed priorities for 2022/23, with a focus on investment in the City.

Members **agreed** to respond to this consultation with a view that the Durham AAP's priorities should be aligned as much as possible to those identified by the Parish Council for 2022/23.

11. UPDATE ON PROGRESSING A LANDLORD LICENSING SCHEME FOR DURHAM CITY

The Chair reminded Members that the Parish Council has identified progressing a landlord licensing scheme for Durham City as a key priority. The Chair advised that representatives of the landlord licensing working group met with DCC officers and the Chair presented the minutes of that meeting as follows:

Notes from landlord licensing meeting – 15th February 2022

Present: Adam Shanley (City of Durham Parish Council), Liz Brown (City of Durham Parish Council), John Ashby (DURF), Lynn Hall (DCC Housing), Ted Murphy (DCC Housing), Michael Yeadon (DCC Environmental Health), Rebecca Eves (Durham University), Matthew Deakin (Durham University accommodation), Jonah Graham (DSU).

- Adam updated the meeting that the Parish Council had concluded the meeting with officers on 9th October disappointed that a voluntary scheme is now being proposed as a means of accrediting whether a property is suitable for habitation.
- Adam recounted that there are presently 820 licensed properties under the provisions of s.232 of the Housing Act 2004 (i.e. those with five or more separate tenants.) whilst there are approximately 3,307 properties in Durham City which have Class N Student Exemption from paying Council Tax, i.e. only 25% and the current licensing arrangement therefore are insufficient.
- Ted advised that there are 3 forms of licensing for household dwelling:

Mandatory HMO licensing (i.e. those with five or more separate tenants), which does exist in Durham City but which only covers 25% of HMOs.

Statutory licensing – which 42% of County Durham is now covered by following a submission to Government by DCC – but which cannot apply to Durham City due to the criteria set by Government.

Additional licensing – to cover the remaining HMOs. Ted advised that this option had been looked into some years ago at considerable expense and again Durham City did not meet the criteria for additional licensing. Ted also advised that the 2018 Regulations had further weakened the case for this for Durham City.

Ted advised that, under the current legislative framework, accreditation (as opposed to licensing) is the only option available to Durham City. The meeting agreed with this.

- John Ashby advised that it had recently been reported in The Times that the Minister for Levelling UP is proposing a national licensing scheme to bring all properties up to a fit and decent standard but this is likely to take a significant length of time.
- Liz Brown highlighted that any scheme must be matched with inspections and expressed the concern that the Housing team is very significantly under resourced at the moment.
- Michael confirmed this to be the case and advised that there is a backlog of cases having been reported to DCC.

- Jonah expressed the concern that the over-recruitment of students to Durham University had put significant pressure on some students to rush to sign up with any landlord.
- Jonah advised that he felt Durham City did not have the accommodation infrastructure in place to support the additional numbers recruited.
- Jonah also advised that he was aware that the cost of housing for students has increased significantly.
- Matthew Deakin advised that the over-recruitment of students had been caused by the pandemic, the cancelling of A-levels in place for teacher-based assessment and an increase in students meeting and exceeding the requirements of their offer to the University.
- Matthew advised that the University had attempted to resolve this by creating incentives for students to defer their studies to the next academic year.
- Matthew confirmed that the University is currently at its 2027 target in terms of the number of student intake.
- Matthew advised that this is also causing the University to review its teaching capacity.
- Matthew asked if there were any learning outcomes from the voluntary scheme launched in 2016. Michael Yeadon advised that this had not gone beyond 3 years as the 2018 Regulations introduced meant that many landlords were now included in the mandatory HMO licensing scheme and therefore felt there was no need to be part of the 2016 voluntary scheme.
- Adam highlighted the example of Oxford University and asked if Durham University might ever consider making it a condition of a student's offer to study at Durham University that they must live in one of the accredited properties. Both Matthew and Rebecca were sceptical about the legalities and practicalities of such a scheme.
- Adam advised that proactive inspections of all Class N exempt properties would be fantastic.
- Ted Murphy and Michael Yeadon highlighted how resource-intensive property inspections are.
- Adam asked what the shortfall in resource is at present in the housing team to be able to pursue a scheme of proactive Class N inspections. Michael advised that it could certainly not be done by 1 additional officer and would require a number of additional officers to deliver.

- John Ashby highlighted the resources available to the University and asked whether a partnership between the relevant organisations might be able to result in additional resource for such inspections.
- Lynn Hall and DCC officers committed to putting together a business case – including the role of the housing officer(s) involved in such inspections and what funding would be required to recruit such an officer/ officer.
- Liz Brown asked that the Cabinet Members Cllrs James Rowlandson and Mark Wilkes be made aware of this.
- John Ashby highlighted that DURF is meeting the new Vice Chancellor and Warden of Durham University Prof. Karen O’Brien on 7th March 2022. DCC officers committed to briefing John on their work in progressing an accreditation scheme ahead of this meeting.
- DCC's officers were most co-operative and committed in recognising the need for a practicable scheme that meets the Parish Council's, DURF's and DSU's wishes.
- All present agreed to meet in one month's time along with the wider Parish Council Working Group and the landlord representative of the Working Group. The Clerk advised that he would re-confirm that the landlord representative still wishes to continue on this group.

The Chair highlighted that the housing team within DCC are extremely under-resourced at present.

The Clerk advised that it is hoped that the University may be persuaded to fund additional housing officers to carry out some proactive checks of HMOs.

Cllr E Scott advised that she understands that there is likely to be more resource for the City from a housing officer perspective in order to deal with some of the issues identified in this working group.

Cllr V Ashfield asked that the Parish Council and the Working Group continue with its efforts of bringing in an accreditation scheme for the City and asked that she be re-invited to join this group.

Mr John Ashby (member of the public and a member of the working group) advised that DURF would be meeting with the new Vice-Chancellor on 7th March 2022, where he hoped that these issues could be highlighted and a follow-up meeting of the working group would take place thereafter.

12. CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RESPONSE FROM DURHAM UNIVERSITY, DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL AND DURHAM POLICE TO THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ASB AND NOISE CONSULTATION

The Clerk reminded Members that the City of Durham Parish Council approved a report on student ASB; the paper had the agreement of the several Residents Associations who

are part of CRAF and DURF. A joint response was received from three of the four organisations to whom the paper was submitted (the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner did not participate). The Clerk advised that the response was considered by CRAF on 16th February; the discussion included a summary of the Report's recommendations mapped against the joint response. In addition to the record of the Minutes of the meeting, the Clerk advised that this Note from the Chair summarises some immediate options going forward.

From the Chair's report, the Clerk advised that there is no recognition of the nature of ASB issues in the City (as opposed to the wider DH1 postcode invariably used when discussing levels of ASB), apart from the PCC's plan (p12). There is no overall ownership that coordinates data, provides feedback to residents, and ensures an overall plan with identifiable indicators of progress. It recognises the work of the Durham City Safety ASB sub-group but considers that it does not have the executive authority to oversee and engage partners.

The Clerk advised that the unanimous view of the CRAF meeting was that the joint response was essentially a summation of the three organisations' current activities, individually and collectively. While indicating a modest positive response in some areas, the Forum was concerned that many of the recommendations were not responded to, and no explanations as to why were forthcoming. The Forum agreed that the joint response did not provide assurance to residents' groups that there is a coherent and coordinated approach, that appropriate resources are committed or that they were engaged in, or represented in, the higher level decision-making processes of the organisations concerned. As a consequence, CRAF wishes to make a number of further proposals in support of the recommendations in the original Report.

Reflecting the Minutes of the meeting, this Note addresses four immediate recommendations:

- All four organisations – DCC, the Police, the PCC and the University - set up a taskforce or steering group along with the Parish Council as soon as possible to agree and deliver a common approach for the City. All four organisations agree a central point for the collection and collation of problem streets or houses for a targeted response (and also provide means to provide feedback to residents' associations to support their work), using 101, PACT, CRT and Pinpoint information. The Forum asks the Parish Council to explore the role of the OPCC in facilitating this;
- The Forum was unanimous that the previous regime - whereby the lead ASB responsibility by the Police through the use of PCSOs - should be reinstated; it notes that this was also the view of DURF and the majority view of the November 2021 Community Engagement Task Force Lived Environment Sub-Group. It would welcome a response on whether funds from the University and/or the Parish Council would facilitate this response or other reasons why this cannot happen;
- Given the continuing expansion of the University the Forum may wish to consider raising its resourcing of the CRT to facilitate more proactive patrols across the hotspots of the City;
- Landlords should be required to enforce noise and other conditions in their tenancy agreements by DCC introducing a licencing scheme for landlords in the City and then

exercising their powers under the 2004 Housing Act to require landlords to take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent, or where appropriate reduce, anti-social behaviour by persons occupying or visiting their properties. Again the Forum would welcome a response as to why this cannot happen.

It was also highlighted that the Secretary of DURF has noted that a single-page 'What to Do' leaflet for ASB, waste, etc. is in preparation and it is hoped that the Parish Council may consider how to facilitate its delivery to all households in the City.

Members unanimously **agreed** this report and endorsed the proposed follow-up actions.

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

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. B. R.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council
(24th February 2022)