

City of Durham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the City of Durham Parish Council held on Thursday 30th June 2022 at 19:00 in the Lantern Room, Durham Town Hall.

Present: Councillors A Doig (in the Chair), L Brown, E Ashby, V Ashfield, D Freeman, G Holland, C Lattin, E Scott and S Walker.

Also present: Parish Clerk Adam Shanley, Mr Eric Wilton (National Trust), Mr Rupert Benjamin, Mr John Ashby and Mr John Lowe (members of the public).

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

Apologies were received from Councillors R Friederichsen, R Hanson, R Ormerod, G Nair and N Brown.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Councillor D Freeman declared an interest in item 9 of the Agenda and took no part in the discussion or vote on this item.

Councillor C Lattin declared an interest in item 10 of the Agenda and took no part in the discussion or vote on this item.

3. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH MAY 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2022 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings, subject to an amendment under item 13 of the minutes in relation to the licensing committee from "*Meets once every two weeks on a Friday at 2pm*" to "*Meets once every two weeks on a Monday at 4:30pm*".

In agreeing the minute relating to Committee Membership from the meeting of 26th May 2022, the Chair advised that he would be happy to accept a motion in writing from any Committee requesting that additional Members be added to the Committee.

4. PRESENTATION BY THE NATIONAL TRUST ON FUTURE PLANS FOR CROOK HALL

The Chair welcomed Mr Eric Wilton from the National Trust to the meeting to discuss the future plans for Crook Hall and Gardens.

Eric began by thanking the Parish Council for the opportunity to come and speak with them today and advised that the National Trust was delighted to have added Crook Hall and Gardens to its portfolio recently and to maintain this as an open space for the community and as an important visitor attraction for the City.

Eric gave some background to the property itself. Eric advised that Crook Hall is a Grade 1 listed property, set within 5 acres of mature gardens, which had previously been managed by Keith & Maggie Bell as a visitor offer in Durham City for the past 25 years. Eric advised that the National Trust had acquired the property on 28th March 2022.

Eric advised that Crook Hall is in a unique position – being as it is 10 minutes' walk from the Durham World Heritage Site & Durham train station and yet set within the greenbelt with access to Durham City's important green and blue corridors.

Eric advised that the National Trust is working with key partners to shape the Trust's offer at Crook Hall Gardens alongside a connected green/blue corridor providing access to nature.

Eric gave some background as to the staffing structure at Crook Hall, advising that he is assuming the role of General Manager of Crook Hall and Gardens and the team also includes 6 operational staff as well as 10 garden volunteers.

Eric advised that the plan for Crook Hall and Gardens included a number of key objectives for 2022; namely to establish the property as a National Trust site, to recruit a new property, visitor welcome and gardening team, to refurbish the café, to provide a Café City Apartment offer (refurbished and available summer 2021) and to meet the target opening date of 13th July 2022 – with the offer to include gardens, medieval hall & café.

Eric also advised that the plan also included some key objectives relating to Durham City's green and blue corridors.

- Firstly to provide green corridor access directly from Crook as a steppingstone into nature.
- To improve the footpath connections, specifically the Crook Hall Gardens & Moorhouse Woods and River Wear paths.
- To establish a cycle Hub at Crook Hall Gardens
- To establish the Trust's Vision document for the property and to have this co-created following community & stakeholder engagement.
- To reopen the Northumberland Water bridge over the River Wear
- To attract external funding for the site, including Levelling Up, Shared Prosperity, National Highways etc.
- To reopen the Belmont Viaduct – to develop this project with partners – aim to eventually reopen as part of route between Newton Hall & Belmont

The Chair thanked Eric for his presentation and opened the meeting up to questions.

Cllr E Ashby emphasised what an important role Crook Hall played for tourism in the City and asked if the National Trust is actively engaging with coach drivers to let them know about changes to coach drop-offs in the City, etc. Eric advised that the National Trust weren't doing this at present but highlighted that Crook Hall has very good public transport links. Cllr E Scott advised that DCC and Visit County Durham will be engaging with coach drivers on the coach arrangements.

Cllr L Brown asked about the pricing structure for the site and whether there would be a discounted rate of admission for local residents. On the latter point, Eric advised that there wouldn't be a discount for residents and on the former advised that he would get back to the Parish Council on this.

Cllr E Scott advised that she is pushing to get a tourism bus established in Durham and hoped that Crook Hall would be a key destination for this bus.

Eric finished by advising that the National Trust is very keen to work with key stakeholder partner in the City and offered the Parish Council a free tour of the site post-opening on 13th July.

The Chair thanked Eric for his presentation and time this evening. At this point, Eric left the meeting.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Rupert Benjamin asked Members if they were aware of, and supported, a gentleman with extremist views living within a housing association property in the City and within close proximity of an educational establishment which teaches a significant number of pupils from diverse backgrounds. The Chair thanked Mr Benjamin for his statement and advised that the Parish Council – through Councillor Liz Brown – would liaise with the appropriate authorities and with Mr Benjamin on this issue outside of this meeting.

Mr John Ashby advised that he was attending the meeting with a general interest in all Agenda items but specifically item 10 on the Agenda.

Mr John Lowe advised that he was attending the meeting with a general interest in all Agenda items but specifically the item on the Sniperley Park master plan.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

• Planning Committee

Cllr G Holland presented the minutes from the Planning Committee meetings held on 20th May and 6th June 2022. There being no queries from Members, Cllr G Holland moved on to Committee updates.

- Report providing an update on the Sniperley Park development

Cllr G Holland reminded Members that the issue of the Sniperley Park development, located outside of the parish area, has been discussed at a number of Parish Council meetings.

Cllr G Holland advised that he and Cllr R Friederichsen had presented a report to Full Council in April 2022, where Members fully endorsed the following energy solutions at the Sniperley Park development and also agreed to liaise with neighbouring Parish Councils on this development. Cllr G Holland updated the

Council that neither Framwellgate Moor Parish Council nor Witton Gilbert Parish Council wished to work in partnership on this issue.

Energy solutions at the Sniperley Park development:

1. An Energy Assessment for the entire site designed to minimise energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions with all properties satisfying the 2030 operational energy and embodied carbon targets set by the RIBA 2030 Challenge which identify the optimal set of energy solutions to minimise energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
2. All homes and buildings to be built to EPC A rating standard as a minimum.
3. No connection of the site to the national gas network.
4. Photovoltaic panels / and battery storage in all homes and buildings.
5. Ground and/or air source heat exchange systems for all homes and buildings.
6. District heating system using any potential geothermal energy.
7. All houses to have electricity supply points for electric cars.

Cllr G Holland reminded Members that Cabinet Member Councillor Mark Wilkes attended the last Full Parish Council meeting and assured Members that the County Council is pushing for as sustainable development as possible at Sniperley, within the legal framework set by Government on sustainability and climate impact.

Cllr G Holland updated the Council that, on 15th June, the Parish Council was notified that both developers were submitting non-determination appeals for applications DM/21/03574/OUT and DM/21/02360/FPA.

In both cases, the case officer has submitted a follow-up letter setting out the present position on these applications and highlighting that the Local Planning Authority is not in a position to positively determine these applications in their current form.

Cllr G Holland advised that it is clear that Durham County Council has concerns about these proposals and the Parish Council has had an early indication that these appeals may lead to a public inquiry.

At the Planning Committee on 24th June 2022, Cllr G Holland advised that Committee Members had agreed that a further approach to DCC on the Sniperley Park masterplan should be undertaken as soon as possible including the City of Durham Trust and the Western Relief Road Action Group, along with any other interested groups.

Members thanked Cllr G Holland for his report and unanimously **agreed** that a further joint approach to DCC on the masterplan for Sniperley, along with the City of Durham Trust and the Western Relief Road Action Group (WRRAG) and other interested groups, subject to their approval.

• Environment Committee

Cllr C Lattin presented the minutes from the Environment Committee meeting held on 10th May 2022. There being no queries from Members, Cllr C Lattin moved on to Committee updates.

- **Report on the installation of further blue plaques in the parish**

Cllr C Lattin reminded Members that the Parish Council launched a public nominations scheme last year for the introduction of blue plaques to commemorate important people, buildings and events in the parish.

Since then, 5 blue plaques have been delivered as follows:

- The pioneering female photographer Daisy Edis - 142 Gilesgate
- The location of the former organ builders Harrison & Harrison - Harrison House
- The Market Hall - outside the Indoor Market Hall
- The three first female graduates of Durham University Mary Gibson, Dora Heslop and Winifred Hindmarch - St. Hild and St. Bede's College
- The Railway Cottages - Railway Cottages

Cllr C Lattin highlighted that, attached to the Agenda papers, is a copy of the remaining set of nominations from the public for the blue plaques scheme. In January, the Parish Council agreed sufficient funding to provide two further blue plaques to the 5 already delivered.

Cllr C Lattin advised that the Environment Committee has asked that a blue plaque for 20 Allergate be included in this year's scheme and it is open for Members to nominate the blue plaques they'd like to see delivered this year.

Cllr C Lattin highlighted that the scheme has been very popular and the experience from last year's scheme has shown that buildings which are unlisted and non-University owned are easier to deliver.

The Clerk highlighted that, for ease of this meeting, he had requested votes ahead of the meeting in writing and confirmed that the agreed two plaques for this year were 20 Allergate and Neville House.

Cllr E Ashby asked that more publicity be given to the blue plaques delivered and that some form of event can take place to highlight their installation.

Cllr V Ashfield also asked if the Parish Council could be more transparent in letting nominators know the reasons as to why some blue plaques nominated hadn't been delivered.

The Chair thanked the Clerk and Cllr C Lattin for this report.

- **Report on the renewal of the enhanced Neighbourhood Warden service SLA with Durham County Council**

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council currently has a service level agreement (SLA) in place with DCC to provide an enhanced Neighbourhood Warden service for the City.

This service level agreement provides 10 additional Neighbourhood Warden hours for the City at an annual cost of £10,000. In January 2022, the Parish Council agreed to allocate £10,000 towards this priority and the continuation of this service.

The Clerk advised that, in addition to the present provision of Wardens for the City, both the Parish Council (10 hours per week) and Durham University (full time) provide funding for an enhanced service for the City. The Clerk highlighted that the University has recently renewed its SLA with the County Council.

The Clerk highlighted that the benefits of this service are significant due to the heightened responsiveness to environmental issues and a substantial increase in proactive environmental enforcement.

The Clerk advised that, as part of the service level agreement in place, reports of what has been achieved on a monthly basis are expected to be provided. The Clerk advised that an annual report of what has been achieved since June 2021 is attached to this Agenda for Members' consideration.

Cllr C Lattin advised that the Environment Committee recently met and agreed that this service is an essential one provided by the Parish Council, albeit there are issues with reporting which need to be resolved with the County Council.

Whilst the issues of reporting need to be addressed, the Environment Committee recommends that the service level agreement be renewed for a further 3 years.

Members unanimously **agreed** to renew the service level agreement for an enhanced Neighbourhood Warden service with DCC as set out in the above report. In doing so, Members also **agreed** that a monthly report must be a requirement written into any new SLA prior to payment of funds for the service.

• **Licensing Committee**

Cllr S Walker presented the minutes from Licensing Committee meetings held on 3rd May and 30th May 2022. There were no queries from Members on these minutes.

• **Finance Committee**

Cllr A Doig presented the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 11th January 2022. There were no queries from Members on these minutes.

7. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update on matters arising since the Full Parish Council meeting on 26th May 2022.

The Chair advised that, as this is the first meeting of the Full Council since the Platinum Jubilee weekend, this is a great opportunity to say a tremendous thank you to all those involved in organising events in the City – a terrific example of

partnership working and the Chair advised that he felt that the Parish Council and its partners had done Her Majesty proud.

The Chair reminded Members that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Baton Relay event is expected to be in Durham City on 14th July at approximately 15:00pm, starting at the Gilesgate roundabout. Councillors and members of the community are most welcome to attend this event as well as the event at Durham Racecourse. This leg of the Baton relay will be carried by Jessica Eddie (British rower and Olympic Silver medal born in Durham).

The Chair offered a big well done from the Parish Council to everyone involved in the City of Culture 2025 bid. It was sad that Durham didn't quite win the trophy and the Chair offered his congratulations to Bradford on their success. The Chair also welcomed the news that each of the runners-up will receive £125,000 from central Government. The Chair advised that he looked forward to seeing this money spent on cultural projects for Durham.

The Chair advised that the blue plaques project has proven extremely popular and it was great to see such a successful event take place in Gilesgate over the weekend for the Daisy Edis plaque. The Chair gave a big thanks to everyone involved in the logistics of this event as well as to the Clerk who drafted a 17-page heritage statement for the planning application in order to get this through. Excellent work by everyone.

The Chair reminded Members that the Wear Rivers Trust – an organisation the Parish Council has partnered with to support improvement works to the river wear – is hosting a balsam bash event in Hopper's Wood on 10th July to deal with invasive non-native species. Its set to be a great day of community volunteering and the Chair advised that he hoped to see as many Members there as possible.

The Chair advised Members that the Clerk has provided a ballot paper to each Member attending this evening. This is the vote for the position of the Durham representative on CDALC's executive committee. As some background the Executive Committee comprises twelve area committee representatives (divided by AAP areas) plus members elected at the AGM in October as CDALC's Vice Presidents and Honorary Treasurer. The Durham position has been vacant for a period of time. The Committee is CDALC's 'management board', dealing with its overall management, control, administration and conduct as well as representing us and lobbying at a national level. The Chair asked Members to ensure that they cast their vote and submit this back to the Clerk this evening and he will put forward our vote as a Council depending on the outcome of this.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council's Finance Committee met earlier this month. The Chair remarked that it is great to see so many projects for the City progressing so well. The Chair advised that it is clear that the Parish Council will finish this financial year with most if not all of what we set out to achieve done and the funds spent. The Chair advised that the Council will need to consider this in January next year as typically the Council has used underspend from previous financial years to keep the precept frozen.

The Chair asked Members, when Council officers are attending Committee meetings, to please remember to treat them with courtesy and respect as we all work together in our joint aim of making the City better.

Finally, the Chair gave a warm welcome and congratulations to the new Mayor of Durham. The Chair advised that he was very proud to have one of our fellow Parish Councillors take on this important role and we wish Cllr Freeman an excellent year. The Chair advised that he looked forward to the day when the Mayor of Durham City is a Parish Councillor from this Parish Council.

8. 2022/23 ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDING TO LOCAL VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

The Clerk reminded Members that, at the January meeting of the Full Parish Council, Councillors formally agreed to allocate £15,000 of the budget for 2022/23 towards grants for local and voluntary organisations. At its meeting on 24th March 2022, Full Council approved emergency grant funding of £10,000 from this budget towards the continuation of the Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) hub in Durham City.

The Clerk advised that the grant funding window for the remaining £5,000 opened on 1st April 2022 and this has been advertised on social media, the Parish Council's website, through the local press and through direct e-mails.

The Clerk reminded Members that organisations were asked to apply by 15th June 2022 in order that the Finance Committee may consider this at its meeting in June and make a recommendation to Full Council in June.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's Finance Committee met on 21st June and agreed to allocate funding as per the report provided. In order to achieve this, the Clerk advised that the Finance Committee had agreed that the following allocations should be moved to the grants budget:

£2,200 be taken from the contingencies fund of £15,000 and £4,000 be taken from the Environment Committee budget as follows:

- The £3,000 allocation for an OASES/schools project be reduced to £1,000.
- The £1,000 allocation for a community composting scheme be removed entirely.
- The £1,000 allocation for businesses reducing their plastic use be removed entirely.

The Clerk advised that the reallocation from the Environment Committee's budget was proposed on the basis that this would go towards projects which also improve our parish's environment and was agreed by both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee in advance of the meeting on 21st June 2022.

Members **agreed** (8 in favour and 1 abstention) to the reallocation of funding towards the grants fund, as set out in the report provided. Members to agree to the allocation of grant funding for each application as follows:

Organisation	Project details	Amount requested	Amount agreed by Full Council
Durham Hospital Radio	To fund continued improvements to the Durham Hospital Radio studios to improve the functionality for the presenters enabling social media and other software to be used in conjunction with live shows. Also, some installed computers need hardware upgrades to allow moving systems to Windows 11.	£1,200	£0
Sixth Form Centre	<p>A grant is required to support and extend our community programme offer into 2023. Following the success of our ongoing pilot programme launched in April 2022, we have gained valuable experience and significant positive feedback from participants. Including:</p> <p><i>'Friendly, accessible and welcoming - I loved it!', 'Engaging content! Thank you for arrangement and planning' and 'Great value. Very exciting - loved the collaborative exercise, fun and very creative.'</i></p> <p>Initially we have commissioned AiRs past and present to deliver either one-off workshops or a series of classes, supported by our arts development officer. Each workshop or block of classes covers a specialist art form, so far including ceramics, ink drawing, digital illustration and drawing.</p> <p>We hope to commission a new programme of classes to launch in Spring 2023. We will continue to work with our AiRs and extend partnerships with cultural organisations and individuals to deliver specialist sessions such as photography and life drawing.</p> <p>By Spring 2023 our new community arts space and gallery will be complete and will be a base for this community work.</p>	£2,000	£1,000

	<p>We hope to reach out into new community groups and invite people to take part in our programme of activities.</p>		
ERA	<p>Re-painting and enhancement of both sides of the brick 'football' wall in St Oswald's playpark (Church St, Elvet). The front side will be repainted with appropriate images for play (e.g. goalposts, targets), and the rear side repainted with a mural depicting by local historical themes: an image of the 'Dun Cow', with a frame inspired by miners' banners. Community artist Lewis Hobson (www.facebook.com/DurhamSprayPaints) has created an outline design, and (if the project goes ahead) will work with residents and with pupils at St Oswald's Primary to develop it. (See attached document for images.) He will also be responsible for carrying out the painting work.</p>	£1,263	£1,000

<p>Harbour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Stronger Together</p> <p>This is a new project we want to launch to support the family members of the clients we help. We have recognised that there is no practical support for immediate family or even close friends of the clients who are using our service. Whilst our clients get emotional support and practical advice from us, when in an abusive relationship or after leaving an abusive relationship, it can often be difficult on the parents, siblings and adult children. As those people have not been direct victims of abuse they are not eligible for support within our service but it has become clear that they often do need some form of support. We want to offer a monthly group session so they can offload, have a contact within Harbour to ask or seek advice and guidance.</p> <p>Initially we will deliver this service via Teams, but in the longer term we want to deliver this locally, face to face in a friendly environment, we therefore need to cover staffing costs, venue costs as well as refreshments. We will also need to cover costs to promote this new service across the area. We have a staff member who is willing to deliver this service, as additional hours to her usual working hours, therefore no additional training costs are needed. She is a fully qualified Counsellor and Support worker so has all relevant skills and tools needed to facilitate this project. It will be supported by the Service Manager and organised and managed by an admin officer. We have had some funding to deliver this in the Tees Valley area but would like to reach our Durham clients also.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£1,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£1,000</p>
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Merryoaks WI	<p>To purchase a further microphone enabling each speaker to have their own avoiding the need to share. To purchase a full Zoom subscription to allow speakers from elsewhere in the country and to enable us to hold hybrid meetings, making us fully inclusive.</p>	£250	£250
St Cuthberts Hospice	<p>Our gardens provide much needed sensory stimulation and therapeutic benefit to our patients and their families.</p> <p>Funds from the City of Durham Parish Council will be used to improve accessibility around the Hospice grounds and enhance experience for all who visit our gardens through improvements and essential repairs. Your donation will be used to pay for tools, equipment, plants and furniture.</p> <p>As a result of these funds and improvements, we will be able to remain a welcoming, peaceful and accessible environment for our patients, families and visitors, through innovation and repair. Over a 12 month period we expect that 1,000 patients and their families will be able to enjoy the therapeutic value of nature within our grounds.</p> <p>Gardening Supplies = £1,750 Grounds Maintenance = £2,500</p>	£4,250	£1,750
St Margarets Centre	<p>A new course has been arranged in joinery and wood working skills in order that participants can earn a certificate issued by the centre describing exactly the level of skill that has been achieved by the production of actual articles made and produced on the course. For example, joints, rebates, hinge and lock settings, routing etc. This application is specifically for the purchase of a new Bandsaw and the purchase of materials where the costs have escalated for the purchase of both soft and hard wood.</p>	£3,000	£3,000

St Nics Church	To help fulfil our aims of serving the community and acting as an eco-church we need to reclaim the church's graveyard which has been neglected (and desecrated) over the last 10 years. We want to turn it into a heritage rest and recuperation area potentially with mini-allotments for older residents to use and designated picnic and meeting areas and areas for rest and contemplation.	£3,200	£3,200
	Total	£16,163	£11,200

9. REQUEST FOR A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE MAYOR'S CHARITY APPEAL

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council has received correspondence from the Mayor's PA at Durham County Council on behalf of newly elected Mayor of Durham City Councillor David Freeman, asking if the Parish Council would consider supporting this year's Mayor's Charity Appeal.

The Clerk advised that, following his election as Mayor on 9 June 2022, Councillor David Freeman announced that any funds raised during his Mayoral year would be channelled towards Durham Samaritans.

Durham Samaritans are situated in Durham City and are an organisation the Parish Council has supported in the past with their base of operations in the Viaduct area of the City. Volunteers provide face-to-face, telephone and email support to anyone struggling with their mental health.

The Clerk advised that no specific amount has been requested in the letter from the Mayor's PA and any offers of a donation will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

The Clerk reminded Members that, in December 2020, the Parish Council supported the previous Mayor's appeal with a donation of £500 towards the Fire Fighters Charity.

Members **agreed** to support the Mayor's Charity Appeal for Durham Samaritans and (by 6 votes in favour to 3 votes against) **agreed** a donation of £500 to the Mayor's Charity Appeal.

10. PROPOSAL TO FUND THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF AN INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR RESIDENTS BY DURF

The Chair highlighted that the Durham University and Residents Forum (DURF) has been working on the production of a residents' information leaflet. The Chair advised that the purpose of this leaflet is to act as a signpost to residents informing them of how to report a specific issue of concern and the follow-up actions, they should expect following a report.

The Chair advised that it is hoped that this will assist members of the public in addressing their issues in a speedier manner which helps resolve the issue(s).

The Chair highlighted that the content of this leaflet has undergone extensive approval stages and has now been agreed by representatives of DURF. A copy of this leaflet is included with this Agenda for Members' consideration.

In order to ensure that all residents receive the same information, the Chair proposed that the Parish Council funds the printing and delivery costs associated with providing each resident with a copy of this leaflet.

In addition to properties within the parish boundary, the Chair also proposed that the Parish Council funds the costs associated with printing and delivery for the unparished part of Gilesgate, in view of Gilesgate Residents Association being an important member of the Parish Council's Community and Residents' Associations Forum (CRAF). The Chair advised that the Chair of Gilesgate Residents Association has advised that the Association would be able to put £100 towards the unparished part of Gilesgate and it is open to Members as to whether or not they accept this.

The Clerk advised that the cost of printing the leaflet (A4 folded to A5 full colour) will be £43.50/ 1000 leaflets. The cost of delivering these leaflets - solus delivery - i.e. by themselves is £98.00/ 1000 leaflets.

There are 8,588 postal addresses in the City of Durham Parish area but this includes the following PBSA numbers (2,196 in total) which we can hand deliver:

The Chair proposed that the Parish Council looks to have these leaflets delivered to the PBSAs directly and liase with the relevant PBSA management to ensure that each dwelling therein receives this through their letterbox.

The Clerk advised that there are a further 2,118 postal addresses in the unparished part of the Gilesgate Residents Association area.

The Clerk advised that the estimated costs for each section are therefore as follows:

- The City of Durham Parish area - approx. £1,000 (£373.58 printing, £626.42 delivery).
- Unparished GRA area - approx. £299.69 (£92.13 printing, £207.56 delivery).

The Clerk highlighted that, as this is unallocated funding, if agreed by Council at this meeting, it is proposed that the costs of producing and delivering this leaflet is drawn from the Council's £15,000 contingencies fund.

The Chair proposed that these leaflets be produced and delivered to every resident in the identified area for the end of August/ beginning of September, ahead of the new University academic term.

Members unanimously endorsed the content of the draft residents' leaflet.

Members also unanimously agreed not to accept the offer of £100 from Gilesgate Residents Association towards the printing and distribution of this leaflet in the unparished part of Gilesgate and to fund this directly from the Parish Council funds.

Members also unanimously agreed the associated costs of printing and delivering this leaflet to the identified area, with an additional (approx.) 2,000 leaflets produced in case of any gaps in the delivery of this leaflet.

In drawing the discussion to a close on this item, the Chair took the opportunity to thank Mr John Ashby for his tireless work in bringing this leaflet to fruition and getting this agreed by the relevant stakeholders.

11. OPTIONS FOR ENHANCED POLICING OF DURHAM CITY

The Chair highlighted that the Parish Council has been working in conjunction with key partners and stakeholders in its efforts to tackle complaints of anti-social behaviour and noise in the City.

The Chair advised that this issue was raised at the recent annual meeting of the parish by a local resident who asked the City's Police Inspector for costs associated with an enhanced policing operation carried out by Northumbria Police in an area of Newcastle with a high student population density.

Since this meeting, the Chair advised that he has been engaging with the City's Police Inspector on options for a similar operation in the City. The associated options are as follows:

Option 1 - would be what was discussed at the meeting before Christmas, which would be in the region of £250k for the inception of a University Policing Team, dealing with all matters that arise, taking additional responsibility for additional targeted late night patrols and the oversight of antisocial behaviour and the escalation procedure. This would involve four full time police officers (with integral supervisory function), working a varied shift pattern to meet key demand and two PCSOs to supply the back office and daytime function. Duties would include primarily engagement and enforcement, including delivery of notices, paperwork in relation to civil procedures, contacting complainants in relation to issues with students and liaising with the university / key stakeholders such as the ASB and environmental teams. They would also have an education function within the university, delivering problem solving initiatives.

Option 2 - This would be similar to option 1 with the two additional PCSOs, but staffing the dedicated PC patrol officers from officers on overtime. This option would be preferable initially, as it could be adopted as soon as we need to with the support of the current team whilst the new PCSOs are being recruited and trained. There are some issues with this option as the officers could be from across the force area and may not have an in depth working knowledge of the issues in Durham, however, the PCSO support team could produce briefing packs and would be able to 'join the dots'. This is the format of Operation Oak, Northumbria Police's response to student issues and the funding required would be in the region of £125K to pay for overtime, a supervisory function and the uplift in PCSOs.

The Chair advised that this report is purely for information purposes at present for Members and that a further meeting of key stakeholders is planned for later in July to discuss these options further.

The Chair highlighted that Members should consider that the Parish Council may need to be a funding partner in this operation and this may likely involve an increase in the Parish Council's precept for 2023/24 as a result.

The Council thanked the Chair for this report and **agreed** to await further feedback on this initiative from the Police.

12. MOTION BY COUNCILLOR E ASHBY ON LEGAL ACTION BY PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS

Cllr E Ashby highlighted the very many difficulties facing public service workers, relating to the cost of living and ongoing negotiations over pay disputes and asked the Parish Council to support the following motion. This motion was seconded by Cllr V Ashfield:

"The City of Durham Parish Council fully supports all legal action by public service workers in justifiable defence of their jobs and conditions of employment".

Cllr D Freeman advised that he was a Union representative and had been involved in strike action and pay negotiations in the past. Cllr D Freeman expressed his concerns at the Parish Council agreeing to support all legal action and felt that the Council's support should rather be given on a case-by-case basis where the merits of such support could be assessed based on the individual circumstances.

There were no amendments to this motion. Members voted against the motion (by 5 votes against the motion to 4 votes in favour of the motion).

13. UPDATE FROM BRIEFING ON LEVELLING UP FUNDING BID BY DCC

The Clerk advised that he and Cllrs C Lattin and V Ashfield received a briefing from DCC on future levelling up funding bid relevant to the City.

The Clerk advised that, in the 2021 Budget, Central Government announced the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), to provide investment in regeneration and growth in places with low productivity and poor connectivity

The Clerk advised that County Durham has been identified as one of the areas of greatest need of levelling up in the UK and has been classified as a Tier 1 area by Central Government. The Round 1 submission for the Bishop Auckland Parliamentary Constituency: Rural Connectivity and Cultural Connectivity, was successfully awarded £20 million Levelling Up Funding in the Autumn Statement, October 2021. The LUF is a competitive fund totalling £4.8 billion nationally, with £1.7 billion awarded to successful applicants in Round 1. This leaves £3.1 billion for future rounds.

The Clerk advised that further guidance for Round 2 Levelling Up bids was released in March 2022. This confirmed that the funding criteria was broadly in line with

the previous round. The Clerk advised that each parliamentary constituency within the Local Authority area can submit one bid for Government grant of £20 million. County Durham, with six parliamentary constituencies, can submit up to six bids in total. The Government guidance states that a minimum of 10 percent match funding is required to support each bid.

The Clerk advised that the briefing on 30th May from DCC had confirmed that a range of potential schemes has been developed across the remaining parliamentary constituencies to support transport connectivity, culture, heritage and regeneration in the city, town centres and villages.

A £20 million Levelling Up government grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will collectively enhance and maintain Durham City's economy. The schemes support economic development through transport and cultural led regeneration. The Clerk advised that the schemes proposed are:

- a) Bowburn Relief Road – tackling traffic capacity constraints to bring forward Phase 3 of Integra 61, by reassigning traffic away from Junction 61 and Bowburn village (A177);
- b) City Centre active mode connectivity, linking new and existing cultural attractions; Cultural attractions including the DLI, Wharton Park, Crook Hall, Elvet Park, Peninsula, and the Riverbanks will be better linked for visitors. Health and wellbeing will be enhanced through active mode connectivity linking residential areas with the city centre.
- c) Stabilisation of A690 – ensuring the A690 remains open and there are no adverse impacts on the A1 or the wider city.

The Clerk advised that the County Council will potentially use identified Section 106 funding towards project (b) identified in this report; specifically relating to the Elvet Park proposals. At the meeting on 30th May 2022, the Parish Council requested that further public consultation be undertaken for residents in the Elvet area.

The Clerk advised that, as this funding could be used to develop the LUF bid, the County Council has agreed that all new applications for Section 106 funds be suspended in the Elvet and Gilesgate division until such a time when funding becomes clearer on the LUF bid. More information will hopefully become available in Autumn 2022.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for this report and Members **agreed** to note its content and await further feedback on how the bids develop.

14. REPORTS FROM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

- **Report on Parish Council/ Durham Markets Company led events**

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council and the Durham Markets Company took the lead on organising events in the City for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in and around the Bank Holiday weekend (2nd – 5th June 2022).

The Clerk advised that the organisation of these events was a big undertaking by local partners and helped to deliver a series of Jubilee events.

The Clerk highlighted that all of these events ran successfully and the Parish Council has received positive feedback from all those participating in these events. In particular, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowdon has contacted the Parish Council to express her sincere gratitude to the Parish Council for arranging a series of outstanding events for the Jubilee.

The Clerk highlighted that he had written to all Members expressing his thanks in particular to Councillor E Ashby, Colin Wilkes and Alice Wilkes for their tremendous work in organising these events.

Members have expressed a desire for the Parish Council to provide Alice with a gift to say thank you for her work in particular.

The Clerk advised that he has already arranged for the Lord Lieutenant to send a personal thank you card to all those actively involved in organising Jubilee events alongside the Parish Council.

The Clerk highlighted that the agreed partnership and additional resource for organising events provided by Durham Markets Company worked extremely well and has proven to be an essential resource to the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that this was funded from the budget allocated to an assistant for the Clerk and not directly from the agreed events budget. The Clerk reminded Members that Alice Wilkes was seconded to the Parish Council for 4 hours/ week for these events at a cost of £15/ hour.

The Clerk has expressed his hope that this arrangement can continue at a cost of £240/ month going forward for other events in the City.

The Clerk also highlighted that the funding of £8,000 from all four County Councillors towards the Jubilee events has provided the flexibility to organise further events this year and the Parish Council's Business Committee will be meeting in July to discuss an events plan.

Cllr E Ashby advised that she was aware that Alice particularly liked the clothing from a new store in the Market Place and suggested the Parish Council acquire a voucher for Alice to spend at this store as a small token of the Parish Council's appreciation for her work over the Jubilee. This was unanimously supported and **agreed** by Members.

Members also unanimously **agreed** to continue the agreement with the Durham Markets Company for additional support with events in the City at a cost of £240/ month going forward.

- **Correspondence from Crossgate Community Partnership on the street party at Hawthorn Terrace**

The Clerk advised that he has received correspondence from the Chair of the Crossgate Community Partnership (CCP) regarding the street party which took place at Hawthorn Terrace during the Jubilee weekend.

As reported at the last Parish Council meeting, the Clerk advised that the Parish Council had received a number of concerns regarding this party from local residents.

The Chair advised that he wrote formally to Durham University, Durham Police and Durham County Council to express these concerns and to request that this be looked into in order to ensure that the event took place safely and with little disruption to nearby residents.

Members reported that the event was cleared up appropriately and there were no known reports of late night noise disturbance or ASB associated with this event. However, Members expressed concerns that the event had clearly breached the legal limit of 499 attendees permitted as part of a TEN (Temporary Event Notice) and **agreed** to write to DCC to ask what enforcement they'd be undertaking.

It was also **agreed** that the CCP should be asked to gain information as to what the costs associated to the public were for the policing of this event.

15. REPORT FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr C Lattin presented a report on the latest meeting of Durham University's Engagement Task Force Lived-Environment sub-group as follows:

- Issues with the parking of students' cars had been previously raised. As an update the meeting was informed that a statement advising students not to bring cars unless there was a serious issue is now on the student website and also in the Livers out leaflet. It is still felt that this does not address those students who simply ignore this advice.
- No progress on student engagement with local businesses. There is a proposal, not yet progressed, that there could be some sort of loyalty card to encourage students to shop locally, to replace a previous scheme.
- I gave an update on the meeting I had with Quentin Sloper and his team at Maiden Castle. I was assured that lights are automatically switched off at 10 p.m./ and are not on all night. On some occasions they are turned on again in the mornings for early training. The team are hoping to install LED lighting which is more efficient and cost effective. An additional bin will be placed on the other side of the Maiden Castle foot bridge. Notices asking dog walkers to keep their dogs on leads and avoid the sport area will also be put at the other end of the path. The team were unaware of the spigot mortar gun emplacement on their land but have since visited it. They are now debating the best way of protecting this heritage.
- 'Green Move Out' details were given and this is now underway. Students in all colleges have received bags. Collections are on a rolling basis. Colleges

are paired with different charities. All houses in designated areas receive purple bags even if they are not student houses. The area has been expanded and includes more places in Neville's Cross.

- The Greenspace festival will be opened by David Loudon on June 11th at Collingwood College. All are welcome to attend but need to pre-register with Eventbrite.
- Landlord Licensing proposals have not moved forward. John Ashby gave a report saying that DCC are preparing a voluntary scheme and encourage landlords to join. DCC will need the university to make a financial input.
- The new chair of DURF is Jonny Moore. He will attend the forthcoming DURF meeting. John Ashby also reported on the protocol which has been agreed to tell residents what actions to take when dealing with ASB. This will be delivered to every house in the CODP area.
- Gary Anderson will oversee the removal of over-flowing bins. David Loudon has met with representatives of DCC to identify hotspots. It is noted that HMO applications are spreading further and further out from the city centre. Attention was drawn to new PBSA applications at Robson House and the Banks development at Mount Oswald. DCC planners have told the university that they have no veto.
- Community webpages on the university website are under development.

Estates update:

- The Environment agency are comfortable with the plans which have been submitted including the management plan. The lighting and sensors have been adjusted. Currently a design team are considering the revision of the floor plan. The proposal goes to planning on July 5th and everything is dependent on receiving planning permission. Swift boxes will be installed.
- 25, Old Elvet. No decision has been made about its possible use and it is possible that the university might sell it. They wish to demolish the modern, rickety extension and have applied for permission for this.
- The swimming baths are under review for possible uses. It is acknowledged that the building itself helps to reduce the flood risk in that area. The intention is for a decision to be reached by the end of 2022
- The St. Hild and St. Bede re-development is ongoing.

End of report

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

Signed,



**Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council
(28th July 2022)**