

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley and Mr Steve Lindsay (member of the public).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None received.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8th NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2022 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Steve Lindsay advised that he was attending the meeting to hear the discussions on item 5a) I) on the Agenda.

5. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:

5a. To decide:

I) Proposal on a clean air and active travel public meeting in Elvet

The Chair highlighted that, at the Environment Committee meeting of 10th May, Members had agreed *"to commit to contribute funding of up to £500 towards organising and hosting a public meeting at the St Oswald Institute between October 2022 and February 2023 to discuss and progress further the ideas presented at this meeting with all key stakeholders, including residents, local businesses, St Oswald's school and Church, Durham University and County Councillors"*.

The Chair also highlighted that, since this meeting, DCC officers had indicated that they would not be able to support any highways schemes in the area and the Committee had agreed at its November meeting to host a City-wide event only.

The Chair advised however that she, Cllr V Ashfield and Cllr R Friederichsen had discussed this and the Chair felt that an event with an open discussion within Elvet may be possible with certain agreements.

The Clerk made it clear that any funding must go via Elvet Residents Association rather than the recently formed 'Elvet Clean Air Group'. The Committee also **agreed** that it would not pay a "facilitator" fee for this meeting.

The Clerk also advised that the Council would need to know exactly what literature will be on show/ distributed at this event before it can take place and the Council provides funding.

The Committee agreed to support an Elvet event - hosted by Elvet Residents Association - where residents would hold an open discussion about how to improve air quality in their locality. The Committee agreed to fund the refreshments and the literature (only approved by the Clerk, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee) at a cost of £130. The Committee agreed that the literature must be caveated with the following: ***"The City of Durham Parish Council and Elvet Residents Association are both pleased to encourage public consultation on this issue but neither has any formal responsibility for this matter and therefore cannot commit to effecting any change which might be suggested."***

II) Review of the current budget priorities for 2022/23

The Committee **agreed** the following budget priorities for 2022/23:

Environment Committee

Item of expenditure	Cost (£)
PRIORITY 1: Additional policing and safety for the parish area	
Enhanced SLA with Durham Police for late night policing	50,000.00
Safety of Women at Night hub	10,000.00
PRIORITY 2: Noise abatement	
Building on the Shhh campaign	2,000.00
PRIORITY 3: Clean Air, Clean and Green City	
Durham in Bloom	8,000.00
2 x Electric Vehicle Charging Points (Clean Air and Active Travel)	6,000.00
Tackling residential car parking in the City	0.00
PRIORITY 4: Appearance of the City	
Neighbourhood Warden SLA with DCC	10,000.00
Christmas frontages awards	2,000.00
PRIORITY 5: Recycling	
Continuation of Terracycle scheme	2,000.00
Green Award for Businesses in the parish	1,000.00
PRIORITY 6: Enhancing the River Wear	
Supporting the work of the Wear Rivers Trust	3,000.00
TOTAL PROVISION IN 2023-24 AGAINST PRIORITIES	94,000.00

III) Verbal report from the Chair on a meeting regarding the Unbox litter pilot

The Chair advised that she and the Clerk had recently met with representatives of Unbox and Visit County Durham regarding the proposed pilot of the Unbox scheme during the Fire and Ice Festival.

The Chair reported that whilst the proposal appeared to have merit, there were a number of concerns relating to the cost, the usability, the use of user's data, etc. in relation to this project and her recommendation was for the Parish Council to not pursue this any further. The Committee **agreed** with this assessment.

5b. To complete:

I) Update on the purchase of an electric vehicle charging point in the City

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council had recently agreed to fund the installation of an EVCP outside St. Cuthbert's Church in Durham. The Clerk asked Members to consider two other locations for EVCPs given the priority for delivering two further EVCPs in the coming financial year.

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

The Clerk highlighted that a total of 10 hotties had been purchased for each of the designate Warm Hubs in the City of Durham Parish – namely Clayport library and Alington House. The Clerk advised that he understood that these had been well received and the Committee **agreed** to fund some further hotties for St. Giles Church – another designated warm space in the parish.

III) Update on the Terracycle scheme for local schools

Cllr V Ashfield advised that nearly all Terracycle boxes have now been distributed to all local schools in the parish.

Cllr V Ashfield also highlighted the success in gaining Boots' agreement to take a Terracycle box for empty pill packets and advised that she and Cllr C Lattin would be dropping this off with Boots and having a photograph taken for promotional purposes.

6. AOB

None received.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

10th January 2023
14th February 2023
14th March 2023

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

Signed,

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

**Chair of the Parish Council's Environment Committee
(10th January 2023)**