

City of Durham Parish Council

Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee meeting held via Zoom at 13:00pm on Friday 10th January 2025

Present: Cllr G Holland (in the Chair), Cllr E Ashy, Cllr J Ashby, Cllr C Lattin and Cllr S Walker.

Also present: Mr A Shanley (Parish Clerk), Dr Francis Whalley and Councillor E Scott.

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor N Brown. No other apologies were received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest from members.

Councillor J Ashby declared an interest in application DM/24/03355/VOC and took no part in the discussion or vote on this application.

3. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2024 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

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

Dr Francis Whalley advised that he was attending the meeting with a general interest in all Agenda items.

Councillor E Scott advised that she was attending the meeting with a general interest in all Agenda items.

5. Further consideration of the Planning and Licensing Committee's draft budget proposal for 2025/26

The Clerk reminded Members of the Committee's previous discussions about improving the evening and nighttime economy, including the idea of deploying noise monitoring equipment. The Clerk advised that he had looked into this alongside the County Council's Environmental Health Manager and the Officer had provided the Committee with a range of options on this priority. These were as follows:

- For the Parish Council to purchase the equipment themselves at a cost of around £8-8.5k, which would also require some training.
- Using a free noise monitoring app that the county council recommends and uses as evidence.
- Contracting with the County Council to use their noise monitoring equipment free of charge when needed.

Whilst the Committee were minded to favour the free option provided by the County Council, rather than purchasing their own equipment, Members also **agreed** the Parish Council could allocate £5k in the budget towards this, without needing to significantly increase the precept.

The Committee also discussed potentially shifting some of that £5k budget over to the Business Committee to support more proactive engagement and events with local businesses, rather than just reactive noise enforcement. However, the Committee decided to hold off on finalising the budget allocation until the Finance Committee meeting the following week.

Overall, the Committee **agreed** that they were minded to favour the County Council's free resources for noise monitoring, while also exploring ways to more proactively engage and support local businesses through the budget.

6. Matters arising:

(a) To approve the draft response(s) to the following planning and/ or licensing application(s)/ matter(s):

DM/24/03176/CEU | Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing and continued use of Grosvenor House, Farnley Mount, Durham DH1 4DZ as a Class C4 House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) | Grosvenor House Farnley Mount Durham DH1 4DZ. The Committee **noted** that the Clerk was pursuing this matter through the Council's licensing and Council tax revenue teams.

APP/X1355/W/24/3356816 - DM/24/01241/PN56 | Prior approval for change of use from class E to 5 residential dwellings (class C3) Bridge House North Road Durham DH1 4PW. The Committee **approved** the draft response to this appeal.

Amendments to DM/24/00149/FPA | Construction of purpose-built student accommodation (Sui Generis) with associated car and cycle parking, pedestrian infrastructure and landscaping (amended plans received 04.12.2024) | Land To The North West Of Melbury Court Old Dryburn Way Durham DH1 5SE. The Committee **approved** the draft response to this application.

(b) To consider the latest update(s) on the following planning/ licensing/ highways matters:

The County Council of Durham (Durham City) (Road User Charging Scheme) Order 2014 (Amendment No.1) Order 2024 – reference 5175164. The Committee **approved** the response to this TRO and noted that this would also be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Parish Council's Business Committee as agreed.

DM/24/02164/FPA | Single storey rear extension to existing small HMO (Use Class C4) (description amended)| 3 Lawson Terrace Durham DH1 4EW. The Committee considered the latest amendments to this proposal and, following consultation with the neighbouring property, **agreed** to withdraw the call-in request in this case and allow the amended proposal to be approved.

(c) To consider the outcome of the following planning and/ or licensing application(s):

DM/24/02829/VOC | Variation of Conditions 1 (Approved Plans), 2 (Floor Space and Use Classes), 5 (Travel Plan) and 10 (Ecology) pursuant to hybrid planning permission DM/20/01846/FPA, to create a Data Centre and ancillary office space (Use Class E(g)(ii)) with associated landscaping and infrastructure on Plot D. | Plot D Land At Aykley Heads Framwelgate Peth Durham DH1 5UQ. The Committee **noted** that this application had now been approved and thanked the Chair for representing the Parish Council on this case.

DM/24/02888/RM | Reserved Matters submission for the matters of Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale pursuant to hybrid planning permission DM/20/01846/FPA, to create a Data Centre and ancillary office space (Use Class E(g)(ii)) with associated landscaping and infrastructure on Plot D. | Plot D Land At Aykley Heads Framwelgate Peth Durham DH1 5UQ. The Committee **noted** that this application had now been approved and thanked the Chair for representing the Parish Council on this case.

7. To consider the following new planning applications in the parish area:

a) To note:

DM/24/03355/VOC | Removal of condition 4 of planning approval DM/20/01532/FPA to remove the holiday let restriction. | Boutique Bed And Breakfast Woodland Barn Darlington Road Durham DH1 3ST. It was **agreed** to note this application.

DM/24/03137/FPA and DM/24/03138/LB | Installation of air source heat pump to rear | 142 Gilesgate Durham DH1 1QQ. It was **agreed** to note this application.

DM/24/03254/FPA | Change of use from first floor accommodation ancillary to main building, into independent one bedroom flat. | Ansford Potters Bank Durham DH1 3RR. It was **agreed** to note this application.

DM/24/03403/TPO | T1. Sycamore - Crown lift to 2.2m over grass verge, prune back from adjacent building by 2m, remove broken branch stub and branch from crown | 41 Old Dryburn Way Durham DH1 5SE. It was **agreed** to note this application.

DM/24/03419/TPO | T1 - Sycamore - Prune back branches on building side of the canopy by up to 3m, to clear building and reduce overhang | Duncruachan House Bells Folly Potters Bank Durham DH1 3RR. It was **agreed** to note this application.

b) To discuss:

N/A

8. To consider the proposal to seek support from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) to lobby Government on making health impacts one of the main licensing objectives under the Licensing Act.

Councillor E Ashby raised a concern noting the recent and worrying reports relating to alcohol-related death rates across the county. Councillor E Ashby

proposed that the Parish Council works to get a fifth licensing objective added to the Licensing Act, focused on the health impacts of alcohol.

Councillor E Ashby suggested the next steps would be:

- For the Clerk to write to the local MP to make them aware the parish council wants to raise this issue at the national level, as it would require changes to legislation.

For the Clerk to also contact CDALC to request this item be added to the agenda for upcoming meetings of larger and smaller councils in the county. The goal would be to get other local councils on board to collectively push for this change.

To notify the Police and Crime Commissioner about the Parish Council's intent to work on this, to try to get the Commissioner's support as well.

The Committee **agreed** this was an important issue to address, and supported Councillor E Ashby's proposal. The Committee also agreed to raise the profile of this work further and agenda this for an item on the Full Council meeting in January.

9. Dates of future meeting(s) of this Committee:

24th January 2025
7th February 2025
21st February 2025

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

Signed,



Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council Planning and Licensing Committee
(24th January 2025)