

Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on 17th February 2017 at 6.00 pm in St Nicholas' Lower Hall

Present: John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell, Ann Evans, David Hook, Peter Jackson, Christopher Percival, Nick Rippin.

1. Chair's Welcome and Introductory Remarks: Roger Cornwell formally opened the Annual General Meeting and remarked on the progress that had been achieved since the previous AGM.
 2. Apologies for Absence: Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Adam Deathe, Jonathan Lovell, Linda Lovell, John Lowe, David Miller, Matthew Phillips, Jean Rogers, Angela Tracy-Smith, Ros Ward. (Nick Rippin explained that Roberta Blackman-Woods MP wished very much to have been present but had to be elsewhere on duty as Shadow Planning Minister).
 3. Chair's Annual Report 2016-17: Roger Cornwell's circulated Annual Report (for copy see file) was approved. He noted special thanks to Kirsty Thomas, Ros Ward and Gavin Scott (DCC's support officer for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group prior to his retirement).
 4. Treasurer's Annual Report 2016-17: Sue Child's circulated Annual Report (for copy see file) was approved. She explained that unused funding for the consultation stage (see item 7 below) would have to be returned and a fresh application made for the financial year 2017-18. Peter Jackson re-affirmed that £400 could be made available by the Chamber of Trade for consultation projects.
 5. Questions to Officers: none.
 6. Election of Officers 2017-18: Nominations received:
 - Chair – Roger Cornwell
 - Vice Chair – John Ashby
 - Treasurer – Sue Childs
 - Secretary – John Lowe
 - Engagement Officer – Pippa Bell
- All five officer nominations were approved.
7. Update on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan: Roger Cornwell gave a verbal update to the Annual Report; the Working Group has decided that we cannot proceed and risk legal challenge on Historic England's view that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. Consideration is now being given to how best to carry out this work. The meeting agreed to allow the Working Group to draft consequential amendments to policies and texts, which will be circulated to the Forum for consideration and approval.
 8. Any Other Business (Previously notified to the Chair by 10th February): None.

The Annual General Meeting was formally closed at 6.45 p.m.