

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

On Tuesday 13th April 2010 at 730pm, Dickens Heath School

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Vaseem Arfan, Richard Holt (Chairman) and Alyson Thompson.

2 members of the public

Acting Clerk: Marie Zizzi

193. Apologies for Absence.

193.1 Philip Kendall and Charles Robinson.

194. To approve, if thought fit, the reasons if any given for absence from the meeting.

194.1 There were no comments or objections.

195. Declarations of Interest.

195.1 None.

196. Public Participation (15 minutes).

196.1 An explanation for the increase in the precept was requested.

196.2 It was stated that the 2009/10 precept had been unrealistically low. It was stated that DHPC was hoping to acquire some premises. It was agreed that the percentage increase did look high, however this was misleading, as it compared to the former HHPC precept the increase was not that much.

196.3 The Chairman stated that by looking at all the precepts for all the Parish Councils in Solihull, DH was about middle, he said the actual amount of money was not a lot.

196.4 It was requested to know who DHPC members were. The members introduced themselves and stated how long they had lived in DH. Details were also given for the absent members.

196.5 There were comments about problems with Broadband in the area.

Action Item: Clerk to write to BT and ask for an explanation as to why BT was not using the fibre optic link and to request if it was possible to have BT infinity in the area.

196.6 There were comments about the litter being quite bad by what had been the Cheswick Green Inn and around the village. There were comments about dog faeces bags being thrown around the village and the lack of bins for these.

196.7 Cllr. Thompson pointed out that there was a Borough campaign to look at issues about litter and dog fouling for the whole area.

Action Item: Clerk to contact SMBC to find out about when the litter picks were scheduled, what the arrangements for DH were and to enquire about the lack of bins in the area, what the process was for more bins to be installed.

197. To receive a report from the Borough Councillors – if present.

197.1 It was noted that Cllr. Brugess and Cllr. McCarthy had sent their apologies, they were both attending Solihull MBC Council meeting this evening.

198. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2010.

198.1 **Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Thompson, seconded Cllr. Arfan, that these Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

199. To receive a report on the finances of the council. To approve payments to be made, including petty cash and authorise Acting Clerks March payment/timesheet.

199.1 The finance report was accepted, the following payments were approved and the Acting Clerks March timesheet approved for payment.

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Thompson, seconded Cllr. Arfan

Dickens Heath Parish Council account

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
WM Police	PCSO Jan – March 2010 CG/HH/TG to pay the appropriate Contribution (invoices issued)	£6,783.76
Marie Zizzi	Petty Cash (cash in hand at 13/4 £43.50)	£ 56.50
Peter Hunt	Design and costing for possible alterations To DH Village hall	£ 235.00
WALC	Standing Orders	£ 25.00
Marshaley	Coat of Arms	£5,325.00
Crown Monies Association		

200. To consider planning applications.

200.1 There were no comments or objections in relation to any planning applications up to and including lists from Solihull MBC w/e 09/04/10.

Action Item: There were some concerns about the application for DH Community Primary school, regarding flood lights. Cllr. Thompson said she would look at the plans.

201. To receive any report(s) from Councillors that have attended any outside groups (i.e. SAC/Police Forum etc); or that have attended any outside events and resolve any actions as maybe necessary.

201.1 Cllr. Thompson had attended DH Working Party. She said they had discussed speed limits, no action was being taken, this was suspended for monitoring; parking on footpaths – liaison was taking place with the residents; outstanding road works and the adoption of roads – to be sorted by the end April, except for Rumbush Lane which would take another 3 months; drainage; street lighting – was to be reviewed. Dog fouling – a Borough campaign to deal with this; the bus service was under review; would lose a bus service and therefore only have one, possibility of bus shelter/sign; overspill parking and underground areas that were not being used.

Action Item: Clerk to write to DH Working Party and request that DHPC be kept fully informed and update regarding bus services/shelters/signs in DH.

201.2 Cllr. Arfan and Cllr. Thompson had attended a meeting with the landscape designer (Paul Cooper) from Solihull MBC, regarding the planting of the islands in DH

201.2 It was stated that most of the £40,000 allocated would be spent on admin fees. These funds were to be spent on some public modern art type sculpture for the island on the entrance to the village; the schools were to be consulted. It was stated the £2-3,000 could be spend on other islands and that DHPC had been asked to consider making a contribution.

201.3 It had been pointed out that is was expensive to have islands planted out and maintained. Paul Cooper was to come back with some plans for the next meeting.

201.4 There were comments about HH Gardening Club and looking to invite keen gardeners to get involved, with planting out the islands. It was pointed out that there would be Health & Safety issues in relation to this.

201.5 It was stated that a letter could be put in the DH directory asking keen gardens to liaise with DHPC.

Action Item: Cllr. Holt to arrange via Clerk and ask any interested parishioners to attend the next meeting.

202. To resolve appointment of Clerk/RFO/ Proper Officer for DHPC.

202.1 Cllr. Arfan stated that 4 candidates had been interviewed and the panels' recommendation was to appoint Helen Marczak.

202.2 **Resolved:** proposed Cllr. Arfan, seconded Cllr. Holt that DHPC appoint Helen Marczak as Clerk/RFO and Proper Officer for DHPC from 20th April 2010.

203. To resolve to appoint Helen Daniels as Internal Auditor.

203.1 **Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Arfan, Seconded Cllr. Thompson.

204. To resolve to formally appoint Sydney Mitchell solicitors for DHPC.

204.1 It was agreed that solicitors would be appointed as and when necessary.

205. Discuss and resolve matters in relation to DH Notice board.

205.1 Deferred to next meeting.

206. Discuss and resolve matters in relation Dickens Heath School - Stop the Drop Litter Campaign.

206.1 Cllr, Arfan gave an update. He said as a parent of a child at the school, he had received a letter about this. He reminded the members that it was a competition to design a poster and this would hopefully be displayed around the village.

206.2 This led to comments about the possibility of more litter bins in the village; what the procedure/costs would be; whether there could be bins that attached to lampposts; perhaps every other lamppost and it was felt that more bins were needed on Dickens Heath Road.

206.3 It was stated that the PC had recognised there was a problem and had engaged DH Management Company to undertake regular litter picks. It was felt this needed to be looked at and possibly extended.

Action Item: Cllr. Arfan agreed to progress this.

207. To discuss and resolve ideas regarding premises in DH at Waterside and in relation to DH Village Hall.

207.1 It was stated that DHPC was hoping to raise the necessary funds via a Public Works Loan. The form was in the process of being completed.

207.2 A report was issued and read in relation to this matter. This was accepted all in favour.

207.3 It was stated due to this matter currently being commercially sensitive; the figures could not be made public at this time.

207.4 **Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Arfan, seconded Cllr. Thompson, DHPC submit the application for the amount stated to WALC, as required.

208. To discuss and resolve any action(s) in relation items of correspondence.

208.1 Letter drafted to Mrs. Towers was approved.

208.2 Appointment of External Auditor noted.

208.3 Plans for the Village Hall and costings were looked at and payment approved.

208.4 Letter from local resident, Mr. S. Samuels noted.

Action Item: Clerk to write and thank him for the letter and Cllr. Thompson to make contact.

208.5 WALC letter regarding 2010/11 membership noted.

Action Item: To be approved at May meeting.

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Signature.....

Date.....

208.6 WALC training; induction day for Clerk, agreed that Helen Marczak should attend, all in favour.

Action Item: Form to be completed and returned with chq.

208.7 Solihull Area Committee meeting 15th April 2010; Cllr. Holt to attend.

208.8 It was stated that the payment for the Coat of Arms needed to be given to Cllr. Holt, for this matter to be progress. Payment was approved, all in favour and the chq was given to the Chairman.

209. Review issues with on going Activity Plan updated 3/3/10.

Action Item: Solihull in Bloom to be progressed, as DHPC would like the hanging baskets to go ahead.

210. Items for next agenda.

210.1 Litter.

210.2 DH Village Church – events.

201.3 It was stated that the Statutory Annual Parish Meeting for the parishioners was to take place on Wednesday 26th May 2010. However, no confirmation had been received about whether the Village Hall was available.

Action Item: Clerk to find out if hall is available/booked and if not request dates and times before 1 June 2010 when the hall is available. Basic refreshments to be organised.

211. To resolve that due to the special nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

211.1 Acting Clerk asked to withdraw from the meeting.

Meeting Ended 2145pm

Date of next meeting:

Annual Meeting of the Council Wednesday 11th May 2010