

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13th July 2010 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Vaseem Arfan, Philip Kendall, Charles Robinson.

Stephen Butterworth from SMBC

6 members of public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 45 (2010/11) To Elect a Chairman for the Meeting

It was agreed that Councillor Arfan would chair the meeting.

Minute 46 (2010/11) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Holt and Councillor Thompson.

Minute 47 (2010/11) Public Participation (15 minutes)

See appendix at end of minutes.

Minute 48 (2010/11) Gardening Club

There was a discussion, with the interested gardening volunteers, about how the club might work - involving the 20 hanging baskets, which the Parish Council owns, and maintenance of the roundabouts. Councillor Kendall had met with a representative from SMBC, they seem keen to opt out at the current time. So the PC will look at outside alternatives. Gloria Macken offered to get the ball rolling over the summer and try to set up a meeting. It was agreed to fund a half page in the DH Directory to appeal for gardening volunteers.

Minute 49 (2010/11) Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Minute 50 (2010/11) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None were present.

Minute 51 (2010/11) The Dickens Heath Public Art Project

This had been mainly covered during public participation. It was further clarified that £4,000 of section 106 funding from SMBC will be used to plant up 2 roundabouts. The Clerk to approach external contractors regarding planting of the other roundabouts in the Autumn.

Minute 52 (2010/11) Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Wednesday 26th May 2010

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson and seconded by Councillor Kendall, resolved that the minutes be approved in principle as a true and accurate record.

Minute 53 (2010/11) Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 8th June 2010

It was proposed by Councillor Kendall and seconded by Councillor Robinson, resolved that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 54 (2010/11) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingDickens Heath Working Party

It is believed that DH is underprovided for in terms of leisure facilities. An analysis of the leisure facilities that should be provided has been requested from DHWP, but never provided. Clerk to request, through David Acton of the DHWP, that SMBC provide an analysis of toddler and child play facilities – what there should be for a village of this size compared to what there actually is (LAPs and LEAPs). Response to be requested by next DHWP meeting.

Stop the Drop Litter Campaign

Clerk to remind Liz Allen about contact to get posters printed.

Litter Bins

Agreed to leave this for the moment.
The litter pick seems to be working quite well.

Traffic Issues

Councillor Robinson reported that designated pedestrian routes are to be looked at – paths and cycleways that are pedestrian friendly.

Minute 55 (2010/11) Planning Applications

Response sent regarding planning application 2010/959.
Additional application 2010/1050 95 Birchy Leasowes Lane – to fell 3 oak trees. Leave decision to SMBC.

Minute 56 (2010/11) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Kendall, seconded by Councillor Robinson. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the 13th July 2010 agenda be approved.

Minute 57 (2010/11) Dickens Heath Village Hall

They have decided they want to remain independent for the moment, issues are now in hand, and the accounts are up to date. It was agreed that the PC would just keep informed for the moment – the Clerk to request up to date accounts from Tim Aho.

Minute 58 (2010/11) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

Councillor Robinson has attended Sustainable Neighbourhoods Network in Newcastle, looking at regeneration and renewal. Dickens Heath is 1 of 6 urban neighbourhoods selected, and will be asked to host a day next year. A policy will ultimately be presented to the Government. Councillor Robinson will be doing a report.

Minute 59 (2010/11) Former HHPC Issues

The closure of the Tidbury Green Village Hall bank account was authorized and the letter signed.

The costs of storing former HHPC paperwork, approximately £54 per month, was discussed. It was agreed that DH would pay its share, this would be a third share given TGPC's refusal to contribute.

The former HH website was discussed – it was agreed that DHPC no longer has an interest in this.

TGPC's refusal to pay their share of the solicitors invoice for indemnity costs was discussed. It was agreed that the former HH cost issue should now be regarded as closed.

Minute 60 (2010/11) Ongoing ReferencesProperty Purchase

The decision to borrow from the PWLB was approved, as was the funding of an £18,000 short term deposit from the Parish Council bank account – proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Kendall. **Resolved.**

Parish Council News

All approved the draft. Article on Coat of Arms to be kept back until it's ready – Clerk to find out about timescale.

Minute 61 (2010/11) Summer Term Youth and Other Activities

Clerk to progress this.

Minute 62 (2010/11) CorrespondenceDickens Heath Fun Day

Stephen Butterworth from SMBC outlined a proposal for a Fun Day to attract footfall, to support local businesses. Parkridge used to fund this, but can't afford to this year. They will support it, but not financially. It has been successful in the past, and organised by a hired events organiser. The benefits would be to raise the profile of DH and increase community cohesion. Stephen would organise it on behalf of DH Business Forum, maybe in late September. It was agreed that the businesses need support and it would be nice for the community.

It was agreed in principle, proposed by Councillor Robinson and seconded by Councillor Kendall, to make a contribution as long as this is matched by Parkridge and the businesses. For example £1,000 each.

Stephen Butterworth to take this back to the businesses and then report back.

Minute 63 (2010/11) Items for next agenda

None.

Meeting ended 9.30 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday 14th September 2010: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School

Appendix Minute 47 (2010/11) – Public Participation

Public Art Project

A question was asked about this, and an update given which had been received from Eva. SMBC has earmarked the funds for this project and appointed Eva.

Seeking sponsorship for the roundabouts was suggested – Clerk to send out a standard letter.

Road Safety

The roundabout at Customs House, with white boarding, was discussed – visibility is poor, it's an accident waiting to happen. The boarding should be taken down or a mirror should be put up. Clerk to follow this up with Matt Gardner and write to Ian Williams at the DH Management Company and Mike Swallow at SMBC. Clerk to draft letter for Councillor Arfan to have a look at.

Dangerous parking on the corner - Garden Squares on RHS/Rumbush Lane on LHS – Gloria Macken happy to discuss this with Matt Gardner.

Youth Facility

A brief update had been received from David Acton – the DHWP is to meet in September. Cheswick Green has a meeting place on the village green – is this not an option for DH? Clerk to ask again whether DHWP is going to have a public meeting.

Empty Property - 242 Dickens Heath Rd.

There has been a fire in this property, now it is just mothballed, and a blot on the landscape. A resident asked what is happening and what can be done? Unless it is unsafe, not much can be done. Clerk to write to the planning officer at SMBC to express concern on health and safety grounds – the gates are always open.