

# The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

### **Present:**

**Dickens Heath Parish Councillors;** Vaseem Arfan, Richard Holt, Philip Kendall.

Borough Councillors: Brian Burgess, Len Cresswell

Matt Gardener  
Eva Bennett - artist

24 members of public  
Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

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### **Minute 26 (2010/11) Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Thompson's apologies were accepted.

### **Minute 27 (2010/11) Public Participation (15 minutes)**

See appendix at end of minutes.

### **Minute 28 (2010/11) Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Holt declared a prejudicial interest regarding Evans, Derry, Binnion Solicitors carrying out legal work in relation to the potential Waterside property purchase.

### **Minute 29 (2010/11) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors**

Not required, following public participation.

### **Minute 30 (2010/11) Annual Parish Meeting**

It was felt that this had been dealt with in public participation.

### **Minute 31 (2010/11) The Dickens Heath Public Art Project**

Eva Bennett introduced herself as the artist appointed by SMBC to lead the project for the public art on the roundabout by the canal. She has no design yet, this will be decided after consultation. She is running activities involving the primary school and Alderbrook Secondary School, and also at Picnic on the Green. There is information in the library and she can be contacted at dickensheathpublicart@hotmail.co.uk. She will then come up with some designs, one of which will be chosen by a SMBC panel.

Since the plans for the planting out of roundabouts is interlinked with the public art project, Matt Gardener then shared the plans for 7 roundabouts with the Parish Council and the residents. Roundabout 1 will include the public art, the rest will have either an urban or countryside theme. Matt gave some details on the planned planting. SMBC will provide the plants, plant them and provide some maintenance. The Parish Council would like to facilitate the establishment of a gardening club, to help maintain the roundabouts and encourage community spirit.

Residents comments were that they would like all the roundabouts planted out, that the artwork would need to be quite low because of visibility, and they would support a clock as part of it.

The Parish Council noted that the art project is happening, and that Eva welcomes any contribution.

**Minute 32 (2010/11) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

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

**Minute 33 (2010/11) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting**

Stop the Drop poster competition – it was agreed to go with the 2 recommended winners. The clerk to obtain WH Smith vouchers for the agreed amount of £40 each. Councillor Holt to attend the school summer fair to award the prizes.

Litter pick – DH Management Co. will continue this fortnightly.

SMBC have stated there is no funding for additional bins. Clerk to contact Councillor Cresswell to ask for his help in this matter.

**Minute 34 (2010/11) Planning Applications**

170 Main St 2010/589 – resubmission of previous application. It was agreed to repeat the recommendation of last time – a 12 month trial period.

There were no other comments on planning applications up to week ending 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

**Minute 35 (2010/11) Financial Matters**

Proposed by Councillor Arfan, seconded by Councillor Kendall. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the June 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 agenda be approved, and also the acting clerk's May payment/timesheet.

**Minute 36 (2010/11) To Resolve the issue of Tidbury Green and former Hockley Heath funds**

TG PC believe they are owed £106.93 from former HH funds. DH will invoice them for their share of the solicitors costs re indemnity of £100.80. They may not pay this. Proposed to pay TGPC the balance of £6.13.

**Minute 37 (2010/11) Tidbury Green Village Hall**

The end of year accounts were approved and signed.

It was resolved, all in favour, to pay the balance of funds in the TG village hall bank account over to TG Parish Council.

**Minute 38 (2010/11) Internal Auditor's Report**

This was considered. The auditor queried whether the approval of £100 petty cash had been minuted. All agreed that it had been approved. The clerk to draw up summary of actions to be addressed over the next year.

The Annual Return was approved and signed.

**Minute 39 (2010/11) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events**

Nothing to report.

**Minute 40 (2010/11) Ongoing References**

Property purchase at Waterside

The user clause in the lease still needs to be amended. The owner of the lease is in liquidation, and the lease will be sold. Solicitors are pushing this forward. Parish Council will need planning permission to change the use of the building, Councillor Cresswell said that this should not be a problem, and said to contact Paul Watson at SMBC.

Noticeboard – still waiting for the coat of arms.

Traffic Issues – a 20 mph limit around DH was discussed. Councillor Cresswell said that SMBC had considered this, but decided that DH had been designed to be 20 mph anyway. The PC can apply for this. Councillor Cresswell to let the clerk know who to write to.

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Signature.....

Date.....

**Minute 41 (2010/11) Summer Term Youth and Other Activities**

It was agreed that the PC should look into arranging regular activities for young people in the school holidays, 1 or 2 per week. Some ideas were discussed:

School premises have been used at Monkspath.

Coronation Youth Club, Green Lane, by Shirley Station – contact Paul Beach SMBC. They organise activities for secondary age.

Activities in the village hall or on the village green.

A £1,000 budget was approved in principle, all in favour, to fund 1 activity per week through the summer holidays.

**Minute 42 (2010/11) Correspondence**

Volunteers cleaning cable boxes with graffiti – there aren't any.

Litter bins and sweeping – clerk to ask Cllr Cresswell for help in securing additional bins.

Football team looking for a pitch – Dickens Heath doesn't have any.

Letter from Sydney Mitchell solicitors – agreed DHPC doesn't want to pursue indemnity issue any further with HHPC.

**Minute 43 (2010/11) Clerk**

Clerk proposes to work mainly Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday within the school day.

However there will need to be some flexibility. Clerk to notify Councillors when she will be on holiday.

Working with your Council – all agreed that the clerk could register for this 2 day training course.

Purchase of laptop – following some discussion, clerk to register DHPC with 'buying solutions' online – as recommended by Cllr Cresswell.

**Minute 44 (2010/11) Items for next agenda**

None.

**Meeting ended 10.25pm**

**Next Meeting : Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School**

## **Appendix Minute 27 (2010/11) – Public Participation**

### **Proposed Youth Facility**

Katie Clark spoke for a group of residents who had been shown a plan for this, then received a letter from Cllr Cresswell stating there is no definite plan. They are concerned and have questions.

Membership of DHWP was discussed – Ward Cllrs Cresswell and Burgess, Cllr Thompson from the Parish Council, and the developers (non voting).

Cllr Cresswell said there is money from the developer, £85k, for a youth facility. SMBC will be involved in how it is spent. They have been looking for land for 8 years, SMBC owns very little, the developers won't give any. It is very difficult to find anywhere. The plans residents have seen are not actually plans, just a pictorial representation. Cllr Cresswell didn't think they were suitable, but he believes young people are important and wants to do something for them. He wants to spend the £85k on what it was planned for. It cannot be near the young children's play area, needs to be slightly away from built up areas. Possibly a youth shelter and benches. Planning permission will be necessary and any proposal will go out to consultation.

The number of teenagers in DH is growing, they need something - a constructive way to deal with this needs to be found.

Cllr Burgess said that he wasn't happy with the proposal and so wanted a site visit. There have been attempts to find an alternative site, without success so far.

The village green was considered – people living around it objected.  
The school site was considered – but the school would not allow access outside of school hours.

Parkridge owns the village green, the developer owns virtually all the land.

There was a suggestion that young people would like a bus service to take them to and from Solihull.

Another suggestion was for a few benches all around Dickens Heath, so that young people could gather in small groups in lots of locations.

2 surveys were done – in October and November 2009 – but Cllr Cresswell thought this may have targeted the younger youth. This proposal is aimed at 14 to 25 year olds.

It was suggested that consultation could take place with the schools that Dickens Heath teenagers attended – Tudor Grange, Alderbrook and Light Hall. An advert in the Dickens Heath Directory could ask young people what they want.

A Parish Council sponsored youth group folded last year, professionals couldn't make it work, but this could be looked at again.

There are no sports facilities in Dickens Heath.

**Due to the strength of feeling, it was resolved to request the Dickens Heath Working Party hold a public meeting, in Dickens Heath, to discuss the youth facility.**

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Signature.....

Date.....

