

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday October 18th 2011 at 7.30pm, Parish Rooms

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Vaseem Arfan, Philip Brandum, Robert Cudmore, Richard Holt (Chairman).

Len Cresswell, Cheswick Green Parish Councillor

3 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 92 (2011/12) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Glenn.

Minute 93 (2011/12) Public Participation (15 minutes)

Diamond Jubilee

Several residents would be willing to be on a Diamond Jubilee committee to organise, for example, a street party in the village centre. The Parish Council would be happy to advertise this. It was agreed that it would be advertised on the open day flyer, and the 3 residents offered to help with delivering the flyer.

New Canal & River Trust

Councillor Len Cresswell is a member of the local waterways partnership. British Waterways will cease to exist from April 2012 and The Canal and River Trust, a charity, will take over the assets. In practice, this should mean greater scope for communities to make improvements to the canal side, working with the Trust on major projects but smaller projects carried out by volunteers – eg. Planting along the towpath. All agreed that the Parish Council would be interested in looking at canal side improvements.

Minute 94 (2011/12) Gardening Club

Matt Gardner should have the 4 planters in the next few weeks. He also has daffodil bulbs and additional lavender plants for planting.

The possibility of a Christmas tree, with lights, on the island at the entrance to the village was discussed. The Clerk to contact Matt Gardner about whether this was possible.

The barrier at this island was also discussed, and that if there could be some large planters in its place, the island would look much more attractive. It was also suggested that a noticeboard would be useful – at the entrance to the nature reserve, at the gate off Aldershaws. Matt's advice to be sought regarding both of these.

Minute 95 (2011/12) Declarations of Interest

As and when.

Minute 96 (2011/12) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None were present.

Minute 97 (2011/12) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday September 20th 2011

It was proposed by Councillor Cudmore and seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 98 (2011/12) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingLatest News Email Signups

There is a steady trickle of residents signing up for latest news emails on the website. It was agreed that this should be publicized further, on the open day flyer.

Official Opening

It was agreed that the Clerk should look into obtaining a commemorative plaque, up to around £100.

Minute 99 (2011/12) Planning Applications

There were no comments on this, or the additional planning application: 2011/1451, 62 Three Acres Lane, realign front footway.

Minute 100 (2011/12) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Cudmore, seconded by Councillor Arfan. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the October 18th 2010 agenda be approved, with an additional payment to Clement Keys, of £1,050.00, for the external audit.

The final stage payment to the building contractor is still to be assessed, but the budget report currently shows a healthy financial projection.

Minute 101 (2011/12) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

None

Minute 102 (2011/12) 1 Wharf HouseUpdate on the Parish Rooms

The future use of the Parish Rooms was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council should engage with Solihull MBC in order to involve young people in a youth council for the village. It was also agreed that the facility should be advertised with SUSTAIN, an organisation that works with charities and voluntary organisations. The 6 white tables that have been delivered cannot be folded down and are not very big. It was agreed that the Clerk should look into swapping these for some good quality trestle tables that can be folded and put away. It was also agreed that the Clerk produce a booking form for the facility, and that all proposed bookings be discussed and agreed by the Parish Council.

Fire Risk Assessment

This will need to be adopted. The capacity of the premises was discussed, the Clerk to confirm maximum capacity with McAndrew Watts

Key Holding

It was agreed that, for the moment, this would be shared by the Parish Councillors.

Cleaning

Since the Parish Rooms are not yet being used much, it was agreed that a cleaning company should be used to clean as and when necessary.

Grand Opening on Friday November 18th 2011

The invitation was approved with the addition of RSVP details. The Clerk to arrange for the printing of 60 invites for sending out.

Councillor Cudmore to look into obtaining wine and glasses, Clerk to look into ordering canapés, and obtaining some help with pouring drinks and offering canapés round. It was agreed that a caterer could be booked to provide this.

Open Day on Saturday November 12th 2011

The draft flyer to be delivered to residents was discussed. Councillor Arfan to take some photos of the premises to add to it. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for 2,000 flyers to be printed. The delivery to be shared by the Parish Councillors, Clerk and volunteers.

Minute 103 (2011/12) Youth Club Proposal

This was deferred.

Minute 104 (2011/12) Remembrance Day

St Patrick's and St James' are short of clergy, and so this can only go ahead if someone is available.

Minute 105 (2011/12) Diamond Jubilee

It was agreed that a Diamond Jubilee committee should be established with the aim of organising a village celebration.

Minute 106 (2011/12) Correspondence

The Parish Council will probably need to register with the Information Commissioners, the Clerk to look into this.

Free discussion events regarding communities' role in neighbourhood development plans – Clerk to email details round.

The complaint from a resident was discussed.

Minute 107 (2011/12) Items for next agenda

None.

Meeting ended 10 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday November 15th 2011: 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms