

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 24th January 2011 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Vaseem Arfan, Richard Holt, Charles Robinson, Alyson Glenn.

Matt Gardner
4 members of the public
Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 127 (2010/11) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Kendall.

Minute 128 (2010/11) Action Against Poverty Strategy

Jan Phillips sent her apologies, and will instead attend the March 8th 2011 meeting.

Minute 129 (2010/11) Public Participation (15 minutes)

Jean Wareing spoke about the Localism Bill, and the need to understand its local planning policies. She provided the Clerk with some planning information.

Matt Gardner stated that the planting out of 2 traffic islands should begin in February. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Paul Watson, Head of Planning at Solihull MBC for a progress report regarding the traffic islands.

Residents expressed concern about the safety of 242 Dickens Heath Rd. The property is burnt out and gates at the property have been removed. The Clerk to contact Solihull MBC to enquire about progress at the site.

The terrible state of the road at Rumbush Lane, between the 2 islands, was mentioned. This road is not adopted, Matt is meeting with Parkridge about repairs.

The main island, at the entrance to the village, is looking tatty. The Clerk to liaise with Matt and contact the Consortium about repairs to the imprinting on the traffic islands.

Matt stated that there is to be a meeting in February about double yellow lines, what is needed and where.

The 'wasteland' behind the shops was mentioned, and whether it could be used for additional car parking. This land has already been sold for housing and so would be costly. The Clerk, in liaison with Councillor Robinson and Jean Wareing, to write to Paul Watson at Solihull MBC about whether the flats could be relocated in favour of extra car parking.

Severn Trent and Solihull MBC are investigating the water leak at the Miller & Carter.

Matt is investigating the street lighting following a resident's query.

Minute 130 (2010/11) Gardening Club

Unfortunately, the planters on the main traffic island have been stolen.

Hanging baskets were discussed. The Clerk to contact Dave Tipping at Solihull MBC to find out if Enterprise could do the watering.

Minute 131 (2010/11) Solihull Core Strategy

The report submitted by Stansgate was noted – it was balanced and positive.

Minute 132 (2010/11) Allotments Fence

The Allotments Fence has been moved and partially painted green. The Parish Council had supported the Solihull MBC officers on the basis that it would all be painted green, and feel that it still spoils the entrance to the village. The Clerk to write to Chris Barr/Rebecca Webber at Solihull MBC, with a copy to Planning, to say that it is not satisfactory.

Minute 133 (2010/11) Declarations of Interest

None declared.

Minute 134 (2010/11) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None were present, and there was no report.

Minute 135 (2010/11) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 9th November 2010

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

Minute 136 (2010/11) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

The insurance for the fixtures and fittings in the property at Waterside was discussed. They are currently uninsured since the previous owner had not sought approval from Dickens Heath Management Co. The Clerk to seek short term insurance.

Minute 137 (2010/11) Planning Applications

The Clerk to obtain further details regarding 3 – 5 Wharf House, Waterside and notify Councillors.

There were no comments on 2 further applications:

2010/2124 8 Calcutt Way - ground floor rear extension for conservatory.

2011/59 11 Round Close - reduce branches in direction of 19 Meadow Pleck Lane by 3m, deadwood throughout, remove old diseased stumps, feather and tidy barrel.

Minute 138 (2010/11) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Glenn, seconded by Councillor Robinson. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the January 24th 2011 agenda be approved, 8 cheques totalling £1,462.76.

Minute 139 (2010/11) Precept 2011/12

Proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Glenn, **Resolved** that the Clerk submit the precept demand for 2011/12 to Solihull MBC for £80,000, which is no increase.

Minute 140 (2010/11) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

Parish Councillors met with Caroline Spelman MP about youth provision. She feels that it is important, will look into it and approach the Borough Council regarding land.

The possibility of using some of the land earmarked for future development in the Core Strategy was discussed, and whether development could be brought forward on the condition that there was a s106 agreement for some land for community use sooner rather than later.

The Clerk to contact Caroline Spelman's office about this.

Minute 141 (2010/11) Property Purchase at Waterside

The design produced by Arucana was discussed. It was agreed that 2 toilets were essential. The amount of storage space, and whether it was sufficient, was discussed. It was felt that the specification produced by Arucana was in insufficient detail to enable other parties to quote for the work. The Clerk to request a full specification.

Minute 142 (2010/11) Financial Regulations

Deferred until next meeting.

Minute 143 (2010/11) Power of Delegation (s101 Local Govt Act 1972)

Proposed by Councillor Glenn, seconded by Councillor Arfan, **Resolved** that the power to make decisions, in consultation with one or more Councillors, in an emergency or if required between meetings, be delegated to the Clerk.

Minute 144 (2010/11) Ongoing References

Deferred until next meeting.

Minute 145 (2010/11) Grant Application from Community Transport Solihull

Deferred until next meeting.

Minute 146 (2010/11) Local Transport Plan 3

It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the consultation and highlight the Parish Council's support for a regular bus service for Dickens Heath, and enhanced pedestrian access to Whitlocks End railway station.

Minute 147 (2010/11) Correspondence

Items for discussion deferred until next meeting.

Minute 148 (2010/11) Dickens Heath Calendar of Events

The Clerk to produce a draft.

Minute 149 (2010/11) Items for next agenda

SUNN meeting in Dickens Heath on April 12th 2011.

Minute 150 (2010/11) 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.

Minute 151 (2010/11) Former Hockley Heath Parish Council Paperwork

Deferred until next meeting.

Meeting ended 9.35 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday 8th February 2011: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School