

# The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 6.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

### **Present:**

**Dickens Heath Parish Councillors;** Philip Brandum, Robert Cudmore, Trevor Eames, Stephen Gussin (Chairman), Maureen Holloway, Di Potter, Doreen Wright.

Tanworth & Camp Hill Cricket Club; Peter Carey and Mike Shaw

10 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

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### **1. Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **2. Presentation by Peter Carey & Mike Shaw of Tanworth & Camp Hill Cricket Club/Leaffield Athletic Ladies FC**

The club has been based at Rumbush Lane for 35 years, they summarised the history of this time, of the club and its mergers. Their facilities had become very old and needed upgrading, so they applied to Sport England and the FA Foundation for significant grants, and were successful. The building of the new facilities is progressing well, with completion expected around the end of May 2016. Due to the wet winter, work on the drainage hasn't yet been started but will be starting soon, and the cricket area will be split into 2 so that cricket can still be played through the summer. The club is now a partnership of 2 sports – cricket and ladies football, and they will be relaunching the club and its new facilities in July – as Dickens Heath Community Sports Club.

There will be indoor facilities that could be used by the community, and land that could be available for a MUGA or fitness equipment. The local Scouts have already expressed an interest in using their facilities, and it might be a good location for the Dickens Heath youth club - the Parish Council confirmed that they would be happy to look at this. They finished by inviting the Parish Council to nominate a representative for their committee. A full copy of the presentation can be seen on the parish council website.

A resident asked whether the aeromodellers club would be able to use the site, they confirmed that they would be happy to discuss this.

A resident also asked about parking and said that parking on Rumbush Lane can be a real problem on match days. The club's new facilities provides an increase in parking from 20 spaces to approximately 80 spaces.

### **3. Minutes of the Previous Year's Meeting held on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2015**

These were accepted as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Cudmore and seconded by Councillor Brandum.

#### 4. Report from the Parish Council Chairman – Stephen Gussin

Chairman Stephen Gussin summarised some of the highlights and issues of the last year, which included:

- The Parish Council have started the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan, which will aim to involve all parts of the community to influence the future of Dickens Heath. The Parish Council would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in assisting with this.
- The problem of the slippery paving has finally been addressed with an agreement between the Parish Council and Solihull MBC – the paving around the islands is undergoing a deep cleanse which will be followed by monthly manual brushing to ensure the paving stays clean.
- Three of the islands are due to be replanted in the near future.
- The hours of the Parish Council's village handyman/litterpicker have been increased in order to provide an enhanced litter picking service.

Councillor Gussin finished by thanking his fellow councillors for all their hard work, and thanking village residents for their input and involvement. The full report can be seen on the PC website, included in the May newsletter.

#### 5. Draft Annual Accounts for 2015/16

These are still to be approved, and provided for information only.

#### 6. Blythe Borough Councillors invited to Speak

None present.

#### 7. Matters Raised by Electors

##### Waste Bins

There is a shortage of waste bins and dog bins. Councillor Doreen Wright feels that if more bins are provided, people will put their household rubbish in them, and Solihull MBC will not empty any additional bins. Dog waste can be put into ordinary waste bins, it was agreed that this fact should be publicized again. The Parish Council is also addressing the litter problem by funding additional litter picking hours.

##### Fly Tipping

Plastic bags have been fly tipped in Cleobury Lane. Councillor Maureen Holloway will follow this up with SMBC, this will be the 4<sup>th</sup> instance of fly tipping that has had to be dealt with this month already. If anyone witnesses fly tipping and can get a registration number, then the perpetrator can be prosecuted.

##### Abandoned Car

There appears to be an abandoned car on Old Dickens Heath Rd, to be followed up with SMBC.

##### Pavement Cleansing

Residents are pleased to see the pavements looking so clean.

##### Apartments at Copperfield Court

For Sale and To Let signs are being screwed into, and damaging, the posts in front of Copperfield Court. Councillors Trevor Eames and Maureen Holloway to have a look, but if it is on private land – there is nothing that the PC can do itself, but will ask Smart Homes which company puts up these signs, and whether they can be asked to stop screwing them into the posts.

Meeting ended 7.10pm