

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday April 18th 2017 in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Trevor Eames, Maureen Holloway (Chair), David Jones, Jill Lovett, Diane Potter, Alan Scholes, Doreen Wright.

Borough Councillor; Ken Hawkins

3 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 198 (2016/17) Apologies for Absence

None.

Minute 199 (2016/17) Public Participation

None.

Minute 200 (2016/17) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 201 (2016/17) Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Ken Hawkins apologised that he hadn't been able to attend a Parish Council meeting for a while. He gave a few updates:

- The Solihull Local Plan Review – it will take longer than had been thought. The submission document is now expected in June or July - this is due to the Government Housing White Paper, and developers are still saying that the Plan is a few thousand short on its housing numbers. There will be an Examination in Public of the SLP, but he is not sure when it will be.
- Social Care – 3% has been added to the Council tax bill for this, and it can also be added for the next 2 years. The Government really needs to make a decision on adult social care, this is a halfway measure and it needs to be sustainable beyond the next 3 years.
- The Neighbourhoods budget has been cut by over £1 million, and 25% of staff have been lost.
- The Touchwood extension is not going ahead for the moment, it will be interesting to see what happens in the future.
- Works on Rumbush Lane – Councillor Hawkins has had a look today, it is not great but better than it was.

Councillor Doreen Wright asked about development proposed for different grades of Green Belt land, and there followed some discussion about the need to use Green Belt to meet housing numbers.

Councillor Trevor Eames asked about feedback from the SLP Review. Councillor Hawkins said that there would a report to Cabinet and Full Council, but not yet as it is purdah at the moment in the run up to the elections.

Councillor Eames also asked about HS2 and UK Central, Councillor Hawkins said that HS2 is going ahead, with plans for the HS2 interchange/new airport terminal near Bickenhill/Balsall Common. Solihull MBC expects to site a lot of new houses in this area, which will greatly help with its housing numbers. This is expected to progress once the Mayor of the Combined Authority has been elected – all the authorities have a consensus on transport plans.

The Chair, Maureen Holloway, thanked Councillor Hawkins for his update.

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Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 202 (2016/17) Minutes of previous Meeting held on Tuesday March 21st 2017

Proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Wright, it was **Resolved** that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 203 (2016/17) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Tree Stakes on Rumbush Lane

Solihull MBC have removed some tree stakes, Councillor Jill Lovett has arranged for others to be removed, along with some dumped sand bags.

Memorial

Nic Wright of SMBC has submitted the new planning application, and will put together an estimate of installation costs.

Minute 204 (2016/17) Planning Applications

The Café, 8 Gorcott Lane - the proposal is not particularly attractive, but there are no grounds for objection – no comments.

9 Whitchurch Lane - this is a poor quality oak tree - no objection, but suggest that it should be replaced with a more suitable tree for the location.

6 Wrens Nest Close - no objection, leave with the Tree Officer.

Memorial Stone in the Village Centre - this is a public open space, Solihull MBC are to sort out the fixings and installation. Neighbouring residents will be notified by Planning.

5 additional planning applications were discussed:

- 2017/00277 - 22 Fishers Drive to demolish building & erect a replacement.
- 2017/00666 - 8 Old Dickens Heath Rd for a rear single storey extension.
- 2017/00641 - 14 Old Dickens Heath Rd for a loft conversion.
- 2017/00602 - 4 Meadow Pleck Lane for tree works.
- 2017/00663 - 2 Haresfield for ground floor rear & side extensions.

The Parish Council agreed that they were happy to support the Tree Officer's view on the planning application for tree works. No comments on the other planning applications.

Minute 205 (2016/17) Solihull Local Plan Consultation (SLP) and Neighbourhood Plan

In the Public Enquiry stage of the SLP Review, developers will be saying that housing numbers are too low, and landowners with sites that haven't been chosen will be bringing the sites forward.

The Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan will be going to referendum soon – they have been given a list of 56 amendments to make to it.

Because of the uncertain state of the SLP, a Dickens Heath Neighbourhood Plan cannot be taken forward until it is clarified. We will also be in a position to learn from Hampton in Arden. There should be a national template for neighbourhood plans, but unfortunately there isn't. We will have to comply with the SLP, and we don't know what that is yet.

It was agreed that an update on the SLP and Neighbourhood Plan should be publicized on the website and Facebook page.

Minute 206 (2016/17) Meeting with Tidbury Green Parish Councillors

It was agreed that the Clerk try to arrange a meeting with members of Tidbury Green Parish Council for the second half of June.

Minute 207 (2016/17) Literary Litter Pickers – Community Litter Picks for DH

Councillor Dave Jones gave an update – the second literary litter pick took place on Saturday April 15th 2017. The Scouts were unable to attend as it was the Easter weekend, so not many residents attended, but several Parish Councillors did. He thanked the Library, Tesco and Sarah from SMBC again for all of their support. The next litter pick will be held on May 13th 2017 – this to be advertised and the Scouts notified.

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Minute 208 (2016/17) Conservation Work in the Nature Reserve

Councillor Jill Lovett gave an update – it was very successful, there were more than 40 volunteers on the day. This included the Scouts, who have taken over a small area of copse, and the Apple Shop, as well as members of the community. The Scouts would also like to take over a planter. It was a very positive day and there are plans to repeat it. Councillor Lovett thanked Adam Noon of SMBC, the Solihull Conservation Volunteers and Tesco for all of their support.

Minute 209 (2016/17) Dickens Heath in Bloom and Expansion of Floral Displays

Councillor Jill Lovett gave an update – lots of people are on board with Dickens Heath in Bloom, it is all very positive. The RHS, representatives of Studley in Bloom, representatives of Fulford Heath Golf Course, Smart Homes, Elegant Homes are all willing to be involved. Councillor Lovett has arranged to meet with a judge from the RHS. The next step is to set up a committee, and Studley's advice is that ideally there should be 4 key people to organise this. Dickens Heath Management Co. are happy for the planters at Waterside to be used, and Councillor Lovett is talking to SMBC about wildlife improvements that can be made. The Chair thanked Councillor Lovett for all of her work on this.

Minute 210 (2016/17) Village IssuesMaintenance of Islands

The Parish Council maintain 4 islands – the 3 that have been planted up plus the clock island. The Parish Council have planted bulbs on the kidney island, but SMBC mow it. The island at Waterside is now the responsibility of SMBC but the other 2 islands are Redrow's still.

St Patrick's Church

The Church has had an open day, which Councillor Maureen Holloway attended, where they spoke about the Youth Group and having a Church presence in Dickens Heath. The Youth Group are looking at moving to Dickens Heath Sports Club, and will be consulting the young people and their parents on such a move.

Dickens Heath Sports Club

Fulford Heath Golf Course have offered to do some golf coaching for children in Dickens Heath for free, and could do this at the Sports Club. They would provide all the equipment. Dickens Heath Sports Club are holding a Grand Opening of their new facilities on Sunday June 25th 2017 and have invited everyone at the Parish Council. All of the Parish Councillors would like to attend if they can. The Sports Club has also asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to provide any sponsorship for the event. The Parish Council agreed that they would offer to purchase trophies – at a maximum cost of £200.

Minute 211 (2016/17) Councillors who have attended Outside Groups or Events

Councillor Doreen Wright has attended the Youth Group management meeting – they are planning an evening at Dickens Heath Sports Club for the young people and parents.

Councillor Trevor Eames gave an update about the Solihull Partnership meeting which included SMBC and Centro presentations about transport and connectivity. Councillor Eames is looking into the S3 bus service – which turns round at kidney island, but should turn at Fishers Drive according to the timetable. It was proposed that the buses should turn at the Copperfield Court island, but if any cars are parked on the island – then the buses can't turn.

Minute 212 (2016/17) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Holloway, seconded by Councillor Eames, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the April 18th 2017 Agenda be approved – a 2016/17 End of Year payment of £725.58 for the service charge and 21 payments for April totalling £8,978.40 including an additional direct debit for BT broadband and an additional payment of £60.00 for an intruder alarm callout.

End of Year Financial Statements 2016/17

Proposed by Councillor Holloway, seconded by Councillor Eames, **Resolved** that the End of Year Financial Statements for 2016/17 be approved, and they were signed by the Chair and Clerk. The bank statement was checked and verified to the bank reconciliation as at March 31st 2017 by Councillor Di Potter.

The summary figures for the Annual Return 2016/17 were received and will be formally approved at the May PC meeting.

Minute 213 (2016/17) Parish Rooms

St Patrick's Church have asked if they can hold a plant sale in the Parish Rooms on Saturday June 3rd 2017 – this was agreed.

Minute 214 (2016/17) Annual Parish Meeting on May 2nd 2017

The final arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting were agreed.

Minute 215 (2016/17) Grant Application for Festival on the Green 2017

Following some discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would offer to pay for the insurance to cover the event. It should be in the region of £250, which is what the Parish Council contributed to last year's event.

Minute 216 (2016/17) CorrespondenceTemporary Road Closure

Rumbush Lane is due to be closed from May 8th until July 23rd 2017 for works to the culvert and carriageway junction by the new developments.

NALC Consultation on Government Housing White Paper

Councillor Trevor Eames will look at this.

NALC Partnership with Woodland Trust

A parish council can become a 'Charter Branch' with regard to projects and activities around trees – the Clerk to look into this.

Query about Hedge Cutting

A resident has asked when the hedges on Dickens Heath Rd (on the Miller & Carter side) and Tythe Barn Lane (on both sides by Akamba) will be cut back. SMBC does not cut these hedges, but Matt Gardner will speak to the landowners.

Complaint about Dangerous Roads

Residents regularly complain about dangerous road edges of Rumbush Lane, Cleobury Lane and Braggs Farm Lane – Matt Gardner of SMBC will inspect them.

Braemar Estates

A resident has reported problems dealing with Braemar Estates, the landlord of apartments in Ascote Lane. Councillor Trevor Eames will follow this up.

Transport for New Homes Survey

A study is being done on transport in new settlements, and Dickens Heath is one of the 6 that have been chosen. A member of the project team will be visiting Dickens Heath, and would like to meet with representatives of the Parish Council. They would also like us to publicize the on-line survey. The Parish Council agreed that they were happy to support this study and survey.

Complaint about Lack of Maintenance in the Village

A resident's email was discussed and a reply agreed. Councillor Trevor Eames has a map of which roads in Dickens Heath have been adopted by SMBC which can be used to inform residents.

Minute 217 (2016/17) Items for Next Agenda

Annual Return 2016/17.

Minute 218 (2016/17) It was Resolved that, in accordance with paras I and II Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public should be asked to withdraw due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

Minute 219 (2016/17) Traders' Temporary Parking

Councillor Trevor Eames gave an update on the fobs that were not being used and proposed reallocation of these fobs. This was agreed.

Meeting ended 9.48pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday May 16th 2017: 7.00pm The Parish Rooms