

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday December 13th 2011 at 7.30pm, in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Philip Brandum, Alyson Glenn, Richard Holt (Chairman).

John Acres

Daryl Jones

2 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 127 (2011/12) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Arfan and Cudmore.

Minute 128 (2011/12) Public Participation

Local Development Framework

John Acres, of Catesby – a property company, outlined Catesby’s interest in one of the sites, site 20, for potential future development. The Local Development Framework currently includes sites 17, 18 and 20. These have been approved by Cabinet and will go out to public consultation in the New Year. The advantages of this site were summarized, and it was agreed that it would be beneficial if all could work together and include facilities for the youth of the village within this site. It was agreed that such a facility must be inclusive for all young people.

Minute 129 (2011/12) Youth Club Proposal

The Parish Council feel they have a duty to the young people of Dickens Heath to provide some form of youth facility. Youth workers used to run a weekly session in the village hall but this fizzled out.

Daryl Jones has a great deal of experience of working with young people and outlined his youth club proposal, which includes 2 sessions per week with a variety of activities. 4 youth workers would be required to run these sessions, and Mr Jones would first research what activities the young people would be interested in.

This proposal was further discussed later in the meeting and it was agreed that some form of joint funding with Solihull MBC should be pursued, and also the possibility of linking the youth club with a youth council.

Minute 130 (2011/12) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Holt declared a prejudicial interest in the youth club proposal presented by Daryl Jones, as Mr Jones is a family friend.

Minute 131 (2011/12) Planning – To Discuss a Response to Shaping Solihull’s Future Together (Local Development Framework)

The proposal for producing a neighbourhood plan, from Stansgate Planning, was discussed. The Local Development Framework is out for consultation in the New Year, and it was agreed that a response could be produced without this level of input from Stansgate. Councillor Brandum to look into some proposals for consulting residents and putting together a response.

Minute 132 (2011/12) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None were present.

Minute 133 (2011/12) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday November 15th 2011

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

Minute 134 (2011/12) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

It was agreed that a regular 'coffee morning' should be set up in the New Year for 'friends in retirement'.

McAndrew Watts would not recommend a fixed stairgate for fire risk reasons, and it would not be easy to instal due to the glass on the staircase. It was agreed that a temporary stairgate should be purchased for the moment.

It was also agreed that a flip chart should be purchased.

Ian Williams of the Dickens Heath Management Co. agrees that the barrier at the traffic island at the village entrance is an eyesore and can be removed. However, it will be owned by Parkridge.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Ordnance Survey and request that they resurvey Dickens Heath and produce a better map.

Minute 135 (2011/12) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 136 (2011/12) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Brandum, seconded by Councillor Glenn. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the December 13th 2011 agenda be approved.

Precept

The Parish Council would like their portion of the council tax to remain unchanged for 2012/13. If Solihull MBC are unable to provide this information in time, it was agreed that the precept should remain as £80,000 for 2012/13.

Minute 137 (2011/12) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

None

Minute 138 (2011/12) 1 Wharf House

Bookings

A lace making group has submitted a booking application for Thursday evenings, all were in support of this.

Minute 139 (2011/12) Litter and Dog Litter Bins

Residents have complained about the amount of litter on Buckridge Lane and the lack of dog litter bins around the village. It was felt that Solihull MBC would probably not be emptying any additional bins at the moment, but that the problem should still be referred to them. The Parish Council felt that it was Solihull MBC's responsibility. With regard to dog mess, the Parish Councillors would like to see reminder signs put up, and if there is any evidence of who the culprits are – then letters should be put through doors warning of possible prosecution. The Clerk to follow this up with Matt Gardner, neighbourhood co-ordinator. Matt will also keep an eye on the litter situation in Buckridge Lane.

Minute 140 (2011/12) Community Carol Singing

This has been advertised around the village, and refreshments will be offered at the Parish Rooms afterwards.

Minute 141 (2011/12) Ongoing References

Parish Council News

It was agreed that a page be purchased in another 3 bi-monthly issues of the Dickens Heath Directory.

Noticeboard

It was agreed that additional insurance should be taken out to cover the noticeboard up to the renewal date.

Youth Facility

It was agreed that Mark Rogers, Chief Executive of Solihull MBC should be invited to attend a meeting to discuss youth facilities in Dickens Heath.

Minute 142 (2011/12) Correspondence

Model Code of Conduct

It was agreed that, in line with WALC's recommendations, the Parish Council should adopt the current model code of conduct in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Parking around Waterside

A resident has raised concerns about the parking around Waterside, that roads become almost one way. These roads have not yet been adopted by Solihull MBC. It was agreed that the Highways department at Solihull MBC should be made aware of these concerns.

Complaint against a Councillor

A decision notice has now been received from the Monitoring Office, and the Parish Council need take no action.

Minute 143 (2011/12) Items for next agenda

None.

Meeting ended 10.30 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday January 17th 2012: 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms