

## The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> 2012 following the public meeting held at 7pm, in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

**Present:**

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

Borough Councillor: Ken Hawkins

5 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

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**Minute 160 (2011/12) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Arfan and Councillor Cudmore.

**Minute 161 (2011/12) Public Participation**

The poor condition of many roads and footpaths was raised again. However, the position on whether roads and footpaths have been adopted by SMBC is not clear. It is proposed that regular Tuesday meetings should be held with Borough Councillors and Officers, and this will be an opportunity to clarify which roads, footpaths and open spaces have been adopted.

**Minute 162 (2011/12) Gardening Club**

The first barrier at the traffic island at the entrance to the village is to be removed, and replaced with planters. Matt Gardner is obtaining quotes.

**Minute 163 (2011/12) Planning – An Update on a Response to the Solihull Draft Local Plan**

It was proposed by Councillor Brandum and seconded by Councillor Glenn that Stansgate Planning should be instructed to produce a draft response for the Parish Council to approve. The Clerk, with the assistance of Stansgate, to produce a template response as soon as possible – that can be put on the noticeboards and website.

**Minute 164 (2011/12) Declarations of Interest**

As and when required.

**Minute 165 (2011/12) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> 2012**

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

**Minute 166 (2011/12) Planning Applications**

No comments.

**Minute 167 (2011/12) Financial Matters**

Proposed by Councillor Brandum, seconded by Councillor Glenn. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the February 21<sup>st</sup> 2012 agenda be approved, 10 cheques and 1 direct debit totalling £9,761.13.

Direct debit payment forms for BT and npower were authorised and signed.

The Parish Council currently holds a surplus of just over £47,000 and is projecting an end of year carry forward of approximately £40,000.

**Minute 168 (2011/12) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events**

All agreed that regular meetings should be held on Tuesday mornings with Solihull MBC Councillors and Officers to discuss concerns regarding the village. It was agreed that this should also be open to the public.

**Minute 169 (2011/12) 1 Wharf House**

It was agreed that the Bridge Club could use the Parish Rooms on Wednesday evenings. The issue of regular users of the Parish Rooms gaining access in the evening was discussed. The Parish Council were not keen for all regular users to have their own key. The Clerk to find out whether this would affect the insurance, and whether DHMC might be able to assist with holding a key.

**Minute 170 (2011/12) Litter**

There have been complaints about litter in the village, particularly in the bushes and hedgerows. The Clerk to find out whether SMBC or DHMC are responsible for litter picking the hedgerows.

**Minute 171 (2011/12) Hanging Baskets for 2012**

2 options were discussed: whether to accept the offer from Plantscape to provide the same number of lamp post baskets as last year plus watering, or to purchase baskets to go on the traffic island railings and to arrange the watering ourselves. The watering of so many baskets twice a week for 3 months is a very large time commitment, and there was concern that low level baskets would be open to vandalism. It was agreed therefore, all in favour, to accept the offer from Plantscape for lamp post baskets.

**Minute 172 (2011/12) Freedom of Information Act and Notification with the ICO**  
Deferred.

**Minute 173 (2011/12) Charter for Better Working between Solihull MBC and Parish Councils**  
Deferred.

**Minute 174 (2011/12) Ongoing References**

Jubilee Committee

The Jubilee leaflet has been delivered, and they will report back to the March Parish Council meeting.

Youth Facilities

At a meeting with the Parish Councillors, Shelley Ward of SMBC had agreed to check on the funds available and what they could be used for, and also to take a look at the youth facilities in Meridan.

Expansion of DH School

The Clerk to ask the school whether they would welcome a parish council representative on their governing body.

**Minute 175 (2011/12) Correspondence**

Sydney Mitchell has asked whether they should place their files regarding the former Hockley Heath Parish Council into storage. The Parish Council would prefer to know what the files are, and go through them.

It was agreed that the Clerk could attend the WALC Briefing Seminar.

**Minute 176 (2011/12) 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.**

**Private Section**

**Minute 177 (2011/12) Parish Clerk's Workload**

The workload has increased significantly since the Parish Rooms have been open. A temporary solution was discussed to deal with the backlog of work.

**Meeting ended 9.30 pm**

**Next Meeting : Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup> 2012: 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms**