

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday January 17th 2012 at 7.30pm, in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

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

SMBC Councillor Martin McCarthy for part of the meeting

4 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 144 (2011/12) Apologies for Absence

None

Minute 145 (2011/12) Public Participation

Jubilee Committee

The Jubilee Committee have produced a formal document which details their plans. These include participating in the Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday June 3rd, which is a national event, with a 1950s themed street party on the village green/village hall/Main St. Ideas include entertainment on the day, an exhibition and recollections in the library/village hall and picnics/food stall holders, as well as a street party with music and possibly a light show. Local businesses will be encouraged to join in. A flyer has been designed to inform residents and encourage volunteers.

The issue of funding and the use of a bank account was raised. The Dickens Heath Community Association bank account has been dormant for a while, with a small balance. The paperwork for this is held by Councillor Glenn, who along with Councillor Holt is a member and signatory of the Association. It was agreed that the Jubilee celebration for the village would be an appropriate use for this account, and that the Parish Council would make an additional donation of £500 to get things started.

The Parish Council thanked the Jubilee Committee for all their hard work, and agreed that the committee should bring a full financial proposal to the next meeting. The Clerk to purchase a flip chart before the next committee meeting.

Minute 146 (2011/12) Gardening Club

Councillor Brandum and Councillor Cudmore have met with Matt Gardner of SMBC and Ian Williams of DHMC about the barrier at the entrance to the village. It was agreed that the barrier can be removed and replaced with 3 planters. The Parish Council will pay for the removal and DHMC can help with storage. Matt will provide the planters. The Parish Council will be responsible for moving these planters if access to the road is required in the future. It was also agreed by Ian Williams that a planter can be placed at the back door of the Parish Rooms to ensure that cars do not block it as a fire exit. Matt will also supply this, the Parish Council to meet any costs.

Minute 147 (2011/12) Planning – An Update on a Response to Shaping Solihull's Future Together

Consultation documents are to be sent out in the last week of January, and the consultation deadline is 6 weeks later. It was agreed that the document should be circulated to Councillors and details put up on the noticeboards, and that a representative from SMBC should be invited to attend a public meeting in the village to explain the proposal for future development on the 3 identified sites.

Minute 148 (2011/12) Declarations of Interest

As and when required.

Minute 149 (2011/12) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Martin McCarthy had come on from a meeting at the Village Hall, and gave an update on this. There has been a change in the management team and the financial situation is greatly improved.

Minute 150 (2011/12) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday December 13th 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 151 (2011/12) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingTuesday Club

Only 1 resident turned up to the first coffee morning. It was agreed that U3A should be invited along, and to do some more advertising.

Youth Facilities

Parish Council to meet with Mark Rogers, CE of SMBC and other senior officers to discuss the possibility of joint funding a youth service or facility.

Minute 152 (2011/12) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 153 (2011/12) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Cudmore, seconded by Councillor Glenn. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the January 17th 2012 agenda be approved, 5 cheques totalling £1,126.43.

Precept

It was agreed that the precept for 2012/13 should be £80,837. This will leave the parish council element of the council tax unchanged from last year.

Insurance

The quotes from Came and Co. and Zurich were discussed. The Parish Council is in its first year of owning the Parish Rooms and it is essential that specialist advice can be relied on. Came and Co. have provided an excellent service over the last year, however – Zurich have provided a quote which is just over £100 cheaper. Therefore the Parish Council agreed to place the insurance with Zurich, which quoted £925.28 for one year or £873.73 per year on a 3 year agreement. It was agreed to go with the 3 year agreement.

Asset Register as at January 2012

The asset register was received and agreed, with the addition of the grant of the coat of arms. The Clerk to seek advice on the replacement cost of this.

Parish Rooms Charging Policy 2012

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not charge for the use of the Parish Rooms in 2012 in order to encourage use by the community.

Minute 154 (2011/12) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or eventsCarol Singing

This was a great success, with around 70 people participating and many coming back to the Parish Rooms afterwards. It would have been ideal to have some refreshments in the village centre, next year – a request to be put in to Mortons.

Minute 155 (2011/12) 1 Wharf House

Cre8 Health and Fitness have been running some weight loss seminars in the Parish Rooms.

Minute 156 (2011/12) Woodbourne Sports Club

They are applying to Sport England for a grant, and would like a letter of support from the Parish Council. All agreed this.

Minute 157 (2011/12) Ongoing References

Hanging Baskets

Not all of the hanging baskets from Plantscape thrived very well last year. It was agreed that various options for hanging baskets in 2012 should be explored.

Minute 158 (2011/12) Correspondence

Environmental Champions Newsletter

It was agreed that a request be put in for an organised litter pick in the village, and that a litter hand grab should be purchased.

Diamond Jubilee Beacons

Braggs Farm was suggested as a suitable site for a beacon, to be discussed with the landowner.

Offer of Help from a Resident

An offer of help has been received from a resident, which the Parish Council greatly appreciates, and a few ideas were discussed.

Minute 159 (2011/12) Items for next agenda

Litter.

Meeting ended 10.15 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday February 21st 2012: 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms