

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday July 19th 2011 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Vaseem Arfan, Philip Brandum, Robert Cudmore, Alyson Glenn.

Solihull MBC Councillor; Ken Hawkins (until 8.05pm)

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 54 (2011/12) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Holt. It was agreed that Councillor Arfan should be Chair for the meeting.

Minute 55 (2011/12) Public Participation (15 minutes)

Near Waterside there is a lot of parking on a blind bend. Matt Gardner will be putting letters on the windscreens of these cars. If this doesn't work – the borough council will consider further action such as yellow lines.

Minute 56 (2011/12) Gardening Club

Councillor Cudmore has met with Matt Gardner to discuss various issues:

The 2 traffic islands which have been planted up will be finished off with lavender plants – which will give some colour, are hardy and good for bees. Solihull MBC will provide these.

All planters across the borough must be standard – ie. brown, a corporate identity. Matt will check whether SMBC have some spare planters, and he can provide the soil.

Bulb planting – Matt Gardner can supply the bulbs and will contact the school to ask if they are able to help with the planting.

Matt has agreed to make a donation of £500 to gardening club.

At Waterside, there are 9 concrete planters. Parkridge have suggested that gardening club could take over their maintenance, which would give them funds to use elsewhere.

It was agreed that the next Parish Council News should include an update on all the progress that is being made, with a plea for more help from the village gardeners.

Minute 57 (2011/12) Declarations of Interest

As and when appropriate.

Minute 58 (2011/12) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Hawkins gave an update on the Shirley development scheme which now has the go ahead.

Parking by the school is a problem – Councillor Hawkins will see the head teacher about it, and suggest newsletters should go to parents and the children could design posters to go up on lamp posts.

Broadband survey – Councillor Hawkins has delivered letters to some residents to highlight the survey.

Councillor Hawkins will be holding a surgery at Dickens Heath library – on the first Thursday morning in August, and will see how it goes.

Minute 59 (2011/12) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday June 21st 2011

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

Minute 60 (2011/12) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Clerk to remind Councillor McCarthy regarding chasing up the next meeting of the Dickens Heath Working Party and the village clock.

Clerk to research additional powers for parish councils.

Minute 61 (2011/12) Planning Applications

There was one additional application : 2011/1099 – 89 Birchy Close – cut back overhanging oak tree to raise crown to 5m from ground.

No comments on either.

Minute 62 (2011/12) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Glenn, seconded by Councillor Brandum. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the July 19th 2011 agenda be approved.

Having discussed the Parish Council's current financial position - it was agreed, all in favour, that an application should be made to the Public Works Loans Board for a loan of £70,000 for the refurbishment of 1 Wharf House.

Minute 63 (2011/12) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

Councillor Brandum gave an update on the Rural Partnership Forum – the agenda for this meeting was not too relevant to Dickens Heath.

Minute 64 (2011/12) 1 Wharf House

A meeting is being held on Tuesday July 26th 2011 with McAndrew Watts and the contractors in order to agree start and finish dates for the refurbishment.

Minute 65 (2011/12) Youth Provision

Youth provision in the village was again discussed. It was agreed that an advert should be placed in the Dickens Heath Directory to ask young people what they would like, and where.

Minute 66 (2011/12) Litter

Apart from in the village centre, there are no bins in which to put litter. Matt Gardner has agreed to look into whether Solihull MBC can provide some. It was suggested that 'Litter Champions' are needed for different areas around the village – who would be prepared to look after that area, pick up litter and encourage other people to do the same. It was agreed that a plea should be placed in the Dickens Heath Directory.

Minute 67 (2011/12) Ongoing ReferencesWebsite

It was agreed that the front page should include some 'latest news' .

Minute 68 (2011/12) Correspondence

In the SAC papers, a suggestion is made that parish councils should put aside contingency funds to deal with any possible grievances. The Parish Councillors noted this but didn't feel it was currently necessary.

The Local Development Framework Core Strategy Conference run by Solihull MBC will be attended by Councillor Brandum.

Warwickshire County Council have produced a guide for providing activities for young people – most of the successful schemes eg. youth sessions, skate parks, youth shelters, are not deemed suitable for Dickens Heath.

Solihull Local Development Framework : Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation. Any sites identified will be published for consultation later in the year. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a response at that point.

The Clerk has received a phone call from Redstone Mortgages regarding 242 Dickens Heath Rd. which has been repossessed and they have been shocked to find the condition it is in. They are trying to establish what has happened to the property, and when.

Minute 69 (2011/12) Items for next agenda

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, opening of 1 Wharf House.

Meeting ended 9.15 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday September 20th 2011: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School

