

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday June 21st 2011 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

Present:

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

Martin McCarthy – Borough Councillor (until 8pm)

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 34 (2011/12) Apologies for Absence

None

Minute 35 (2011/12) Public Participation (15 minutes)

The traffic islands in the village were discussed, and in particular the one by Brixfield Way. The islands need finishing off – something simple like black matting and stones would suppress the weeds. It was felt there is a general lack of action regarding finishing off the village – the traffic islands, clock, yellow lines and the painting of street furniture all require attention. Councillor McCarthy agreed to contact Matt Gardner, the estate manager and Mike Eastwood at Solihull MBC about these issues.

Minute 36 (2011/12) Gardening Club

Plantscape to be contacted regarding the possible purchase of some large tubs for planting up.

Minute 37 (2011/12) Declarations of Interest

To be declared when relevant.

Minute 38 (2011/12) Feedback on Annual Parish Meeting

The talk by University of the Third Age was very interesting, it was a pity so few residents attended. It was agreed that next year a leaflet drop should be done to advertise the Annual Parish Meeting.

Minute 39 (2011/12) Minutes of the previous meetings held on Tuesday 17th May 2011 and Tuesday 31st May 2011

It was proposed by Councillor Glenn and seconded by Councillor Arfan, **Resolved** that the minutes for 17th May 2011 be approved as a true and accurate record.

It was proposed by Councillor Brandum and seconded by Councillor Glenn, **Resolved** that the minutes for 31st May 2011 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 40 (2011/12) Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 24th May 2011

It was proposed by Councillor Cudmore and seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the minutes for 24th May 2011 be approved in principle as a true and accurate record.

Minute 41 (2011/12) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetings

Library Roof

SMBC appear unwilling to share information regarding the collapse of the library roof with the Parish Council. It was agreed that a letter of complaint should be sent to the Chief Executive of SMBC. The Parish Council wishes to explain to residents how this incident has happened, detail action being taken and how it is to be monitored – we expect to be treated as partners.

Minute 42 (2011/12) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 43 (2011/12) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Cudmore, seconded by Councillor Brandum. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the June 21st 2011 agenda be approved.

It was **Resolved** that the bank mandate should be updated so that the signatories on the bank accounts are the current Parish Councillors, plus the Clerk for administration purposes only. It was **Resolved** that the position of Secretary for this purpose should be held by the Clerk.

Minute 44 (2011/12) Internal Auditor's Report

The very positive internal auditor's report was discussed, and it was agreed that the conclusion of the report should be put on the Parish Council website.

Minute 45 (2011/12) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

None

Minute 46 (2011/12) 1 Wharf House

The updated designs and cost schedule from McAndrew Watts were discussed. Clerk to check that the cost of an alarm is included. It was **Resolved** that, subject to borrowing approval being granted, McAndrew Watts be instructed to proceed, and also to include the stonework sign.

It was agreed that adverts should be placed in the near future – for expressions of interest from groups who may wish to use the premises, free of charge.

It was **Resolved** that, once borrowing approval is granted, an application should be made as soon as possible to the Public Works Loans Board for a loan of up to £100,000. The form was completed and signed to ensure that there will be no delay.

Minute 47 (2011/12) Risk Assessment Policy

It was agreed, all in favour, that the risk assessment policy be adopted.

Minute 48 (2011/12) Dickens Heath Village Hall

The Chair of Dickens Heath Village Hall has asked whether they can advertise on the Parish Council's website and forthcoming noticeboard. It was agreed that the Parish Council wishes to work collaboratively with the directors of the Village Hall, and that the Chair should be invited to a future Parish Council meeting to discuss this.

Minute 49 (2011/12) Former Hockley Heath Parish Council Storage Costs

Paperwork belonging to the former Hockley Heath Parish Council has been in storage for many months, but has now been removed and sorted through. Hockley Heath and Tidbury Green Parish Councils have decided not to pay a share of the final 6 months storage costs – leaving Cheswick Green Parish Council to foot the bill. It was agreed that Dickens Heath, as the successor council, would offer to pay half of this cost.

Minute 50 (2011/12) Youth Provision

Deferred.

Minute 51 (2011/12) Ongoing References

Plantscape have agreed to resite some of the hanging baskets that are hidden by overhanging trees.

Minute 52 (2011/12) Correspondence

WALC guidance on whether Councillors need to register under the Data Protection Act was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council would have a policy of all correspondence going through the Clerk.

A resident has expressed concern about ducks with 'angel wing' on the canal at Waterside. The disease is caused by feeding on white bread. It was agreed that an article to inform residents about this should be sent in to the Dickens Heath Directory.

Minute 53 (2011/12) Items for next agenda

Litter.

Meeting ended 10pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday July 19th 2011: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School