

# The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

### **Present:**

**Dickens Heath Parish Councillors;** Vaseem Arfan, Richard Holt, Philip Kendall, Charles Robinson, Alyson Thompson.

Matt Gardner

3 members of the public (gardening club)

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

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### **Minute 85 (2010/11) Apologies for Absence**

All present.

### **Minute 86 (2010/11) Public Participation (15 minutes)**

Residents again brought up the issue of parking on roundabouts, and dangerous parking in general. Police are able to move vehicles deemed a hazard, but mirrors can't be put up on the highway since that is also regarded as a hazard. Matt Gardner suggested he could send out letters asking for more considerate parking.

Clerk to send residents' concerns to Jim Harte, Director of Transport and Highways, and also to chair of DHWP. Concerns include:

Blind spot caused by white boarding at Customs House/Wharf House/Rumbush Lane

Unfinished roads

Unmade roundabouts

Halt of building work behind white boarding

Lack of provision for young people

Residents are concerned about undeveloped Garden Squares, it's an eyesore and health & safety risk. Clerk to contact Legal Services dept. at SMBC and check whether there is legal obligation to develop within a certain timescale.

### **Minute 87 (2010/11) Dickens Heath Public Art Project**

This will be discussed at DHWP meeting on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 2010. Clerk to send views of Parish Council to the 3 Borough Councillors. The Parish Council would still prefer a clock, Councillor Bob Sleigh can advise on cost.

### **Minute 88 (2010/11) Gardening Club**

The gardening club have had a walk round with Matt Gardner, and wish to start on a triangular bed on the approach to the village. They will do terms of reference and some costings. They want to try and get one thing done.

The issue of a Christmas tree was raised. The church usually organise this. All agreed the Parish Council should offer to buy the tree, Clerk to contact the church.

### **Minute 89 (2010/11) Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Holt declared a prejudicial interest regarding the purchase of the property at Waterside.

### **Minute 90 (2010/11) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors**

None were present, and there was no report.

**Minute 91 (2010/11) Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

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

**Minute 92 (2010/11) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting**

Traffic Issues

The traffic islands are a serious health and safety risk, particularly the main island at the hump back bridge with children going to school. It was agreed that a request should be made for double yellow lines on the traffic islands.

Noticeboard

The coat of arms should be ready within a month. When the noticeboard is ordered, Clerk to invoice Matt Gardner for £1,000.

Clerk's Review

Clerk to suggest some days in December for a review at around 4/5 pm.

**Minute 93 (2010/11) Planning Applications**

Additional planning application:

2010/1452, 16 Three Acres Lane, garage extension & conversion to form lounge.

Councillor Robinson to look at 77 Birchy Leasowes Lane. No comment on the rest.

**Minute 94 (2010/11) Financial Matters**

Proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Arfan. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the October 12<sup>th</sup> 2010 agenda be approved, 6 cheques totalling £1,598.82. The external audit has now been completed with an unqualified audit opinion.

**Minute 95 (2010/11) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events**

Councillor Robinson gave a summary of the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network that he attended on behalf of Dickens Heath. The next meeting is in Telford, and he feels that continued attendance is worthwhile and that a meeting should also be held in Dickens Heath.

**Minute 96 (2010/11) Solihull Local Development Framework - Draft Core Strategy**

The Core Strategy was discussed along with the fact that Caroline Spelman MP wishes to meet with the Parish Council to discuss provision for young people. It was agreed that Stansgate, as part of the consultation response, should state that: if further land is developed, then some provision should be made for young people as part of it. Clerk to forward this view to Stansgate.

**Minute 97 (2010/11) Budget/Precept for 2011/12**

All agreed there should be no increase in the precept. Clerk to bring draft budget to next meeting.

**Minute 98 (2010/11) Rural Mobile Project**

All felt it was disappointing that the football sessions in Dickens Heath are not a success, and that is worth trying a relaunch. The football, specifically aimed at teenagers, should be advertised again properly. Clerk to contact Kath Hemmings about this.

**Minute 99 (2010/11) Property Purchase at Waterside**

Councillor Holt left the room while the statement from Evans, Derry, Binnion was discussed.

All agreed, **Resolved** that the account totalling £165,351.97 for the purchase of the property plus associated costs, should be paid.

Clerk to check buildings insurance within the contract and whether it includes windows.

**Minute 100 (2010/11) Correspondence**

The Dickens Heath Business Forum's decision not to fund a fun day at the moment was discussed. All felt that the Parish Council was still prepared to contribute in support of local businesses. A Christmas market was suggested. Clerk to contact Stephen Butterworth.

**Minute 101 (2010/11) Items for next agenda**

None.

**Meeting ended 9.25 pm**

**Next Meeting : Tuesday November 9th 2010: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School**

**Appendix**  
**Minute 102 (2010/11) - Pre Meeting about the Allotments Fence**

**Present:**

**Dickens Heath Parish Councillors** : Philip Kendall, Charles Robinson, Alyson Thompson

Chris Barr – Solihull MBC  
Rebecca Webber – Solihull MBC

Clerk : Helen Marczak

**Chris Barr gave a summary as follows:**

- There have been requests for a fence for some time, due to antisocial behaviour.
- They recognise that there was no consultation, and they apologised for that.
- They recognise that the galvanised fence stands out, but it was the cheaper option.
- They were not aware that the fence went against planning issues, so they are working with the planning department. They want to keep the fence, but make it look more attractive.
- They plan to move the fence behind the vegetation and then paint it green so that it will be more camouflaged.
- It should then not be visible except at the entrance. At the entrance 70 extra plants, hawthorn etc., will be put in to form a hedge in front of the fence.
- Solihull MBC recognise that they got it wrong. The fence has to be moved because of planning issues. It won't cost too much and over time the plants will grow, and hide the fence.
- The fence will be moved within a month.

All of the Councillors present felt that this was reasonable and that the changes are satisfactory.