

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday September 14th 2010 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

Present:

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

3 members of the public (gardening club)

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 64 (2010/11) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Robinson.

Minute 65 (2010/11) Public Participation (15 minutes)

Members of the gardening club were the only public present.

Minute 66 (2010/11) Dickens Heath Public Art Project

See appendix at end of minutes.

Minute 67 (2010/11) Gardening Club

The gardening club have had a walk around the village to identify areas for potential improvement. The entrance to Dickens Heath feels like the 'back door'. They would like a welcome sign – maybe this can be on the island with the art project. They would like to put up some planters, made by local carpenters. Clerk to contact Matt Gardner about progressing this.

The new metal fence around the Solihull MBC allotments was discussed. Councillors and the gardeners present think it is ugly and inappropriate. Clerk to draft letter to request that it is removed and replaced with a more appropriate fence.

Minute 68 (2010/11) Declarations of Interest

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

Minute 69 (2010/11) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None were present, and there was no report.

Minute 70 (2010/11) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 13th July 2010

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

Minute 71 (2010/11) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Dangerous Parking

Cars are still parking dangerously on traffic islands, obscuring the view. It is dangerous for pedestrians, there is going to be an accident, with a particular risk of safety to young people. Cars are ticketed quite regularly but then return. Double yellow lines are needed. Clerk to write to police and Solihull MBC.

Coat of Arms

The proof of the Coat of Arms was approved.

Minute 72 (2010/11) Planning Applications

Additional application 2010/1472 – 77 Birchy Leasowes Lane – amendments to approved planning application 2010/801 to alter eaves height of roof without altering the ridge height, addition of rooms to loft area and provide access stairs. No comment.

Minute 73 (2010/11) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Kendall, seconded by Councillor Thompson. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the 14th September 2010 agenda be approved, plus an additional £188 for the clerk's 2 day WWYC course.

The Annual Return has been slightly amended in line with the external auditor's requirements.

Minute 74 (2010/11) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

The Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network report was deferred until the next meeting when Councillor Robinson is able to present it.

Minute 75 (2010/11) Solihull Local Development Framework - Draft Core Strategy

In Dickens Heath, 2 fields have been identified for future development. All agreed that the Parish Council needs to respond to this document, and agreed that Stansgate Planning should be instructed to assist in this, all in favour.

Minute 76 (2010/11) Parish Council Website

Proposed by Councillor Arfan, seconded by Councillor Kendall, it was agreed that Bob Galloway be asked to build the Parish Council website. The Councillors would like a .gov.uk domain, and the main colours on the website to be green and gold, as on the coat of arms. Clerk to check that we will be able to update the website.

Minute 77 (2010/11) Review of Parkridge Litter Collection Arrangements

It was felt that the litter is not too bad, and more could be done with the money spent on litter picks. It was agreed that 28 days' notice should be given on the litter pick contract, for reasons of financial prudence.

Minute 78 (2010/11) Ongoing ReferencesNoticeboard

This will have 3 sides, to include a map, parish council information and retail information. Matt Gardner has £1,000 towards it in this financial year, and DH Management Co. has agreed to contribute £500 plus installation. All agreed that it should be ordered now the coat of arms is complete. Councillor Kendall to look out paperwork.

Hanging Baskets

Next summer, the Parish Council would like hanging baskets at every traffic island, on the lamp posts around the islands – up to 8 baskets on each of the 7 islands. Up to 56 baskets in total. Clerk to approach a provider with the aim of a long term relationship. Clerk to also enquire about watering.

Minute 79 (2010/11) Correspondence

Partnership forums and Blythe:

Blythe has been in the Shirley/St Alphege partnership forum, but should it be part of the rural forum which includes Knowle and Dorridge? It was agreed that the rural forum was more appropriate for Blythe. Clerk to notify SMBC of this view.

Minute 80 (2010/11) Clerk's 6 Month Employment Review

It was agreed that Councillor Arfan and Councillor Holt would undertake this.

Minute 81 (2010/11) Items for next agenda

None.

Minute 82 (2010/11) 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.

No members of the public present.

Meeting ended 9.45 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday 12th October 2010: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School

Private Section

Minute 83 (2010/11) To discuss the property purchase at Waterside

The latest situation was discussed.

Meeting ended 9.45 pm

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