

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday September 20th 2011 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

Present:

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

Matt Gardner – Neighbourhood Co-Ordinator (until 8pm)

Vicky Barclay – DH Village Hall (until 7.45pm)

1 member of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 70 (2011/12) Apologies for Absence

Not applicable.

Minute 71 (2011/12) Dickens Heath Village Hall

Vicky Barclay, a director of the Village Hall, outlined the circumstances there and how they have turned around a difficult financial situation. She asked whether they could place some information about the Village Hall on both the Parish Council website and forthcoming noticeboard. This was agreed later in the meeting.

Minute 72 (2011/12) Environmental Champions

Trish Willetts had sent her apologies.

Minute 73 (2011/12) Gardening Club

Councillor Cudmore and Matt Gardner have planted some lavendars on the traffic island at Rumbush Lane, and some on the big traffic island. There are also some bulbs for planting. Matt Gardner has bought 4 planters for the village, which will go on Rumbush Lane following consultation with the residents.

Minute 74 (2011/12) Declarations of Interest

As and when.

Minute 75 (2011/12) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None were present.

Minute 76 (2011/12) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday July 19th 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 77 (2011/12) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Village Clock

Matt Gardner gave an update on the village clock. The approval of the planning and works for the clock is due to go to the November Cabinet meeting. Realistically it will be April before the clock is installed. It would be better placed on a hard surface rather than a soft planted surface – for maintenance purposes. This would incorporate imprinting around the clock with some borders for planting. The Parish Councillors decided that they would prefer the railings to remain on the traffic island for protection, and also for the brick foundations of the railings to be tidied up. It was agreed that the Clerk should confirm that the Parish Council supports

the low maintenance option, with some provision for beds plus tidying up of the infrastructure of the traffic island.

Parking

Matt Gardner is putting letters on cars that park badly, which is having a positive result. Yellow lines have been put down near the school, residents are currently being given adjustment time.

Minute 78 (2011/12) Planning Applications

No comment.

Minute 79 (2011/12) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Arfan, seconded by Councillor Cudmore. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the September 20th 2011 agenda be approved,

It was agreed that the Clerk should check with the insurance company that the Parish Council has sufficient insurance for the Parish Council/public use of 1 Wharf House.

It was also agreed that the hanging baskets had not all bloomed very well this year, and that this should be reviewed for next year.

Minute 80 (2011/12) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

None.

Minute 81 (2011/12) 1 Wharf House

It was agreed that various groups who may have an interest in using the Parish Rooms should be contacted. The University of the 3rd Age have interest groups. Local schools may be interested in involving their pupils in a youth council. The Borough Councillors could use the Parish Rooms for their surgery. Solihull MBC, WALC, Matt Gardner and voluntary organisations to also be contacted.

It was agreed that a flyer should be delivered to residents to advertise a Saturday open afternoon early in November 2011 and to invite community groups to look at the Parish Rooms.

Clerk to draft programme for Grand Opening on Friday November 18th 2011 for approval.

Minute 82 (2011/12) Opening of Old Dickens Heath Road

The issue of Old Dickens Heath Road was discussed, and whether it should be opened to help the businesses in the village centre. It was felt that the road was never intended to be a cut through for cars, it runs by the side of the children's play area, residents had bought the properties on the basis that it was a pedestrian and cycle route only, and that it wouldn't materially alter footfall to the shops. However, the Parish Council does want to see the shops flourish and so it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Ian Williams at DHMC to offer support.

Minute 83 (2011/12) Diamond Jubilee

The Diamond Jubilee will be a long weekend – June 2nd to 5th 2012. It was agreed that a group should be set up to look at this. It was also suggested that a flyer could be delivered to residents to advertise that the Parish Council has set aside a sum which is available for resident organised celebrations.

Minute 84 (2011/12) National Planning Policy Framework

Every parish/neighbourhood should have a plan. The consultation document produced by Stansgate was discussed, and that it could be revamped to provide a plan for Dickens Heath and the plots of land around the village. All agreed that the Clerk should contact Stansgate about producing such a formal document.

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 20th September 2011 at 7.30pm

Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 85 (2011/12) Parkridge Holdings

Administrators are looking at all parts of the business. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mark Rogers at Solihull MBC to note that Parkridge is having trading difficulties and that the Parish Council would like to be kept informed. The Parish Council would also like to meet with a representative of the Dickens Heath Management Co. to offer support at a difficult time.

Minute 86 (2011/12) Remembrance Day

It was agreed that the new vicar at St Patricks should be invited to hold a small Remembrance Day service in the village centre, as last year, and that 2 wreaths should be purchased with a total donation of £100 to the British Legion.

Minute 87 (2011/12) Ongoing References

Councillor Holt to draft the next Parish Council News for the Directory.

Minute 88 (2011/12) Correspondence

Councillor Holt to look at the correspondence from Sport England. Centro – there have been great improvements at Whitlocks End train station. The crossing remains a concern , especially for school children, it is a health and safety risk. A response to Centro was agreed - to query whether the bus is going into the park and ride, and to request better signage with respect to which platform each Birmingham train is leaving from. Following a communication from John Acres, it was agreed that he should be invited to the public forum of a future meeting.

Minute 89 (2011/12) Items for next agenda

None.

Minute 90 (2011/12) 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.

Minute 91 (2011/12) Clerk's Annual Review

The Clerk's annual review was discussed.

Meeting ended 10.05 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday October 18th 2011: 7.30pm

