

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday April 12th 2011 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Alyson Glenn, Richard Holt, Philip Kendall.

1 member of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 192 (2010/11) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Arfan and Councillor Robinson.

Minute 193 (2010/11) Public Participation (15 minutes)

There was a discussion about brightening up the village with more colourful trees and plants, such as flowering cherry trees and daffodils on the verges. Clerk to contact Matt Gardner to enquire whether this would be possible. It was also agreed that the Clerk should contact Plantscape about the provision of 2 large tubs with soil, which could be planted up by Gardening Club.

Minute 194 (2010/11) Litter

Litter in the village was discussed, and the possibility of encouraging residents to 'look after' an area.

Minute 195 (2010/11) Village Clock

The proposals, put forward by Dickens Heath Working Party, for the village clock were discussed. The Parish Council's preferences to be forwarded.

Minute 196 (2010/11) Hanging Baskets

All were in agreement with the floral baskets being hung on the lamp posts identified by Plantscape. It has been confirmed that this proposal qualifies for Solihull in Bloom, and it was agreed that the matched funding of £250 should be donated to Gardening Club.

Minute 197 (2010/11) Ward Action Plan

Some ideas were discussed regarding the Dickens Heath Parish Council priorities that should be included in the Ward Action Plan. These included provision for young people, litter, the 'finishing off' of the development in the village centre and the degradation of the imprinting on squareabouts.

Minute 198 (2010/11) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Holt declared a prejudicial interest as a neighbour of 1 Brockhurst Lane – planning application 2011/441.

Minute 199 (2010/11) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

No Borough Councillor was present, and there was no written report. It was agreed that the Parish Council meeting should be moved to the third Tuesday of each month, which would better suit the Borough Councillors, if this is convenient for Councillor Arfan.

Minute 200 (2010/11) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday March 8th 2011

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

Minute 201 (2010/11) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Allotments Fence

It was agreed that the compromise offer to paint the 2 end panels should be accepted, and this will then be an end to the matter.

Library Roof

It was agreed that a copy of the report into the collapse of the library roof should be requested, then the Health and Safety Executive could be asked for an opinion. The residents of Dickens Heath need to be reassured that a proper investigation has taken place.

Bike Storage

Concern was expressed that a storage shed for bikes would not be a provision for all of the community, and that the Parish Council needs to use its funds to the benefit of the whole community.

Noticeboard

The noticeboard has been ordered.

Minute 202 (2010/11) Planning Applications

There were no comments on the planning applications.

Minute 203 (2010/11) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Glenn, seconded by Councillor Kendall. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the April 12th 2011 agenda be approved, along with additional payments of £1,440.00 to Accolade Measurement Ltd. for balustrade testing at Wharf House, and £100.00 returnable deposit to Dickens Heath Village Hall for the Annual Parish Meeting. The end of year Receipts and Payments report, Bank Reconciliation and draft Annual Return were approved.

Minute 204 (2010/11) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

The Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network had met today in Dickens Heath, 2 Parish Councillors had been present and it had been an interesting day. Details to follow.

Minute 205 (2010/11) Property Purchase at Waterside

The tendering process is due to be completed at the end of April 2011, all agreed that the tender should be awarded following advice from McAndrew Watts, project manager. It was suggested that the Parish Council will need a company to be a 'key holder' for 1 Wharf House, Clerk to research this. Clerk to also initiate the process of putting in a phone line and broadband.

Minute 206 (2010/11) Elections, First Meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting

3 Councillors stood for election and have been duly elected. The options for co-opting into the remaining positions were discussed.

A speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting was also discussed – Clerk to contact University of the 3rd Age, and WALC for possible speakers.

Clerk to place advert in the Dickens Heath Directory to publicize the Annual Parish Meeting on May 24th 2011 and a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

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Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 207 (2010/11) Correspondence

Clerk to provide Solihull MBC with Parish Councillors' up to date email addresses for mailing lists.

Minute 208 (2010/11)

As this was Councillor Kendall's final meeting, Councillor Holt extended thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for all of his work and commitment over the past 2 years.

Meeting ended 9.30 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday May 17th 2011: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School