

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday February 8th 2011 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Vaseem Arfan, Alyson Glenn, Richard Holt (Chairman), Philip Kendall, Charles Robinson.

Colin Smith and Lisa Ollis - Centro
Simon Hibbs - Plantscape
Matt Gardener – Solihull MBC
11 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 152 (2010/11) Apologies for Absence

Trish Willetts, Environmental Champions Co-Ordinator.

Minute 153 (2010/11) Centro

The representatives from Centro outlined developments at Whitlocks End train station:

- Park & Ride – tenders are expected soon. This will result in a doubling of current car parking spaces to 278 in total, with further potential to expand.
- There will be an extension of CCTV and lighting, during times when trains are running.
- They realise the road is a danger for pedestrians and there are plans for a crossing point, with plenty of visibility, plus a footpath.
- Planned bus stops for the S7.
- They are looking at reducing the speed limit on the road.
- They are also looking to put in a footbridge to access one platform from the other.

Minute 154 (2010/11) Plantscape

Simon Hibbs demonstrated some hanging baskets and planters. They have a water reservoir, so are self watering, and only need topping up twice a week. Lamp posts would need to be stress tested before anything is hung on them.

It was resolved that £2,000 be allocated from next year's budget for lamp post baskets (plus watering), on a planted up rental basis, around the traffic island at the village entrance and in the area around the village green. The Clerk to contact Plantscape to arrange this.

The possible purchase of 1 or 2 empty flower towers, for gardening club, was also discussed. These are easy to water, and relatively theft proof. Clerk to discuss with Plantscape.

Minute 155 (2010/11) Public Participation (15 minutes)

The proposed housing sites within the Solihull Core Strategy, and the Parish Council's response, were discussed.

Litter was discussed. Solihull MBC has a statutory obligation to pick up litter. Resident to email film of litter in Dickens Heath, Clerk to then write to Chief Executive of SMBC.

The collapse of the library roof was discussed. It was resolved to write to the Chief Executive of Solihull MBC in order to express concern at the building collapse and for reassurance that other buildings built at the same time do not pose a risk. Also to enquire whether there is to be a proposed prosecution due to the health and safety risk.

Minute 156 (2010/11) Declarations of Interest

To be declared when appropriate.

Minute 157 (2010/11) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None were present, and there was no report.

Minute 158 (2010/11) Minutes of previous meeting held on Monday 24th January 2011

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

Minute 159 (2010/11) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Parish Council's insurance was discussed. Additional insurance is required for the property's tenants improvements. Aon, the current insurer, has not provided a quote despite numerous phone calls. It was resolved that the quote from Came & Co. (Aviva) for £811.84 for more comprehensive parish council insurance, including the tenants improvements, be accepted for a year. The Clerk to cancel the insurance with Aon.

Minute 160 (2010/11) Planning Applications

Councillor Robinson to look at the Griffin Lane footpath planning application 2010/1776. There were no comments on additional planning application no. 2011/104, 69 Birchy Close, for a 2 storey extension to LHS of detached garage (amendment to previously granted 2010/959).

Minute 161 (2010/11) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Kendall. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the February 8th 2011 agenda be approved, plus additional payments of £811.84 to Broker Network Ltd. for insurance and £216.00 to Carasol Ltd. for website annual support.

Minute 162 (2010/11) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

None

Minute 163 (2010/11) Property Purchase at Waterside

The specification produced by Arucana was discussed. It was agreed that further detail was required, to enable contractors to quote on the same basis. It was agreed that Councillor Holt would contact McAndrew Watts for advice on a more detailed specification. It was also agreed that the end of May 2011 should be a realistic target for completing the work required.

Minute 164 (2010/11) Financial Regulations

It was resolved, all in favour, that the Financial Regulations be adopted.

Minute 165 (2010/11) Ongoing ReferencesNoticeboard

Clerk/Councillor Kendall to order the noticeboard. A high resolution digital copy of the Coat of Arms is required, the supplier of the noticeboard may be able to produce this.

Parish Council Website

It was agreed that photos of Councillors and the Clerk should be on the website. Clerk to speak to photographer.

Minute 166 (2010/11) Grant Application from Community Transport Solihull

The grant application was considered. The Councillors decided to reject it on this occasion because it was felt that Dickens Heath residents would not particularly benefit. However, they agreed that this project could be considered in the future.

Minute 167 (2010/11) Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network Meeting

This is to take place in Dickens Heath on April 12th 2011. SUNN is a 2 year project, looking at urban neighbourhoods, which will inform government policy. It is an all day event. It was agreed that the Parish Council needs to be represented there and will make a financial contribution.

Minute 168 (2010/11) Dickens Heath Calendar of Events

Clerk to look at Solihull MBC Mayor's website for ideas.

Minute 169 (2010/11) Items for next agenda

Litter.

Minute 170 (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.

Minute 171 (2010/11) Former Hockley Heath Parish Council Paperwork

This was discussed. It was agreed that the paperwork currently in storage should be sorted and distributed between the 4 new Parish Councils.

Meeting ended 10 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday 8th March 2011: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School