

## The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 7.30pm, Dickens Heath School

**Present:**

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

Brian Burgess : SMBC Councillor

Jan Phillips : Head of Income and Awards, SMBC

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

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**Minute 172 (2010/11) Apologies for Absence**

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

**Minute 173 (2010/11) Public Participation (15 minutes)**

There were no members of the public present.

**Minute 174 (2010/11) Action Against Poverty Strategy**

Jan Phillips, Head of Income and Awards at Solihull MBC, gave a presentation on the Borough Council's Action Against Poverty Strategy. This will ensure that Solihull MBC complies with the Child Poverty Act, but they are looking at the whole spectrum of poverty, not just child – which will benefit the whole community. They are interested in DHPC's view on poverty.

The Parish Councillors discussed some questions raised by Jan, and the conclusions were:

Although South Solihull is generally affluent, people are losing their jobs and will have financial worries. They may not know who to turn to.

Jan to include some information and contact details on the Parish Council News page in the Dickens Heath Directory.

The Parish Council will be happy to hold information and facilitate workshops at the new premises.

**Minute 175 (2010/11) Gardening Club**

The traffic island at the entrance to the village was discussed, and that the proposal for a village clock was well received at the last Dickens Heath Working Party meeting. Clerk to contact the Working Party to ask what is happening.

**Minute 176 (2010/11) Litter**

All agreed that litter is a problem in Dickens Heath. Clerk to contact Kath Hemmings and Matt Gardner to find out what the current practice is, and should be, regarding litter clearing. A proposal for a village 'litter picker' to be considered following the elections in May 2011.

**Minute 177 (2010/11) Parking of Bikes**

An email from a Dickens Heath resident, about the lack of space to safely leave bikes and a proposal for cycle stores, was discussed. Clerk to ask WALC whether any Government funds are available to encourage environmentally friendly travel. Clerk to send a copy to Ian Williams, of DHMC, and ask if there is any space available. Clerk to also contact Cycling Officer at Solihull MBC.

**Minute 178 (2010/11) Declarations of Interest**

To be declared as and when applicable.

**Minute 179 (2010/11) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors**

Councillor Burgess apologised that he was unable to be present at more Dickens Heath Parish Council meetings since there is often a clash with SMBC meetings. He gave an update regarding the problems in 'finishing off' the village, and gave an assurance that he will not support further development without youth provision in those areas. The bench should soon be installed at Aldershaws. DHPC will seek to change its meeting night to one that better suits the Borough Councillors.

**Minute 180 (2010/11) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2011**

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

**Minute 181 (2010/11) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting**Imprinting on Traffic Islands

Solihull MBC have stated that it is too expensive to repair the imprinting. Clerk to respond that the Parish Councillors don't accept this, the islands are heavily used, unsightly – and it is only going to get worse.

Allotments Fence

The fence is still aesthetically unpleasant, Clerk to respond that the Parish Council don't accept that it is too difficult to paint it all green. Clerk to again write to planning to check whether the fence has planning permission.

Library Roof

The Parish Council don't accept Solihull MBC's response that no prosecution is required. Clerk to request a copy of Solihull's building control team records in order to be satisfied that buildings erected at the same time as the library are safe.

**Minute 182 (2010/11) Planning Applications**

There were no comments on the planning applications, nor on additional planning applications:

- 2011/211 - 29 Boundary Lane - ground floor rear extension.
- 2011/256 - 15 Old Dickens Heath Road - ground floor rear extension to form conservatory.
- 2011/295 - 2 Griffin Lane - 2 storey side extension.
- 2011/323 - 52 Tythe Barn Lane - first floor rear bedroom, & ground floor rear family room & kitchen extension plus ground floor rear store room extension to detached garage.

**Minute 183 (2010/11) Financial Matters**

Proposed by Councillor Kendall, seconded by Councillor Arfan. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the March 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 agenda be approved.

The large balance currently held in the Parish Council's current account was discussed along with the interest rates available on deposit accounts. It was agreed that the very low interest rates available would generate so little interest that it would not be worth the administration time.

All agreed that the Clerk should contact Bill Robinson to carry out the internal audit.

**Minute 184 (2010/11) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events**

None

**Minute 185 (2010/11) Property Purchase at Waterside**

McAndrew Watts have viewed the property, Councillor Holt to forward their proposals.

**Minute 186 (2010/11) Elections, First Meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting**

Councillor Kendall apologised for not being as active on the Parish Council recently, and stated that he would not be standing for re-election. Clerk to send nomination papers out to all other Councillors. To generate interest from potential nominees, Councillor Arfan to email contacts in the village and Clerk to draft letter to Solihull News, and put advert in library.

It was agreed that the first meeting of the new Parish Council should be on Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2011.

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should again be in the Village Hall. Clerk to enquire about dates towards the end of May 2011, and then email round the Councillors.

**Minute 187 (2010/11) Ongoing References**

Parish Council Website

'Dickens Heath Parish Council' in google doesn't bring up the website. Clerk to contact Bob Galloway to find out if this can be rectified.

Parish Council News

This will include 'Action against Poverty' information.

**Minute 188 (2010/11) Correspondence**

A street party for the Royal Wedding was discussed. All agreed that the Parish Council would be happy to encourage and financially support this, if residents come forward with their ideas.

**Minute 189 (2010/11) Items for next agenda**

None.

**Minute 190 (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 191 (2010/11) Former HHPC Issues**

There is to be a day at Cheswick Green Village Hall to sort out the paperwork received to date, and to decide what should be done with it.

**Meeting ended 10.05 pm**

**Next Meeting : Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2011: 7.30pm Dickens Heath School**