

Parish Council News – January 2018

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council's meetings are now on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, the first meetings of 2018 will be on January 9th and February 13th. Please come and join us, with an opportunity to ask questions at the start of the meeting.

Happy New Year

We hope that everyone has had an enjoyable Christmas and we are looking forward to a very busy 2018.

Remembrance Sunday Service 2017



The Remembrance Service was once again a great success, and the Parish Council would like to thank everyone who participated – including Reverend Theresa Jones and Andrew Simpkins who led the service, Krzys Weber who played The Last Post, Dickens Heath Scouts who attended in large number and laid their individual poppies, Fastaid and the Police for their assistance, Dickens Heath Management Co. for the loan of the barriers, Councillor Alan Scholes for putting together the beautiful Remembrance plaque, the Library, Coffee Cloud, and to all our residents who attend and make it such a special event.

Christmas Events in the Village

The Parish Council once again funded the purchase of the Village Christmas tree, and a very successful lighting service was held by Dickens Heath Church on December 2nd. By a happy coincidence, the lamp post solar Christmas trees also switched on that same evening. All of these trees have really enhanced the Christmas spirit in a snow covered Dickens Heath. The wintry weather almost put paid to the annual carol singing outside Tesco, as members of St Patricks church were unable to travel to Dickens Heath. The Parish Council were keen that it should still go ahead, and would like to thank Andrew Simpkins of Dickens Heath Church for stepping in at short notice to allow this to happen.

Dickens Heath in Bloom

The Parish Council would like to thank resident Bob Cudmore for assisting them in planting 2,000 bulbs and we look forward to seeing them brighten up the village in the Spring. We will be making plans for the planting out and maintaining of all the planters around Dickens Heath, and we hope that residents will take pride in their village, and that some of you will be willing to assist us in maintaining the planters through the Spring and Summer, particularly in the run up to the judging of In Bloom 2018.

Village Improvements

- **Welcome Gates** – the Parish Council have purchased some new ‘Welcome to the Village’ gates which will be installed by Solihull MBC on the approach to clock island from Miller and Carter. We are looking forward to seeing these installed around the New Year, they will be a great improvement on the current ‘Welcome to Dickens Heath’ sign.
- **Cleansing of Islands** – the pavements around the islands, which get overgrown with moss and are then very slippery, have been a source of concern for years. The Parish Council have agreed an on-going cleansing programme with Solihull MBC, some islands have been cleaned and the rest will be done in turn over the next few months.
- **Playground** – by the New Year we hope that the playground will have been repaired and reopened, but the Parish Council are well aware that this is only a temporary fix and a long term solution is required. Following the intervention of Borough Councillors Ken Hawkins and Richard Holt, Solihull MBC have now agreed to assist the Parish Council in their aim to acquire the playground and completely update it. It is inevitable that it will take time to progress this, but we are now hopeful that the Parish Council will be able to give the village a new playground.

Maureen Holloway

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

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