

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday March 20th 2012 at 7.30pm, in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

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

Borough Councillor; Ken Hawkins

5 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 178 (2011/12) Apologies for Absence

None

Minute 179 (2011/12) Public Participation

A resident raised concerns about the speed of traffic on Tythe Barn Lane, by Akamba.

Councillor Hawkins offered to progress this.

Concern was also raised about drugs activity at the bridge over the canal in this part of the village. The police are aware of this, but the Clerk to forward these concerns.

There was a query regarding the Solihull Draft Local Plan and whether there can be objections to the 2 sites already removed from the Green Belt. Development is likely to go ahead, but objections can be raised in the future about the type of development.

The incomplete state of the village was again raised, and whether SMBC can take control to finish off the village. Councillor Hawkins agreed to look into whether the Dickens Heath Working Party can be resurrected.

Minute 180 (2011/12) Jubilee Committee

The Jubilee Committee have contacted local businesses and several will sponsor and/or get involved. They have put together a financial plan – to include a stage with bands and performers. The Parish Council agreed that they were prepared to make a donation to the event, but would like to see some contributions from the big businesses to ensure that the event is really successful.

5% of households responded to the survey on the leaflet, which was very helpful.

Since this is a sub committee of the Parish Council, there will already be public liability insurance in place. The Clerk to check whether any additional insurance will be required.

The Parish Council thanked the Jubilee Committee for all their hard work.

Minute 181 (2011/12) Gardening Club

SMBC's contractor has provided a quote of approximately £600 for removing the barrier at the entrance to the village, and delivering 4 large planters ready for planting. Approval is still awaited from the Fire Service.

An email has been received from a resident asking whether the redundant 'roundabout' sign beyond this barrier can be removed. The Clerk to ask Matt Gardner.

The hanging baskets have been ordered, the Clerk to find out whether they can be a red, white and blue theme.

Minute 182 (2011/12) Planning – An Update on the Solihull Draft Local Plan

The Parish Council's submission has been made, and acknowledgement received.

Minute 183 (2011/12) Declarations of Interest

As and when required.

Minute 184 (2011/12) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Hawkins agreed to progress the concern regarding traffic speed on Tythe Barn Lane, and to look into whether the Dickens Heath Working Party can meet again.

Minute 185 (2011/12) Minutes of Previous Meeting and Public meeting - both held on Tuesday February 21st 2012

It was proposed by Councillor Glenn and seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that both sets of minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 186 (2011/12) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingLitter

It was agreed that if Matt Gardner can provide the SMBC litter pick schedules, the members of the Parish Council will check that they are being carried out.

Minute 187 (2011/12) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 188 (2011/12) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Cudmore, seconded by Councillor Arfan, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the March 20th 2012 agenda be approved, 9 cheques totalling £3,437.87.

Direct Debit

The direct debit form for BT Internet Services was authorized and signed.

Precept

The Parish Council element of the council tax has increased by 0.6% when it should have been zero. The Clerk to contact SMBC to ask why.

VAT

It was agreed that a claim should be made to HMRC for the full VAT amount, with a covering letter to state that our policy is not to charge for the use of the Parish Rooms and that commercial organisations will therefore be asked to give some free sessions back to the community in lieu.

Internal Auditor

It was agreed that Bill Robinson should again be appointed as internal auditor.

Minute 189 (2011/12) Annual Parish Meeting 2012

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on May 15th 2012, to start at 7pm. It was agreed that the Clerk should order some refreshments.

Minute 190 (2011/12) Parish Rooms

A free fitness session for retired residents is planned for April 24th 2012 at 11am.

Minute 191 (2011/12) Meeting with SMBC Councillors/Officers on March 13th 2012

It was agreed that minutes should be made available on the website.

It was agreed that, with the approval of all participants, these meetings should be advertised as open to the public.

Minute 192 (2011/12) Freedom of Information Act and Notification with the ICO

There are issues with data protection that the Parish Council needs to address, Councillor Glenn to advise.

The Clerk to seek quotes for a desktop computer for the Parish Rooms office.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should register with the ICO.

Minute 193 (2011/12) The Press – Dealing with Enquiries

It was agreed that all future enquiries from the press should be dealt with by drafting a press release for approval by at least one Councillor.

Minute 194 (2011/12) Correspondence

Website

Carasol, who maintain the Parish Council website are offering a free upgrade to a CMS system – so that we can add content ourselves. All agreed to accept this.

Members' Code of Conduct

The standards regime will be changing, and it was agreed that the Parish Council will adopt the code of conduct as recommended by Solihull MBC.

Minute 195 (2011/12) Items for next agenda

None.

Minute 196 (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 197 (2011/12) Parish Clerk's Workload

Temporary admin assistance was approved for 3 months.

Meeting ended 10.30 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday April 17th 2012: 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms