

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday April 17th 2012 at 7.30pm, in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Vaseem Arfan, Philip Brandum, Robert Cudmore, Alyson Glenn.

Borough Councillor ; Martin McCarthy

2 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 198 (2011/12) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Holt. It was agreed that Councillor Arfan would be Chairman for the meeting.

Minute 199 (2011/12) Public Participation

New Development – Griffin Lane

It is anticipated that a planning application to build new properties in the field off Griffin Lane will be sent to Solihull MBC in the near future, since some preparation work has already taken place. Solihull MBC is likely to reject this planning application on the basis that it is premature to the emerging Local Plan (which has a longer timescale for the development), but it may well be approved on appeal. Once the Local Plan is approved, the timescales for development will be fixed, but currently they are not. The Parish Councillors agreed that they were opposed to the early development of this site – it would be unsustainable given the infrastructure of the village, and the village centre needs to be completed first.

Minute 200 (2011/12) Jubilee Committee

The Jubilee Committee are concentrating on getting the health and safety paperwork done, and seeking sponsorship and advertising in the jubilee programme and on their banners. The event will be publicized and the programmes delivered in advance. The Parish Council again thanked the committee for all of their hard work.

Minute 201 (2011/12) Gardening Club

The contractor is ready to deliver the planters which are to replace the barrier at the entrance to the village, but we are still waiting for fire service approval.

Minute 202 (2011/12) Declarations of Interest

As and when required.

Minute 203 (2011/12) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor McCarthy suggested that the Environmental Champions could arrange for the tatty boarding around Garden Squares to be repainted. The Parish Council have written to BNP Paribas, who are responsible for the boarding, to request permission.

The squareabouts are very expensive to repair, Councillor McCarthy suggested that the Parish Council should be pushing Solihull MBC to look at different options for their repair.

The waste area by the car park behind Tescos was also discussed – Solihull MBC has the power to take this over and finish it. Councillor McCarthy agreed to look into this.

Minute 204 (2011/12) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday March 20th 2012

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

Minute 205 (2011/12) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingSpeed of traffic on Tythe Barn Lane

Kath Hemmings to look into a neighbourhood speed watch exercise.

Village Clock

Solihull MBC hope to install this in the summer, although it has not yet gone out to tender.

Minute 206 (2011/12) Planning Applications

None.

Minute 207 (2011/12) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Glenn, seconded by Councillor Brandum. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the April 17th 2012 agenda be approved, 10 cheques and 1 direct debit totalling £12,434.68.

Proposed by Councillor Cudmore, seconded by Councillor Glenn, **Resolved** that the financial statements for the year to March 31st 2012 be approved and signed.

The 3 options for the purchase of a desktop computer were considered. It was agreed that Councillor Glenn would seek advice from the SMBC IT department and make a recommendation.

Minute 208 (2011/12) To receive any reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

None.

Minute 209 (2011/12) SMBC - Sport and Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment

It was agreed that a response to this survey should highlight the lack of such facilities in the village.

Minute 210 (2011/12) Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday May 15th 2012 at 7pm

It was agreed that an information pack should be produced and refreshments ordered.

Minute 211 (2011/12) 1 Wharf House

Following the light burning out in one of the toilets, the smoke detectors and fire alarm have been checked and confirmed to be working.

The licence for works for the refurbishment has been received from the landlord for signing.

It was agreed that Councillor Holt should read through it before signing.

It was agreed that the Parish Rooms could be booked for a meeting of Polish residents.

Minute 212 (2011/12) Solihull Area Committee

It was agreed that a member of another parish council would be welcome to attend a future meeting to explain the benefits of attending SAC.

Minute 213 (2011/12) Ongoing References

Litter

It was agreed that 4 additional litter bins should be requested, along with the litter pick schedules from SMBC.

Youth Facilities

The Parish Council have had a couple of meetings with SMBC officers, who are looking at options, financing and possible sites.

Traffic Issues

The exit turning left out of Birchy Close is very tight, and the kerb needs moving back. It was agreed that this was an issue for the bimonthly village meetings with SMBC Councillors and officers.

Temporary Admin Support

The contract was signed for Hannah Raithby-Allin to work for 3 hours per week for 3 months on a temporary basis.

Minute 214 (2011/12) Items for next agenda

None.

Meeting ended 9.20 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday May 15th 2012: 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms