

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday October 16th 2012 at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Philip Brandum, Robert Cudmore, Alyson Glenn, Richard Holt (Chairman), Josh O'Nyons.

2 police officers, 9 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 64 (2012/13) Apologies for Absence

None.

Minute 65 (2012/13) Public Participation

Unmaintained State of the Village

Residents are pleased with Solihull MBC's response to the maintenance problems.

Whitlocks End Train Station

Walking to the station along Tythe Barn Lane, there are pinch points where foliage needs cutting back – pedestrians have to walk in the road, which isn't safe. A pavement needs to be put in, and additional lighting. The station has been upgraded, but the infrastructure hasn't. The Clerk to follow this up.

Proposed Gypsy/Traveller Site at The Uplands, Dickens Heath Rd

The Clerk to find out about the decision timetable.

Police Update

There has been a spate of bike thefts – 1 thief has been caught, and another is being monitored. Dickens Heath Management Co. is working with the police, and residents are being asked to ensure that gates are shut, and that bikes in the underground car parks are secured.

Keyless cars are being stolen by thieves who block the locking signal. Owners should double check that their cars are locked.

The police gave an update on 'Street Watch' which is an extension of Neighbourhood Watch. Police officers guide and train a number of volunteers who are prepared to give around 2 hours of their time per month. These volunteers are insured through the police, and report back to the police on problem issues. Street Watch is running successfully in Yorkshire, and has been set up in Balsall Common – it is non confrontational, yet gives a visible assurance to residents. The Parish Council agreed to include this on their page in the Dickens Heath Directory.

Minute 66 (2012/13) Gardening Club

It was agreed that the 4 planters should be replanted with winter plants at the beginning of November.

Minute 67 (2012/13) Declarations of Interest

As and when.

Minute 68 (2012/13) Minutes of previous meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Brandum and seconded by Councillor Cudmore, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday July 17th 2012 be approved as a true and accurate record. It was proposed by Councillor Glenn and seconded by Councillor Holt, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday September 18th 2012 be approved as a true and accurate record.

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Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 69 (2012/13) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingSolar Christmas Trees

Solar Christmas trees have been ordered for 20 lamp posts around the village, the specific lamp posts need to be identified.

Parking

Solihull MBC are working on a new proposal to tackle the parking problems. The Clerk to contact DHMC about the ticketing of cars on their property, about installing new signs to the car parks, and a sign from the canal - the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute toward the cost of the signs.

Minute 70 (2012/13) Planning Applications

There were 2 additional planning applications: 62 Birchy Close – erection of 2 storey dwelling, and 12 Marshfield – loft conversion with rear dormer window & extension to existing garage. The Parish Council wished to express concern regarding the loss of trees at 62 Birchy Close, no comments on the other planning applications.

Minute 71 (2012/13) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Cudmore, seconded by Councillor Glenn. **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the October 16th 2012 agenda be approved.

The projected end of year position is a surplus of approximately £50,000. Taking into account the retention of a recommended reserve of up to 50% of the precept, this should allow a capital repayment of around £10,000 to the Public Works Loans Board.

Minute 72 (2012/13) Outcome of Meeting with SMBC Officers about Road Adoptions and Lack of Maintenance in the Village

Much progress has been made in tidying up the village since the meeting on September 25th 2012. The traffic islands still need to be tidied up, and also the security of the Garden Squares site is still a concern – children with bikes and skateboards have been seen inside the footings. It was agreed that this should be formally reported to Solihull MBC.

Minute 73 (2012/13) 1 Wharf House

There has been a request to use the Parish Rooms for a zumba class during the day on Fridays. This was agreed as long as one class per month is offered for free to residents.

It was agreed that the new U3A branch in Cheswick Green should be approached with an offer to use the Parish Rooms free of charge.

Jarvis Eite have returned to rectify some of the 12 month defects.

Minute 74 (2012/13) Griffin Lane Development

The Clerk to contact Planning regarding their recommendation for this planning application, and when the Parish Council might be able to make representations.

Minute 75 (2012/13) Whether the Number of Councillors should be Increased

Given the advice from Deborah Merry at Solihull MBC, it should be possible to increase the number of parish councillors for Dickens Heath to 6. However, it was agreed that this should not be pursued at the moment, because an even number of councillors is not ideal with regard to voting, and more councillors will make the meetings more difficult to manage.

Minute 76 (2012/13) SMBC Guidance on the Dispensations Procedure

Solihull MBC have advised that parish councils will need to grant dispensations with regard to discussing the budget and precept for parish councillors who own properties in the parish. It was agreed that the Clerk should provide the councillors with dispensation forms.

Minute 77 (2012/13) Remembrance Day

It was agreed that Councillor Holt would ask Reverend Theresa Jones to again lead the Act of Remembrance in the village centre. The closure of the roads around the library has been approved by Highways - the Clerk to order road closure signs, 2 wreaths, and Councillor Glenn to borrow high vis vests. The Clerk to source road barriers, advertise the event and contact the school, Brownies, press etc.

Minute 78 (2012/13) Correspondence

Matt Gardner is arranging for the Probation Service to repaint the hoardings around the Garden Squares site.

Minute 79 (2012/13) Items for next Agenda

Youth facility/club/services.
Street Watch

Minute 80 (2012/13) 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 81 (2012/13) The Workload of the Parish Council and Possible Solutions

Village Handyman

A proposal for a village handyman was discussed.

Clerk's Workload

The workload of the Parish Council has increased, some possible solutions were discussed.

Meeting ended 9.50 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday November 20th 2012: 7.30pm