

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

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

Present:

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

SMBC Councillor; Linda Brown

2 police officers, 13 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 82 (2012/13) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Glenn.

Minute 83 (2012/13) Public Participation

Appeal for a Skate park

Two young residents of the village, Jack and Will, made an appeal for a skate park – before they and their peers grow up. They don't necessarily need anywhere too big, just somewhere with a few 'lumps and bumps'. One suggestion was a temporary structure – a 'park in a box'. Other members of the public in attendance were generally supportive. The police officers stated that skate parks in rural areas are not necessarily near to houses. They wouldn't recommend anything too small, and larger skate parks are inevitably noisy.

The option of using the school site for a youth facility has many advantages – it is an underutilized asset.

Police Update

There has been another spate of car break-ins, along Aldershaws and Hirdemons Way. Residents were urged to be extra vigilant.

Roads and Parking

A resident asked when Rumbush Lane will be completed and adopted, the Clerk to contact Jim Harte at Solihull MBC.

The new SMBC parking scheme will come in from April 2013, and they are looking at double yellow lines for the squareabouts. The police are advising.

Griffin Lane Development

A resident commented that construction traffic will have difficulty getting through the village roads. Detailed planning is still to be granted for this. Councillor Brandum and Jean Wareing to liaise regarding a design brief, with possible support for a youth facility.

Proposed Gypsy/Traveller Site at the Uplands

Residents feel that an illegal site shouldn't necessarily be regularised, and Solihull MBC already have enough pitches without this one to meet their target. Councillor Holt will be attending the Cabinet Meeting on Thursday November 22nd 2012 to object.

Minute 84 (2012/13) Gardening Club

The planters have been planted up with winter plants.

Matt Gardner has provided the parish council with 800 daffodil bulbs to plant around the village. It was agreed that an appeal should be made for volunteers to help with the planting before any frosts.

Minute 85 (2012/13) Declarations of Interest/Written Requests for Dispensations

Requests for dispensations were received, and granted, from Councillors Brandum, Cudmore, Holt and O'Nyons in relation to budget setting, agreement of the precept and agreement of any councillor allowances.

Minute 86 (2012/13) Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Linda Brown summarised action being taken regarding the dog fouling problem in Buckridge Lane and Trundalls Lane. Solihull MBC will be checking and cleaning the area, and signs will be going up.

The Youth Service will be sending youth officers out into the wards, Linda can provide us with youth contacts.

Minute 87 (2012/13) Minutes of previous meeting held on October 16th 2012

It was proposed by Councillor Cudmore and seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday October 16th 2012 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 88 (2012/13) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingWhitlocks End Train Station

The pavement out to the train station is poorly lit, this needs to be followed up with SMBC and Centro.

New Parking Proposal

Yellow lines will be going down, so that residents can be made aware of them before they are enforced. Yellow lines not yet enforced around the school. Matt Gardner to deliver leaflets to inform residents.

Minute 89 (2012/13) Planning Applications

There was an additional planning application: 100 Birchy Close – Fell 30 trees on land adjacent to 100 Birchy Close. This application is incomplete – all agreed that SMBC should be requested to ensure that the application is fully completed on a proper plan, with an arboricultural report. No comments on the other planning applications.

Minute 90 (2012/13) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Brandum, seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the November 20th 2012 agenda be approved.

The draft budget for 2013/14 was noted, we are still awaiting further Government guidance before precepts can be finalised.

The projected end of year position is a surplus of approximately £50,000. It was agreed that a deposit account should be set up for a proportion of the surplus. The Clerk to also look into making a capital repayment on the loans. It was agreed that, at a future meeting - longer term plans, and what the villagers' priorities might be, should be discussed.

Minute 91 (2012/13) To Receive any Reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

Two Parish Councillors attended Planning Committee with regard to objecting to the planning application for the Griffin Lane development. The Committee were dismissive, and Councillor Holt and the resident representative were very time restricted in voicing their concerns. The Parish Council felt that they didn't get a fair hearing, and wish to make a complaint.

Minute 92 (2012/13) 1 Wharf House

Jarvis Eite have now rectified all of the one year defects and so will be invoicing for the retainer.

Mr Paneser has submitted a booking form. The Parish Council are unclear about his proposal and decided to invite him to the next meeting to discuss it further.

A 'monkey music' teacher has enquired about using the Parish Rooms. All agreed that, since this involves very young children, the person responsible for the booking would have to ensure that any nappies were taken away – since they could be a health and safety issue.

An origami teacher may also be interested.

Minute 93 (2012/13) Remembrance Day

This went very well, with a good turnout of residents and no problems or complaints with the road closures. Rural villages often do have a service on Remembrance Sunday, so it was agreed that this event should be held on Remembrance Sunday in the future.

It would be a good idea to have a PA system for next year.

It was agreed that, next year, Mortons or Coffee Cloud should be approached regarding refreshments after the service.

A memorial for the village was discussed, with no one being against having a memorial. It was agreed that a committee should be formed to progress this. The Clerk to contact the Royal British Legion and Solihull MBC for advice.

Minute 94 (2012/13) Christmas Carol Service and Christmas Tree

St John's Church will again be leading carol singing outside Mortons – on Tuesday December 18th 2012. The Clerk to ask Mortons about refreshments.

Dickens Heath Village Church will be putting the Christmas tree up on Saturday December 8th 2012 at 10.30am. The Parish Council approved a donation of up to £100 for the tree.

Minute 95 (2012/13) Opera Gala

A proposal, and request for a grant, from Cressida Dolphin for an opera gala in Dickens Heath was discussed. The Parish Council decided to invite her to the next meeting to discuss this further.

Minute 96 (2012/13) Youth Facility/Club/Service

It was agreed that a committee should be set up to progress some form of facility for 11 to 16 year olds in the village. The committee to be advertised through local secondary schools, the Dickens Heath websites, the police, local churches.

Potential plots of land to be researched.

Clerk to contact Chris Barr at SMBC to find out if any progress has been made there.

Minute 97 (2012/13) Proposal for a Holiday Club

The Parish Council agreed that a representative should be invited to a future meeting to discuss this proposal.

Minute 98 (2012/13) Ongoing ReferencesDog Fouling

An enforcement officer will be coming out to Buckridge Lane and Trundalls Lane. An article and photo to be included in the next Parish Council News.

Hanging Baskets

Plantscape have offered a repeat of our 2012 order for 2013 at the 2012 price. All agreed this.

The clock roundabout would benefit from some railings baskets to plant up. The Clerk to get quotes.

Minute 99 (2012/13) Correspondence

Tanworth and Camp Hill Cricket Club have proposed a village v. club match next summer, with 50% of players to be juniors. It was agreed that the Parish Council could publicize and promote this.

Resident request for a zebra crossing across Rumbush Lane, just before the clock island. It was agreed that this is a problem spot, proposal to be forwarded to SMBC.

Councillor Brandum receives neighbourhood watch emails which include crime reports from the police. It was agreed that this was useful information to include on the website.

Sustain has forwarded guidance on setting up a youth club. The Clerk to circulate to Councillors.

It was agreed that the Clerk could attend the WALC Finance Clinic in January 2013.

Minute 100 (2012/13) Items for next Agenda

None

Minute 101 (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 102 (2012/13) The Workload of the Parish Council and Possible Solutions

A village handyman post is being advertised on the noticeboards and websites. Since the workload of the Parish Council shows no sign of abating, it was agreed that the Clerk's hours should be increased slightly.

Meeting ended 10.20 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday December 11th 2012: 7.30pm