

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday December 11th 2012 at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

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

2 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 103 (2012/13) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor O'Nyons.

Minute 104 (2012/13) Public Participation

Flooding at Waterside

Torrential rain resulted in 10 apartments being severely flooded. It would seem that the pipe designed to take the additional water away was either blocked or couldn't cope – residents need to be reassured that this will not happen in the future, and it needs to be resolved before the Griffin Lane development. It is understood that Taylor Wimpey are undertaking their own flood analysis. The Clerk to enquire as to who is responsible for the balancing pond and drainage. A report into the flooding is expected from Solihull MBC in the new year.

Minute 105 (2012/13) Gardening Club

800 daffodil bulbs have been planted around the village. Councillor Cudmore thanked Pip Gale and Julian Dimmock for helping with this.

Minute 106 (2012/13) Declarations of Interest/Written Requests for Dispensations

A request for dispensations was received, and granted, from Councillor Glenn in relation to budget setting, agreement of the precept and agreement of any councillor allowances.

Minute 107 (2012/13) Minutes of previous meeting held on November 20th 2012

Following clarification of a point made in public participation, Minute 83 (2012/13), it was proposed by Councillor Cudmore and seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday November 20th 2012 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 108 (2012/13) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Youth Facility

It was agreed that a meeting with Chris Barr of SMBC should be arranged for the end of January 2013, with the date for a public meeting to be set following this. A further suggestion of possibly leasing land from one of the sports clubs was raised, the Clerk to forward this to Chris Barr.

Minute 109 (2012/13) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 110 (2012/13) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Glenn, seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the December 11th 2012 agenda be approved.

Localisation of Council Tax Support (Benefit) will mean a slight reduction in the precept for Dickens Heath, unless the parish council element of the council tax is increased. It was

agreed that there should be no increase to residents for 2013/14, and therefore the Parish Council will have a slightly reduced budget.

Minute 111 (2012/13) To Receive any Reports from Councillors who have attended any outside groups or events

The SMBC Cabinet Meeting, at which the proposed Gypsy/Traveller site at the Uplands was approved, was attended by 2 Parish Councillors. The Leader of the Council suggested that a parish councillor had circulated a leaflet, objecting to this site – which could be interpreted as racist. The Parish Councillors wish to make it clear that this leaflet did not come from the Parish Council and that their objections are based purely on legal and planning issues, and not racist ones. It was agreed that these points should be forwarded to the Chief Executive of SMBC with a request that they be circulated to those in attendance at the Cabinet Meeting. Since this has now been in the press, the reputation of the Parish Council may be unfairly tarnished.

Councillor Holt to reinforce the objection in a letter to the Independent Examiner of the Solihull Local Plan.

Minute 112 (2012/13) Solihull Local Plan

The Hearings for the Independent Examination of the Solihull Local Plan will be taking place in January 2013. This is an opportunity to make further representations, but only about principles and not about specific sites. It was agreed that since the Cleobury Lane site was not originally included in the Plan, being added during the consultation process, that therefore Planning have not consulted enough. At the Cabinet Meeting at which the Solihull Local Plan was approved, Borough Councillors were not even made aware of the Parish Council's objection to the Cleobury Lane site being removed from the Green Belt. Councillor Brandum to draft and circulate a response, which needs to be forwarded to the Independent Examiners by December 20th 2012.

Minute 113 (2012/13) 1 Wharf House

Reverend Julie Humphries of St Patricks has viewed the Parish Rooms and is willing to assist the Parish Council with looking at setting up a youth club.

The booking form for a 'monkey music' session on Wednesday afternoons was approved, with a request that the teacher offers a free session once a month to the community.

Minute 114 (2012/13) Christmas Carol Singing

St John's Church will again be leading carol singing outside Mortons – on Tuesday December 18th 2012 at 6.30pm. Tesco have kindly agreed to provide refreshments.

Minute 115 (2012/13) Communication with Villagers

Minutes of Parish Council meetings are published on our website, parts of the minutes may also be of interest to the community website dickensheath.net - the Clerk to forward.

Minute 116 (2012/13) Correspondence

SMBC will be running work clubs at 4 libraries/community centres including Shirley library. The Parish Council are happy to promote their services.

Minute 117 (2012/13) Items for next Agenda

None

Meeting ended 9.20 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday January 15th 2013: 7.30pm