

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday February 19th 2013 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; Brian Burgess

SMBC Officers; Jim Harte (Service Director), Adrian Matthews (Highway Service Manager), Martin Taylor (Head of Development Management)

31 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 131 (2012/13) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Glenn.

Minute 132 (2012/13) Flooding at Waterside – a Report from SMBC Officers

The flooding was caused by a high level of rainfall, falling on already sodden ground - which then flowed towards the culvert, carrying with it debris. The current grill at the entrance to the culvert is a vertical one and can block quickly. Although it is inspected regularly by Redrow and Solihull MBC, it did block very quickly. A new grill to the culvert is to be installed – with a rising and covered grid. Any debris will be forced on to the top of the grill – so that water can pass below, and debris will not be able to fall in. This will be regularly inspected and cleansed by SMBC, and inspected by Redrow. The new grill has been approved for installation in March/April 2013.

These improvements will have to be made before there is any more development. Any new development will have to be designed with the inclusion of attenuation, the ability to hold back water – so that there is no additional flow of water from such development. ie. the run off from a new developed site must be no worse than in its undeveloped state.

For the proposed development at Griffin Lane, the developer still needs to get technical planning approval. Taylor Wimpey is working closely with SMBC, and SMBC will continue to monitor the flooding works.

The current culvert will be improved in order to minimise the risk of future flooding (the culvert redesign is currently being approved) and any future development will not make it any worse. If there is a point at which the culvert will not cope, SMBC will insist that a second culvert is built as part of new development.

Residents expressed scepticism that the current grill has been regularly checked. Jim Harte accepted that there has been a communication problem. Redrow is the land owner and is responsible for maintaining the water courses, and SMBC should make sure that they do it. If heavy rain is expected, SMBC will come out and check the grill and culvert.

Residents asked who the responsible body would be for monitoring the Griffin Lane development – this will have to be established.

Flooded out residents are struggling to get the buildings insurance settled.

Minute 133 (2012/13) Public Participation

Opening of the Clock

It was suggested that, along with the clock, there should be 'Welcome to Dickens Heath' signs at the 2 entrances to the village. It was commented that the imprinting at the clock island will look very tatty at the opening of the clock.

Mobile Phone Reception

Several residents agreed that mobile phone signals are poor in many parts of the village. The Clerk to look into making complaints.

Minute 134 (2012/13) Gardening Club

Matt Gardner is looking into obtaining 4 planters for the clock island.

Minute 135 (2012/13) Declarations of Interest/Written Requests for Dispensations

As and when.

Minute 136 (2012/13) Minutes of previous meeting held on January 15th 2013

It was proposed by Councillor Cudmore and seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday January 15th 2013 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 137 (2012/13) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingGarden Squares 2 Site

Negotiations are continuing with a second developer.

PACT – Volunteers training to use Speed Guns with the Police

It was agreed that an appeal for volunteers should be made.

Emergency Planning

It was agreed that a template of the emergency plan used by Warwickshire parish councils be requested.

Traffic Islands

The unadopted traffic islands are to be mown by SMBC, but not planted out. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be prepared to fund this planting out.

Parking Pilot Scheme

The pilot scheme will be for 12 months, and then reviewed. There will be a 3 month amnesty, and then enforced – but SMBC will have no additional enforcement officers.

Minute 138 (2012/13) Planning ApplicationsLand at the rear of 74 Dickens Heath Road

The Chairman summarised the history of this site – travellers have been living there for many years, the site is not intrusive, the families have integrated into the community and it is not fair to uproot them. However, there is concern about 'mission creep'. The Solihull Local Plan includes 3 pitches, and there is no justification for it being any bigger – it is in the Green Belt. The planning application seeks to regularise everything that is there, with an additional pitch. There is enforcement action on this site, and so SMBC can hold the planning application in abeyance, but at the moment they are proceeding. It was suggested that they should wait until the Independent Examination of the Solihull Local Plan has concluded. It was agreed that the Chairman would draft an objection to this effect, to be sent in by the end of the week.

Other Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 139 (2012/13) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Cudmore, seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the February 19th 2013 agenda be approved.

Petty Cash

The Clerk currently holds a petty cash float of £100, but would prefer not to have this cash in the Parish Rooms. It was agreed that the petty cash float would be spent and then replaced with Clerk's expenses which would be claimed each month.

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 19th February 2013 at 7.30pm

Signature.....

Date.....

PWLB Loans

It was **Resolved** that part of the projected end of year surplus of approximately £50,000, should be used to repay £20,000 of one of the PWLB loans. This will necessitate paying a penalty because it is a fixed rate loan, however there will still be a significant saving in interest over the 23 years of the loan remaining.

Minute 140 (2012/13) Solihull Local Plan

At the Hearings for the Independent Examination of the Solihull Local Plan, Solihull MBC agreed not to bring any of the Dickens Heath sites forward in time. It was agreed that this was as good a result as could be expected.

Minute 141 (2012/13) Wharf House

There is a meeting on March 9th to discuss the setting up of a table tennis club. It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase some bats and balls.

Small children will be in the Parish Rooms to attend the new 'Monkey Music' sessions. It was agreed that a risk assessment should be completed regarding this use of the Parish Rooms.

Minute 142 (2012/13) Official Opening of the Clock

The Mayor of Solihull will be opening the clock on Saturday March 23rd at 9.45am.

Minute 143 (2012/13) CorrespondenceRural Action Plan 2013/14

The Clerk to request that the butterfly, which was on the clock island, be refurbished and placed on an alternative island in the village.

Minute 144 (2012/13) Items for next Agenda

A session to discuss the Parish Council's future strategy.

Private Section**Minute 145 (2012/13) Village Handy Person**

Applicants for the village handy person role to be informally interviewed.

Meeting ended 9.45 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday March 19th 2013: 7.30pm