

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday March 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 Officers; Emmanuel White

6 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 146 (2012/13) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Glenn.

Minute 147 (2012/13) Employment Support for Solihull Residents

Emmanuel White is a member of the Employment and Skills Team (EST) at Solihull MBC, which supports Solihull residents into jobs, training and retraining. Support is available at Work Clubs, one of which is run fortnightly at Shirley Library. Support is also available in between these by phone and email. The Parish Council agreed to publicize these details.

Minute 148 (2012/13) Public Participation

Mobile Phone Reception

The poor reception in the village, particularly on O2, was again discussed. Following residents' complaints, O2 will be sending out a service team. The Parish Council agreed to support residents in complaining to service providers.

Garden Squares Phase 2

Residents requested an update – the Clerk to contact Mike Swallow at SMBC.

Maintenance of Roads

Many of the roads and traffic islands are degenerating further, the clock island is getting worse. Some of the roads that are not yet adopted by the Borough Council are very bad. The Clerk to contact Mike Swallow to find out when these roads will be repaired.

Girl Guides – Request for a Grant of £50 - £100

Vicky Barclay, Brown Owl with 1st Dickens Heath, has been selected as a leader on a trip to Mexico with a group of Warwickshire girls. They will be working on a project there with children or elderly people in poverty, and each participant will have to raise £2,000 for the trip. None of the Dickens Heath girls applied for a place on the trip. Next year, Brownies will be 100 years old, and Vicky would like to take the Dickens Heath Brownies on a trip to France. However, before she can do this, there are training requirements – which the Mexico trip will contribute towards. The Parish Council agreed to made a decision later in the meeting.

Minute 149 (2012/13) Gardening Club

The Parish Council agreed to fund 4 railings baskets for the clock island, if Solihull MBC give approval for their installation.

Minute 150 (2012/13) Declarations of Interest/Written Requests for Dispensations

As and when.

Minute 151 (2012/13) Minutes of previous meeting held on February 19th 2013

It was proposed by Councillor Cudmore and seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday February 19th 2013 be approved as a true and accurate record.

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Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 152 (2012/13) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Welcome to Dickens Heath Signs

It was agreed that the cost of 2 'Welcome to Dickens Heath' (please drive carefully) signs should be looked into.

Memorial

There hasn't been any feedback yet from dickensheath.net about whether residents would like to see a village memorial. The Clerk to follow this up and place on the agenda for April's meeting.

Speedwatch

A few residents have responded to the appeal for volunteers. The Clerk to contact the police about setting up an informal meeting.

Minute 153 (2012/13) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 154 (2012/13) Financial Matters

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

Internal Auditor

It was agreed that the Clerk could contact Bill Robinson with regard to carrying out the internal audit.

Update on Payment of Salaries/Allowances by SMBC

Solihull MBC currently pay the Clerk's salary and Councillors' allowances, which are then invoiced to the Parish Council. However, HMRC are insisting that all parish councils are registered as employers with them, and make separate returns for tax and NI purposes. This is not the case currently. Quotes have therefore been obtained for the provision of a payroll service. It was agreed that Diane Malley be asked to provide this service, having submitted the lowest quote of £140 pa – discounted to £126 for the first year.

PWLB Loan

A premature repayment of £20,000 has been made.

Minute 155 (2012/13) To Receive Reports from Councillors who have attended any outside events

Councillor O'Nyons attended SMBC Planning Committee where 264/264A Dickens Heath Rd was discussed. Residents are very concerned that 5 houses are to be crammed onto this site. It was argued that the application should be postponed and that there should be a site visit, but the planning application was approved.

Minute 156 (2012/13) Parish Rooms

Risk Assessment

The Parish Council considered the risk assessment that has been produced by Gloria Macken for the general use of the Parish Rooms, and approved the recommendations. It was agreed that Gloria be asked to assist in producing the additional required documentation. The storage of the table tennis table was considered. It is currently tucked in the corner at the bottom of the stairs, and the Parish Council decided that it was not a particular hazard if kept there.

Water Meter

The faulty water meter has had to be replaced, and was discovered behind a wall in the Gents. The damaged wall will need to be repaired, and a door/opening constructed to allow access to the water meter.

Cleaning

Now that the Parish Rooms are more regularly used, it was agreed that they should be cleaned every 2 weeks.

Proposed Bookings

Alicia, the yoga lady, would like to run an additional session for those aged 50+. The Parish Council agreed this on the condition that she offers another free session per month for the retired.

A fashion company have enquired about using the Parish Rooms, the Parish Council agreed to invite them to the next meeting to discuss their proposal.

Minute 157 (2012/13) Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that this should be held on the same evening as the Annual Meeting of the Council on May 21st 2013. The Clerk to arrange for some light refreshments.

Minute 158 (2012/13) Grant Application from Leader of DH Brownies & Guides

It was agreed that a donation of £50 should be made to Vicky Barclay, on the basis that her trip to Mexico will benefit the future development of Guiding in Dickens Heath.

Minute 159 (2012/13) Complaints Procedure

The draft complaints procedure, based on the WALC model, was discussed. The Parish Councillors were concerned that there are no allowances made for an appeal. The Clerk to seek further advice from Deborah Merry, at SMBC.

Minute 160 (2012/13) Health and Safety Policy

The draft health and safety policy, based on the WALC model, was approved.

Minute 161 (2012/13) CorrespondenceBus Service Retendering

There will be a more frequent bus service from Dickens Heath. It was agreed that a response should be sent in - that buses should stop at Whitlocks End train station.

Private Section**Minute 162 (2012/13) Youth Facility/Club**

The possibility of providing something for young people was discussed.

Minute 163 (2012/13) Village Handyman

Mike Small has been appointed, initially on 3 hours p.w. which is flexible. The formalities regarding the appointment were discussed.

Meeting ended 9.35 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday April 16th 2013: 7.30pm