

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday April 16th 2013 at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

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

7 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 164 (2012/13) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Glenn and Councillor O'Nyons.

Minute 165 (2012/13) Proposal for Women's Evening in the Parish Rooms

Izabela Krawczyk outlined plans for an evening for women – whose children may have grown up and they now wish to focus more on themselves. There are 4 speakers already identified who will speak about confidence building, motivation, business building, health and fashion for 'real' women. They wish to charge around £20 a head for the evening and are looking to attract quite a large number of attendees. The Parish Council felt this type of event would be more suited to the Village Hall's larger size. It was agreed that this was not appropriate for the Parish Rooms, and that the Clerk should forward contact details for the Village Hall.

Minute 166 (2012/13) Gardening Club

Railings Baskets

Approval from Solihull MBC still awaited.

Planter at back of Parish Rooms

Placing a planter by the back door of the Parish Rooms has not stopped motorists parking there, in fact it is now worse because they often park across the back door which is a fire exit. It was agreed that this should be moved – alternative positions to be investigated.

Butterfly

The Parish Council to pay for its refurbishment, the Clerk and Councillor Cudmore to find out how much this will be and how it is to be refurbished.

Adoption of Traffic Islands

Further pressure to be put on Solihull MBC to adopt them. There seems to be no reason for a delay.

Pot Holes

Mike Small to be asked to note locations of pot holes that he sees.

Minute 167 (2012/13) Declarations of Interest/Written Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 168 (2012/13) Minutes of previous meeting held on March 19th 2013

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

Minute 169 (2012/13) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Speedwatch

The Police will attend the Annual Parish Meeting on May 21st to discuss this.

Whitlocks End Train Station

The blind bend is a serious health and safety concern – there needs to be a safe crossing point. There has been no reply from Centro, concerns to also be forwarded to SMBC.

Minute 170 (2012/13) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 171 (2012/13) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Cudmore, seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the April 16th 2013 agenda be approved.

End of Year Financial Statements

Resolved that the End of Year Financial Statements be approved and these were signed by the Chairman and Clerk/RFO.

Minute 172 (2012/13) To Receive Reports from Councillors who have attended any outside events

Councillor Brandum had attended the Community Infrastructure Levy presentation at SMBC, and summarised the implications for parish councils.

Minute 173 (2012/13) Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations

This has been published for representations prior to submission to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination. It was agreed that the letter drafted in response to the recent planning application should be modified and circulated for approval before being submitted.

Minute 174 (2012/13) Youth Facility/Club

It was agreed that Councillor Holt should attend the meeting in June with Reverend Julie Humphries to discuss a possible youth club.

Minute 175 (2012/13) Parish Rooms

Proposed Bookings

The U3A would like to hold a one off meeting – this was agreed.

Barnardos would like to hold a one day managers meeting – this was agreed since Barnardos is a charitable organisation.

Minute 176 (2012/13) Annual Parish Meeting – May 21st 2013

It was agreed that this should start at 7pm, the Clerk to draft the Annual Review and put together the information pack.

Minute 177 (2012/13) Village War Memorial

It was agreed that the Clerk should look into the process for commissioning a war memorial.

Minute 178 (2012/13) Emergency Plan

It was decided that the production of an emergency plan is not appropriate for the Parish Council. The Clerk should, however, find out who to contact in an emergency and keep their contact details.

Minute 179 (2012/13) Ongoing References

Parking

No further information has been received regarding the parking proposals, the Clerk to find out what the timescale is for this.

Minute 180 (2012/13) CorrespondencePrecept Referendums Bill

A private member's bill proposes that an increase in a parish council's precept of 2% or more should trigger a referendum. WALC is asking parish councils to lobby their MP – and urge them not to support this bill, because 2% is an unrealistically low threshold. It was agreed that this would be a disproportionate tool, and is not appropriate for parish councils with relatively small precepts. The Clerk to write to Caroline Spelman MP.

Braggs Farm Lane

A resident has written for the second time to complain about the state of Braggs Farm Lane. The Parish Councillors agreed that it is in a poor state, and that his concerns should again be forwarded to Solihull MBC.

Dickens Heath Community Primary School – Year 6 Leavers Party

The Parish Council considered a request for a donation towards the Year 6 Leavers Party. The Parish Council felt that, since this was purely for a party for one school year, they were not able to support it financially – but wished the party organisers well.

Damage to Village Green by Exercise Classes Organized by Cre8

A second complaint has been received from a resident about the damage done to the village green by exercise classes held on it. The Parish Council has no responsibility for the village green, and so it was agreed that the complaint should be forwarded to the Dickens Heath Management Co.

Minute 181 (2012/13) Items for Next Agenda

None.

Private Section**Minute 182 (2012/13) Village Handyman**

Details of the contract and working arrangements were discussed.

Meeting ended 9.35 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday May 21st 2013: 7.30pm or after the APM