

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday May 21st 2013 at 8.00pm, in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

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

WPC Sharon Grant

11 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 1 (2013/14) Election of Chairman

Proposed by Councillor Brandum, seconded by Councillor Cudmore, it was resolved that Councillor Holt should be Chairman for 2013/14.

Minute 2 (2013/14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Glenn.

Minute 3 (2013/14) Public Participation

Braggs Farm Lane Site

Councillor Brandum summarised the David Wilson Homes proposal to build 61 dwellings on this site. The site is included in the Solihull Local Plan (SLP) – for release in 2018, but Solihull MBC's legal advice is that it may have to be released earlier. The Independent Examination of the SLP will not be concluded until August, and the developer is proposing to obtain planning permission before this. David Wilson Homes are holding a public exhibition in the Village Hall on May 30th 2013. The general feeling is that residents don't want to see the early development of this site - and so it was agreed that the Parish Council would decide on a course of action following the public exhibition.

Minute 4 (2013/14) Gardening Club

The proposal for railings floral baskets on the clock island has been turned down by Solihull MBC. The Parish Council are surprised and disappointed by this decision – on visibility grounds. It was agreed that some railings baskets, or large planters, on the island would really improve the entrance to the village – and that this should be raised with the Borough Councillors.

Minute 5 (2013/14) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 6 (2013/14) To Receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

This was signed.

Minute 7 (2013/14) To Decide Whether to Elect a Vice Chair

Proposed by Councillor Holt, seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, it was agreed that Councillor Brandum should be Vice Chair for 2013/14.

Minute 8 (2013/14) To Agree Dates of and Venue for Council Meetings for the Year

The schedule of dates was agreed, the Parish Council to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each

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Signature.....

Date.....

month, except for December (the 2nd Tuesday) with no meeting in August. It was agreed that the venue should be the Parish Rooms.

Minute 9 (2013/14) To Resolve Whether to Establish any Committees

It was agreed that informal committees be set up if required.

Minute 10 (2013/14) To Appoint Representatives to Sit on Outside Bodies

It was agreed that Councillor Brandum would continue to attend the Rural Forum, and that Councillor O'Nyons would attend Solihull Area Committee.

Minute 11 (2013/14) To Agree Cheque Signatories

No change.

Minute 12 (2013/14) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday April 16th 2013

Proposed by Councillor Brandum, seconded by Councillor Cudmore, it was **Resolved** that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 13 (2013/14) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Unadopted Traffic Islands

They are looking scruffy and overgrown, they just need to be strimmed to look tidy. It was agreed that SMBC should be given 14 days notice that if the islands are not tidied up, the Parish Council will do it.

Whitlocks End Train Station

A footpath and crossing is needed. Centro are still working on this with SMBC, and hope to start the work later this year.

Complaint re State of Braggs Farm Lane

Solihull MBC have a long backlog of road repairs, and are prioritising the worst – so can't give us any timescales at the moment.

War Memorial

In principle, the Parish Council supports a village war memorial. It was agreed that a stone plaque on the library wall - with hooks on which to hang wreaths - would be suitable without being too costly, and that some local stonemasons should be contacted.

Minute 14 (2013/14) Planning Applications

No comments on planning application 2013/729 – 33 Meadow Pleck Lane.

Minute 15 (2013/14) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Brandum, seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the May 21st 2013 Agenda be approved – 10 cheques and 4 direct debits totalling £6,264.48

The budget for 2013/14 was approved, with the proviso that a sum be made available from reserves for donations.

The Annual Return for 2012/13 was approved and signed by the Chairman.

Minute 16 (2013/14) The Parish Rooms

Reverend Julie Humphries would like to set up a daytime prayer group based at the Parish Rooms, this was agreed.

There has been a request to use the Parish Rooms for an adult choir, in the evening. This was agreed, however – if there are any complaints from residents, this will have to be reviewed.

Minute 17 (2013/14) Dickens Heath Football Club – request for sponsorship

It was agreed that a representative of Dickens Heath FC be invited to a future meeting to discuss this.

Minute 18 (2013/14) Ongoing References

Hanging Baskets

These should be installed soon, the Clerk to clarify when.

Parish Council News

It was agreed that 3 further bi-monthly pages in the Dickens Heath Directory be paid for.

Traffic Issues

WPC Grant has a few resident volunteers for Speedwatch.

Minute 19 (2013/14) Correspondence

Dickens Heath Toddler Group

If the group closes down, they asked whether the Parish Council would hold their remaining funds in a reserve restricted for the benefit of pre school children. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

Employment Awareness Morning – run by WALC

It was agreed that the Clerk could attend this.

Minute 20 (2013/14) Items for next agenda

None.

Meeting ended 9.30 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday June 18th 2013: 7.30pm The Parish Rooms