

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

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

Present:

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

Peter Lowe – Davis Memorials Ltd

John Acres – Turley Associates

Fergus Thomas – Catesby Property Group

12 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 38 (2013/14) Apologies for Absence

None.

Minute 39 (2013/14) Davis Memorials – to Discuss a Village Memorial

Peter Lowe of Davis Memorials Ltd outlined some possibilities for a village war memorial. They have recently produced a memorial for Rock Parish Council to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This was a rustic piece of granite with a panel which incorporated an inscription and the parish council logo. Granite is the best stone to use since it can be pressure washed clean, and can be light or dark in colour. A memorial could incorporate a granite planter, or have slots for flowers. Davis Memorials would carve the lettering in using traditional methods. Peter Lowe felt that the proposed site – opposite the library and Tesco, and between 2 trees – was very suitable. Davis Memorials can put together some drawings and technical details. The Parish Councillors agreed that this should be progressed, and that they would like to see some rustic and symmetrical options. The wording should be simple and modest, and it was not appropriate to include the coat of arms.

Minute 40 (2013/14) Catesby Estates Ltd – Development Proposals for Cleobury Lane site

John Acres and Fergus Thomas gave an overview of Catesby Estates Ltd's plans for this site, with Cleobury Lane, Rumbush Lane and Dickens Heath Road at its boundaries. This site is included in the Solihull Local Plan, with 185 dwellings proposed, and is Green Belt until the SLP is adopted. Catesby are proposing to build up to 130 dwellings and the plans will be available at the public exhibition in the Village Hall on July 18th 2013. There is a shortage of housing land in Solihull, and Catesby intend to submit a planning application in the near future. They may be able to incorporate a youth facility, and will be seeking residents' views on this as part of their consultation. Up to 40% of the dwellings will be affordable homes, and they will be seeking residents' views on this as well.

Residents expressed concern about increased traffic and the Cleobury Lane/Rumbush Lane junction is already dangerous. There will be a traffic expert at the public exhibition.

The Parish Council Chairman stated that if Catesby wish to bring forward this development by 10 years (it is included in the SLP for 2023) then they have a responsibility to the community – the community will want something substantial in return. Money is not enough, land is needed for a facility for the young people of Dickens Heath. John Acres agreed to take this message back to the developer.

Minute 41 (2013/14) Public ParticipationGarden Squares

Children have been seen playing again in the Garden Squares phase 2 site.

The Uplands

The planning application has still not gone to planning committee, information is still awaited. A lot of work has apparently been done to the site, before it is legalised. It was suggested that Solihull MBC are not stepping in since they cannot prejudice the applicant's right to fair consideration of the outstanding planning application. It was agreed that a complaint should be forwarded to Solihull MBC.

The Chalice

There has been noise and some brawls in the early hours of the morning. Councillors Holt and Brandum agreed to go and see the landlord.

Minute 42 (2013/14) Gardening ClubHanging Baskets

The hanging baskets are looking very good, and hanging baskets for an additional 7 lamp posts have been ordered for along Hensborough and by the Village Green. Some weeds are growing underneath the hanging baskets which need spraying. Signs to indicate that hanging baskets have been provided by the Parish Council can be supplied for £30 per lamp post – it was agreed that these were not necessary.

Flowers on the Clock Island

The outcome of the meeting with SMBC officers was that it is not possible to have planters on the clock island. They had their regulations and measures and would not budge.

Planters

These will be replanted.

Other

Steven Brown, of one of the property management companies, has agreed that some trees can be planted on the grass at the end of Trundalls Lane.

Minute 43 (2013/14) Declarations of Interest/Written Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 44 (2013/14) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Brown was unable to attend since she was at the Rural Partnership meeting taking place at Dickens Heath library.

Minute 45 (2013/14) Minutes of previous meeting held on June 18th 2013

It was proposed by Councillor Glenn and seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday June 18th 2013 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 46 (2013/14) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingBirchy Leasowes Lane

The overgrown foliage as you turn out of Birchy Leasowes Lane has been strimmed.

Garden Squares

Mike Swallow has replied that the receivers are still in negotiation with another house builder.

Remembrance Day

It was agreed that the remembrance service should be held on Remembrance Sunday.

Minute 47 (2013/14) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 48 (2013/14) Financial Matters

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

The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return had been sent in.

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 16th July 2013 at 7.30pm

Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 49 (2013/14) Meeting of the Blythe Parish Councils

Representatives of Dickens Heath, Cheswick Green, Hockley Heath and Tidbury Green Parish Councils met on July 2nd 2013. A number of developers are trying to get plans approved early, ahead of the adoption of the Solihull Local Plan. Each of the Blythe Parish Councils has different pressures, and the meeting was to discuss the possibility of a joint approach to resisting the developers' plans. Planning consultants and a junior barrister could give generic advice which the parish councils could use to present a united front based on the collective impact on the area. The Dickens Heath Parish Councillors were all in support of a joint approach and a financial commitment to it.

Minute 50 (2013/14) Youth Facility/Club

There is a further meeting about a proposed youth club in August. Wythall has a permanent youth worker – we may be able to use some of this time.

Minute 51 (2013/14) Parish RoomsProposed Bookings

Junior table tennis – the resident who has been supervising these sessions is unable to continue in the Autumn. It was suggested that junior table tennis could be tied in with the youth club/youth worker.

Friends of the Earth would like to hold monthly meetings in the Parish Rooms – this was approved.

Rev Julie Humphries has enquired about holding an alpha course in the Parish Rooms. The Clerk to ask WALC if there are any restrictions on religious courses being held in parish council premises. The Clerk also to ask whether they charge for this course.

Cre8 have enquired about holding self defence fitness classes – possibly geared for women. This was approved as long as they give something back to the community.

There has been an enquiry from Wiggle Waggle about holding music and movement classes for youngsters on Monday mornings. These would be followed by a social session, and one class per month would be free. This was approved.

Minute 52 (2013/14) CorrespondenceConstruction Traffic

Residents are starting to complain about the Griffin Lane construction traffic – tarmac is being damaged, kerbs are being driven over and it is noisy. It was agreed that a log should be kept of these complaints and Solihull MBC kept informed.

Litter

A Dickens Heath resident has been forwarding numerous emails and videos about litter in the area to Caroline Spelman MP, Mark Rogers and Jim Harte at SMBC.

Minute 53 (2013/14) Items for Next Agenda

None.

Meeting ended 9.35 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday September 17th 2013: 7.30pm

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Signature.....

Date.....