

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday September 17th 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.

SMBC Councillors; Linda Brown, Ken Hawkins

11 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 54 (2013/14) Apologies for Absence

None.

Minute 55 (2013/14) Public Participation

Catesby Development at Dickens Heath Road

Residents were disappointed that Catesby had not attended to answer further questions, the planning application will be submitted in the near future. There is concern that the roads/parking cannot support all this additional development.

Youth Facility

A resident queried why a youth facility is not placed on the village green – this was looked into several years ago, but residents objected.

Parking Proposals

An update was given on the proposed parking restrictions – that some of the restrictions should hopefully be introduced in the next few months.

Rumbush Lane by Copperfields

There is now a bend in the road here, but it used to be a T junction. Residents have heard that, following accidents, the T junction is to be reinstated. The Clerk to check with Highways.

Barriers on Old Dickens Heath Road

The barriers at each end of Old Dickens Heath Road are an eyesore and a health and safety risk – can they be removed? The Clerk to follow this up with Solihull MBC.

Garden Squares phase 2

Residents again asked about Garden Squares phase 2; it is a health and safety risk, and the hoardings are looking very tatty again. There is still no news. The Clerk to again ask Mike Swallow at SMBC for an update and to register residents' concerns. The Parish Council asked the Ward Members present if they could also put some pressure on SMBC officers.

Minute 56 (2013/14) Gardening Club

Planters

These have been replanted.

Overgrown Land

By Belushi's, in front of the apartments, there is a small piece of overgrown land – no one seems to know who owns it. It was proposed that this should be strimmed and tidied up by the Parish Council.

Minute 57 (2013/14) Declarations of Interest/Written Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 58 (2013/14) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Brown publicized her village litter pick on Saturday October 5th at 10am, and her Seniors Coffee Morning in the Library on Thursday October 3rd between 11am and 1pm. Healthwatch will be attending on October 3rd. Further coffee mornings will be held on the 1st Thursday of each month.

Minute 59 (2013/14) Minutes of previous meeting held on July 16th 2013

It was proposed by Councillor Glenn and seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday July 16th 2013 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 60 (2013/14) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingThe Uplands Site

Solihull MBC are monitoring this and visiting the site regularly.

The Chalice

The licensee has put big signs up asking customers to be considerate to residents and keep the noise down. Residents agreed that it was much improved.

Remembrance Sunday

Rev Theresa Jones is able to lead the service, Councillor Holt to review the service details. The Clerk to order 2 wreaths and some crosses – a donation of £100 was agreed. The application for temporary road closures has been sent in to SMBC – with the same closures as last year. The Clerk to ask Mortons if they can provide teas and coffees after the service. Councillor O'Nyons is able to source the barriers, and the Clerk to make an appeal for volunteers for on the day.

Minute 61 (2013/14) Planning Applications

No comment on land east of 75 Birchy Close.

2013/1478 - Braggs Farm Lane development proposal for 67 homes; the developer has added a second access road, and the 40% affordable housing remains. The Parish Council agreed that they have no objection to this development in principle, although the land shouldn't be released early. If it is – then the Parish Council would like to see some of the affordable housing as shared ownership, and some as housing for the elderly. Councillor Brandum to draft the response – objecting to the early release of the land. The Clerk to ask Mike Swallow at SMBC about any resulting s106 funds, if the application is approved.

Minute 62 (2013/14) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Cudmore, seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the September 17th 2013 agenda be approved.

The Clerk confirmed that an unqualified opinion had been received from the external auditor.

The gas contract is up for renewal. It is difficult to change supplier because the Parish Rooms has an IGT meter, which means that changing supplier takes 3 to 4 months. It was agreed to renew the contract with Npower for 1 year and to review the situation in 7 months' time. The Clerk to find out whether the IGT meter can be changed.

Minute 63 (2013/14) Youth Provision Information Meeting

Councillor O'Nyons attended this meeting in the Village Hall, but it was not well attended.

Minute 64 (2013/14) Proposals for Further Development – Joint Approach

Representatives of Dickens Heath and Cheswick Green Parish Councils met with Keith Williams of Stansgate Planning. Keith has now forwarded his proposal – which was likened to a smaller version of a Local Plan. All agreed that the Clerk should contact Cheswick Green PC with a view to going forward with this proposal.

Minute 65 (2013/14) Youth Club

The Parish Council can access a one tenth share of a youth worker, Dean Taylor, who is based at Woodrush School. A committee, which includes Dean and members of St Patrick's church, will be consulting with young people and working towards opening the youth club in January 2014. All agreed to fund the £250 per month to allow the groundwork to take place from now on.

The Clerk to check insurance details in case of damage to the Parish Rooms, and to invite Dean Taylor and Rev Julie Humphries to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss their plans further.

Minute 66 (2013/14) Welcome to the Village Signs

There are 3 entrances to the village, and it was agreed that some 'Welcome to Dickens Heath' signs would enhance these roads. The Clerk to pursue this with Solihull MBC.

Minute 67 (2013/2014) Village War Memorial

The possibility of an area for reflection, to include a memorial, was discussed. This could be in a corner of the village green – with a bench, a memorial stone and a little garden. The Clerk to follow this up with Dickens Heath Management Co.

Minute 68 (2013/14) Parish RoomsProposed Bookings

Little U Pre School would like to hold a parents information evening – this was agreed. Solihull Triathlon Club would like to hold bimonthly meetings – this was agreed. Monkey Music, as their contribution to the community, would like to hold Saturday morning sessions. Since the Parish Rooms are booked, they have asked about using the library instead. The Parish Council felt that all users should be treated consistently, and therefore Monkey Music should provide monthly free sessions in the Parish Rooms.

Minute 69 (2013/14) Ongoing ReferencesHanging Baskets

Watering has been extended to the end of September because they are so magnificent this year. Their positions should be reviewed for next year – one by the doctors under a tree should be moved, and there should be some on Boundary Lane next year.

Minute 70 (2013/14) CorrespondenceLocal Government Employees Pay Settlement

A 1% pay increase has been awarded from April 1st 2013. It was agreed that this should be awarded to all the staff. The Clerk to ask Deborah Merry at SMBC whether councillors allowances have also been increased.

Government Support Grant

This year, SMBC passed on the parish council element of the Government Support Grant in full. It proposes to do the same for 2014/15.

Minute 71 (2013/14) Items for Next Agenda

None.

Private Section

Minute 72 (2013/14) Youth Facility

This was discussed.

Meeting ended 10 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday October 15th 2013: 7.30pm