

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday November 19th 2013 at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

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

SMBC Councillor; Linda Brown

Fergus Thomas; Catesby Property Group

16 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 90 (2013/14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Cudmore.

Minute 91 (2013/14) Public Participation

T Junction on Rumbush Lane

Contractors have started to change the bend back into a T junction. The problem is that the dead end road now looks like it is open road, there are no warning signs that priorities have changed – it is dangerous. There should also be traffic calming measures. The Clerk to contact Highways at SMBC.

Cleobury Lane Planning Application

2 pedestrian crossings are proposed as a part of this planning application. Fergus Thomas confirmed that traffic calming is part of the development proposal.

Clock Island

Cars for sale are being left on the clock island – can this be prevented? Double yellow lines are due to be painted on this island and enforced as of mid January 2014.

Travellers’ Site at 74 Dickens Heath Road

This planning application was approved at SMBC Planning Committee on October 30th 2013. Councillor O’Nyons stated that he was disappointed that Borough Councillor Hawkins, having publicly stated that he would oppose this planning application, then voted to approve it. The Parish Council all agreed that the decision was very disappointing, particularly since it was made in advance of the Independent Examination of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan. It was proposed by Councillor O’Nyons and seconded by Councillor Glenn, agreed that the Clerk write to Councillor Hawkins to express the disappointment of the Parish Council and residents.

Broom Lane

By the canal, bushes are again getting very overgrown. It is also very dark, the Clerk to contact Solihull MBC.

Minute 92 (2013/14) Declarations of Interest/Written Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 93 (2013/14) Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Brown summarised her activities in Dickens Heath – which included the litter pick and bulb planting, and the Seniors’ Coffee Club at the library on the first Thursday of each month. The December 5th Coffee Club will include Christmas carols with a gospel choir.

Minute 94 (2013/14) Minutes of previous meeting held on October 15th 2013

It was proposed by Councillor O'Nyons and seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday October 15th 2013 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 95 (2013/14) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingBrockhurst Lane Footpath

Highways at Solihull MBC have not been willing to discuss re-opening the consultation based on the strength of feeling amongst residents. The Clerk to contact Jim Harte at SMBC to express the Parish Council's disappointment regarding this.

Memorial Garden

A date to be arranged for Parish Councillors to do a site visit.

Proposed Developments in Neighbouring Parish Councils

An objection has been submitted for the Tidbury Green planning application for Fulford Hall Road, an objection to the Cheswick Green planning application for Mount Dairy Farm to be drafted.

Village Defibrillator

Fastaid to advise on this.

Minute 96 (2013/14) Planning Applications

No comments on 2013/1861 - 5 Calcutt Way - Ground floor rear extension to form conservatory.

There has been an amendment to the Braggs Farm Lane planning application - 2013/1478 - with a slight increase in the number of proposed dwellings. It was agreed to seek an opinion from Stansgate Planning.

Minute 97 (2013/14) Financial Matters

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

The proposed budget for 2014/15 was approved. The Parish Council wish to keep their element of the council tax at the same level as 2013/14, with no increase for 2014/15. However, the final decision will be taken once SMBC inform us of the council tax base for 2014/15.

Minute 98 (2013/14) Reports from Councillors who attended any outside groups

Councillor Holt attended the SMBC Planning Committee on October 30th 2013, but was unable to speak against the Travellers' planning application because parish councils do not have the automatic right to speak, and one objector had already registered to speak.

Minute 99 (2013/14) Cleobury Lane Planning Application

This planning application includes a youth facility, but planning officers do not see this as a necessary inclusion. If this development goes ahead, as well as the one at Lowbrook Farm in Tidbury Green, Dickens Heath and Tidbury Green will be very close to each other.

Minute 100 (2013/14) Flooding at Waterside

It is now a year since the flood at Waterside. Dickens Heath Management Co. have dredged the canal beyond the culvert, but the culvert has not been cleared, and the new grill has not been installed. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Jim Harte and other officers at SMBC to remind them of the reassurances they gave to residents of Waterside in February and to urge them to ensure that the work is completed as soon as possible.

Minute 101 (2013/14) Youth Club

Councillor Holt is happy with the Youth Club service agreement, and recommended that the Parish Council approve it – this was agreed and the service agreement signed. Items purchased for the youth club with Parish Council funds would belong to the Parish Council.

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 19th November 2013 at 7.30pm

Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 102 (2013/2014) Remembrance Sunday

The service went very well, and was well attended with some Sea Cadets present. A good number stayed for refreshments at Coffee Cloud.

Minute 103 (2013/14) Christmas Tree and Carol Service

All agreed that the Parish Council should once again make a donation to Dickens Heath Village Church for the purchase of the Village Christmas Tree.

Tesco have again agreed to provide refreshments during the Christmas Carol Service, the Clerk to liaise with Rev Humphries over the date.

Minute 104 (2013/14) Standing Orders

Subject to one amendment regarding the Annual Meeting of the Council, all agreed that the Standing Orders should be adopted.

Minute 105 (2013/14) Ongoing ReferencesSolar Xmas Trees

The solar Xmas trees will be in the same locations as last year. It was agreed that this was a sufficient number.

Minute 106 (2013/14) CorrespondenceGypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan

The Independent Examination is in December 2013. This is now pointless from Dickens Heath's point of view, Councillor Brandum to draft a complaint to this effect.

Village Fun Run

John Shepherd Estate Agents are proposing to sponsor a village fun run in 2014, the Parish Council agreed that this would be a good event for the village.

Parking Proposals

The Clerk to chase up the timetable for the implementation of this.

Tanworth and Camp Hill Cricket Club

The Cricket Club are proposing organising a village fete with the Parish Council at their ground. The Parish Council would be in support of this, but feel that a fete on the Village Green would attract more residents.

Thank You Messages

Some emails have been received thanking the Parish Council for both the Remembrance Service and their response to the Cleobury Lane planning application.

Rough Sleepers

SMBC are gathering information about rough sleepers – on Thursday November 21st 2013. The Parish Council and residents present agreed that they had no knowledge of any rough sleepers in Dickens Heath.

Minute 107 (2013/14) Items for Next Agenda

None.

Private Section**Minute 108 (2013/14) Youth Facility**

This was discussed.

Meeting ended 9.40 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday December 10th 2013: 7.30pm