

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday February 18th 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Alyson Glenn, Richard Holt (Chairman), Josh O'Nyons.
18 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 138 (2013/14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Brandum and Cudmore.

Minute 139 (2013/14) Public Participation

Planning application at 143 Rumbush Lane - 2014/154

A neighbour raised concerns about this huge extension on a small plot, that the close of 5 houses would be irrevocably changed and it would set a dangerous precedent. There would be almost coalescence between the detached properties. There is also no space for any additional parking in the close.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Nyons and seconded by Councillor Glenn, agreed that the Parish Council send in an objection to this planning application.

Brockhurst Lane Pedestrian Safety Proposal

Councillor Holt declared a personal interest, being a resident of Brockhurst Lane.

This was again the subject of a heated debate between residents. The Parish Council have no wish to see residents falling out over what is essentially a safety issue. It was agreed that a copy of the report regarding the health and safety inspection carried out by Solihull MBC should be requested, as well as their reason for cancelling the project.

At the Parish Council meeting, there did appear to be a consensus among residents that most would be happy with the addition of a kissing gate or small bollard at the end of the current path – which would reduce the current risk to pedestrians. It was agreed that this should again be suggested to Solihull MBC as a solution to the issue.

Hitherside

Gravel path, by the canal, needs a bollard to deter cars. The Clerk to contact SMBC.

Minute 140 (2013/14) Minutes of previous meeting held on January 21st 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Glenn and seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday January 21st 2014 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 141 (2013/14) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Chicanes on Tythe Barn Lane

Solihull MBC Highways have responded that there are no plans to modify or remove the chicanes.

Garden Squares II

Detailed discussions with an interested developer are still on-going.

Minute 142 (2013/14) Planning Applications

An objection earlier agreed to 2014/154 - 143 Rumbush Lane.

No comments on the other planning applications, including 2014/173 - 12 Rumbush Lane - ground floor rear extension to form a conservatory.

Minute 143 (2013/14) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Glenn, seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the February 18th 2014 agenda be approved.

It was agreed that Diane Malley should again provide the payroll service for 2014/15 at a cost of £130.

Minute 144 (2013/14) Proposals for Further Development

The Blythe planning applications for further development, including the 2 Dickens Heath ones, went to the SMBC planning committee on January 29th 2014. Planning approval was refused, but some developers may appeal.

Minute 145 (2013/14) Youth Club

Councillor Holt declared a personal interest as his son is a member of the youth club. Councillor Holt was pleased to report that the youth club is going from strength to strength. The youth worker had put together some estimates for further equipment for the youth club, and had requested a further grant of £500. Based on the estimates provided, the Parish Council agreed to provide further funding of £325.

Minute 146 (2013/14) Grant Making Policy, Application Form, and Proposals for Grant Applications

It was agreed that the grant making policy and application form should be adopted.

Two requests for grants were considered:

Dickens Heath Management Co have requested a grant towards replacing the playground equipment which is now 9 years old. They have no funding to replace or upgrade the equipment. The Parish Council felt that since DH Management Co. is responsible for the village green, that equipment for the playground should be funded through the service charge that they collect. The parish council element of the council tax should not be used to subsidise the service charge.

Tanworth and Camp Hill Cricket Club have requested a grant towards providing cricket coaching at Dickens Heath School during the school day. The grant making policy does not allow the Parish Council to fund activities which should be funded by the Education Authority.

Therefore, it was agreed that both requests for grants should be declined.

Minute 147 (2013/14) Ongoing ReferencesPlantscape

It was agreed that the hanging baskets for 2014 should be ordered, the same number as in 2013. It was also agreed that the solar Xmas trees should be ordered again for 2014, at the 2013 price.

And it was agreed that the Clerk ask Plantscape whether they could provide any planting that would meet visibility requirements for the clock island.

Minute 148 (2013/14) CorrespondenceWoodland Trust Tree Planting

Dickens Heath Guides would like to participate in this – planting of trees to attract wildlife. They would like to know if there is any land in Dickens Heath where trees can be planted. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Matt Gardner of SMBC.

SMBC Housing Allocation Scheme

The Government has issued new guidance on who qualifies to go on the social housing waiting list, and how priorities are determined. The Government is strongly recommending that local authorities include a residency requirement of at least 2 years. The Parish Council were concerned this should not deter people from moving for employment reasons – the Clerk to follow this up.

Canal Towpaths

A resident has commented that these are popular and well used, and some parts have been improved by adding stone or bark – but other parts are too wet and muddy to use in the winter. It was agreed that the Canals Trust be requested to add more stone/bark.

Private Section

Minute 149 (2013/14) Youth Facility

This was discussed.

Meeting ended 9.40 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday March 18th 2014: 7.30pm