

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday April 15th 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

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

Mike Shaw – Tanworth & Camp Hill Cricket Club

17 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 163 (2013/14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Cudmore.

Minute 164 (2013/14) Public Participation

Planning application at 143 Rumbush Lane

A neighbour summarised objections that they still have to this resubmitted planning application. The plans still go well beyond the building line; coalescence and the affect on the street scene is still an issue. The Parish Council don’t usually wish to be drawn into disagreements between neighbours, but all agreed that an objection should be submitted in this case.

Parking Restrictions

Solihull MBC will be drawing up a plan for further action at some point, to include residents’ comments. Several residents stressed that the double yellow lines need to be extended at the clock island along Rumbush Lane, there have been several near misses. The Clerk to contact Highways.

Outside the Chalice, vehicles are parking on the double yellow lines – this is dangerous. The Clerk to contact Highways to check whether these lines are being enforced.

Planning application at Parkridge House

12 extra parking spaces are being created, but the overall loss of parking spaces is regrettable.

Whitlocks End Train Station crossing point

It is good to see that this is nearing completion.

Three trees chopped down at Cleobury Lane

This was permitted work by Western Power – the trees were impacting on the power lines.

Crime in Dickens Heath

Car crime is high at the moment, the card shop has had to resort to cameras and a buzzer to gain entrance, and Morton’s is hiring a bouncer. Residents and businesses are querying whether there is enough of a police presence. The former Hockley Heath Parish Council used to fund some PCSO hours, which was controversial because residents already pay for the Police. It was agreed that the Clerk should invite our local PCSO to meet with the Parish Council. It was also agreed that Parish Councillors should make contact with businesses since they are not all aware of the Parish Council’s existence.

Minute 165 (2013/14) Brockhurst Lane – Alternative Pedestrian Safety Proposal

Councillor Holt declared a personal interest as a resident of Brockhurst Lane, and stated that he doesn’t understand why so many residents are against this proposal - which will make the crossing point, which he believes is a danger spot, safer. However, since public opinion is still divided and there is no consensus, the Parish Council were not prepared to make a recommendation since they do not have the required road safety expertise. Solihull MBC, who do have the expertise, must take that decision.

Minute 166 (2013/14) Gardening Club

Plantscape have provided quotes for floral decorations on the base of the railings on the clock island, and on the window boxes of the apartments behind the clock. It was agreed that baskets should be ordered for the base of the railings at the front of the clock island and 4 window boxes should be ordered for the apartments – plus the watering service. The Clerk to contact Solihull MBC about the condition of pot holes on the clock island.

Minute 167 (2013/14) Minutes of previous meeting held on March 18th 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Brandum and seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday March 18th 2014 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 168 (2013/14) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingVillage Memorial

Members of the Parish Council and Tim Aho of Dickens Heath Village Church have looked at possible sites for a memorial and quiet area to sit – and recommend the site opposite the library and Tesco, outside the apartments and between the trees. The next steps will be to contact Solihull MBC to ask for approval on the site, and to see if the British Legion can assist with a design.

Garden Squares II

The Parish Council remains seriously concerned at the lack of progress on this site. It was agreed that Councillor Holt should draft a letter to the new Chief Executive of Solihull MBC to ask what the position will be if the long drawn out negotiations do not result in a new developer being willing to complete the site.

Wooden Steps by the Canal

The wooden steps that Taylor Wimpey wish to remove are by the clock island. They will be putting up notices to notify residents of this.

Sections of the Canal Tow Path in poor condition

The Canals & River Trust have limited funds and lots of sections of tow path in poor condition. Those in the Dickens Heath area are not on their short term list, but complaints will help to push them up the list.

Update on T Junction on Rumbush Lane

Many vehicles miss the turning and end up at the barrier. Some have even been seen driving around the barrier. SMBC will be installing wooden posts on the footway to prevent this. Residents have requested improved signage to prevent this problem in the first place.

Minute 169 (2013/14) Planning Applications

No comment on planning application 2014/469, an objection to be submitted for planning application 2014/514 as agreed during public participation.

Minute 170 (2013/14) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Glenn, seconded by Councillor Brandum, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the April 15th 2014 agenda be approved.

Proposed by Councillor Glenn, seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the End of Year Financial Statements be approved and these were signed by the Chairman and Clerk/RFO.

Minute 171 (2013/14) Proposals for Future Development – Appeals

Developers are appealing over the refusal of planning applications for Cleobury Lane, DH and Mount Dairy Farm, Cheswick Green. Stansgate Planning will be assisting Cheswick Green Parish Council to challenge the appeal. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Clerk at CGPC to say that the Parish Council would be willing to share the costs of planning advice with regard to the appeals.

Minute 172 (2013/14) Annual Parish Meeting – May 27th 2014

It was agreed that this should be held at 7pm. The police have been invited to discuss the increased crime in the village, but are currently unable to attend. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for refreshments, and the usual information pack.

Minute 173 (2013/14) Application for a Grant – Tanworth & Camp Hill Cricket Club

Mike Shaw outlined plans that the club on Rumbush Lane has – they have obtained a grant from Sport England to upgrade their building facilities. They now wish to encourage local young people to come along to the club to play cricket and football. They would like to provide coaching at no charge and therefore they are applying to the Parish Council for a grant of £1,000 over 3 years – ie £333 per year.

The Parish Council is in support of efforts to engage young people from Dickens Heath in sport. All were in favour of approving the grant, and would like to see some feed back each year on the numbers of local people participating at the club.

Minute 174 (2013/14) Solihull Area Committee

Councillor Cudmore and the Clerk attended the recent SAC meeting at which there were presentations from Unity Trust Bank, and Churches Charities and Local Authorities' Investment Management Ltd. The Parish Council is currently unable to earn interest on its funds held in HSBC. Unity Trust Bank will pay some interest, and is recommended by Cheswick Green and Castle Bromwich Parish Councils who already hold accounts. It was agreed that representatives from these financial organisations should be invited to a future meeting.

Councillor Glenn agreed to attend future SAC meetings if she is able to.

Minute 175 (2013/14) Dickens Heath Parish Council Publication Scheme

This was adopted.

Minute 176 (2013/14) Parish Rooms

A resident has asked whether they can use the pool table in the Parish Rooms as and when they wish. The Parish Councillors felt that the Parish Rooms and facilities are for community use, not personal use, and therefore this should be declined.

Minute 177 (2013/14) Correspondence

Sevenoaks TC are submitting a proposal that local businesses want to see a proportion of business rates going to parish or town councils. Dickens Heath PC would be in support of this.

Minute 178 (2013/14) Items for Next Agenda

Neighbourhood Plan and PCSO.

Private Section

Minute 179 (2013/14) Youth Facility

This was discussed.

Meeting ended 10 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday May 27th 2014: to follow the APM which starts at 7pm