

# The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 7pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

### **Present:**

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

17 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

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### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Cudmore.

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Year’s Meeting held on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2013**

These were accepted as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Brandum and seconded by Councillor O’Nyons.

### **3. Report from the Parish Council Chairman – Richard Holt**

The Chairman welcomed everybody and spoke about how the Parish Council has progressed since its establishment 5 years ago.

Since Councillor Holt has recently been elected as a Borough Councillor, he has decided to resign as Chairman of Dickens Heath PC, but will remain as a member of the Parish Council.

### **4. Annual Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

These were provided for information.

### **5. Issues of Particular Local Importance**

#### Oak Trees on Cleobury Lane

It has been proposed that Tree Preservation Orders should be placed on all of the oak trees on Cleobury Lane. It was agreed that the Parish Council should contact SMBC in support of this.

#### Crime in Dickens Heath

The Chairman read out a report from Sergeant Saunders, who was unable to attend the meeting:

There has actually been a reduction in crime in Blythe Ward for the year to date, and generally Dickens Heath has one of the lowest crime rates in Solihull Borough. The spate of car crime on a couple of days recently was most likely due to a transient criminal – one of which has now been arrested in Cheswick Green. The team are also working with Tesco regarding the rise in thefts from the store.

The Parish Council will be discussing the possible funding of some additional PCSO hours for Dickens Heath.

#### Public Transport from Dickens Heath to the airport

There is a direct bus service to the airport from the centre of Solihull.

#### Village Celebrations

Any resident who wishes to organise cultural events for the village can make an application for a grant – which the Parish Council will then consider.

Garden Squares II

The bank that is selling this site is still negotiating with a potential buyer.

Closure of Blackford Road

Blackford Road is due to be closed for 10 weeks, for work to the sewers by Severn Trent, which is very inconvenient for residents. There has been so much leakage, that it will take a long time to dry out. SMBC are encouraging complaints to ST. It was agreed that the Parish Council should make a complaint to ST.

Road Safety on Rumbush Lane

It was again stated that the double yellow lines on Rumbush Lane at the clock island must be extended before there is an accident. It was agreed that the Parish Council should send in another complaint to SMBC.

There needs to be a pedestrian crossing at this point, it is now even more dangerous for the many children crossing Rumbush Lane. Such a request has been turned down in the past – but it was agreed that the Parish Council should send in another request.

Parking Restrictions

A resident stated that he had submitted a Freedom of Information request to SMBC, and between February and April they had issued 300 parking tickets in Dickens Heath. Residents agreed that they would like to see some of the income from fines being used to improve the roads - the Parish Council to send in this comment.

Condition of Roads

The island at Calcutt Way has very bad potholes. It was agreed that complaints should be forwarded to SMBC with accompanying photos.

Status of Road Adoptions

Most of the roads in Dickens Heath have been adopted by SMBC, but not all. Some are connected to the Parkridge site that is up for sale (Garden Squares II). SMBC will probably fix the unadopted roads if they are in a very bad state.

Query about the Arrangements of the Parish Council

Dickens Heath PC consists of 5 Councillors. This was established by Solihull MBC when the parish council first came into existence. The Parish Council agreed that they would be open to increasing the number of councillors to 7, given the size of the village. SMBC would then need to be asked to review the arrangements and make the decision. A majority of residents present would support an increase in the number of parish councillors. The Parish Council then elects its Chairman.

Footpath in Brockhurst Lane

Markings have gone down for the new location of the footpath. However, a resident stated that it looks like this is based on the original proposal and not the revised one. The Clerk to check up on this.

Hitherside

From Hitherside, as you get to the canal footbridge, there is a footpath going to the right – there needs to be a bollard there to prevent motorists from driving on the footpath. However, it needs to be a drop down bollard to allow access for landscaping vehicles etc.

**Meeting ended 7.55 pm**