

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday November 18th 2014 at 7.00pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Philip Brandum (Chairman), Robert Cudmore, Richard Holt (from 7.30pm), Josh O'Nyons.

Liz Curran, Cheryl Buck of The Scout Association

7 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 87 (2014/15) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Glenn.

Minute 88 (2014/15) Proposals for a New Scout Group in Dickens Heath

Cheryl Buck, Deputy District Commissioner and Liz Curran, Regional Development Officer spoke about developing Scouting in the Solihull area. They are in the process of facilitating a group for Dickens Heath which will be inclusive of boys, girls and children with special needs from the age of 5. Dickens Heath Primary School have agreed that they can be based at the school. A Facebook page has generated a lot of interest, so they now are looking for local volunteers to lead the group. They gave an overview of the benefits that Scouting can bring to children and young people, and outlined the next steps. The Parish Council thanked Cheryl and Liz, and agreed that the Parish Rooms could be used for training purposes.

Minute 89 (2014/15) Public Participation

Highway Issues/Parking

- Traffic wardens have not been seen in Dickens Heath for a while, the parking restrictions need regular enforcement. This comment to be part of the Parish Council response to the current parking survey being carried out by Solihull MBC.

Village Maintenance/Litter

- A hedge by the Miller and Carter has been drastically cut back, and the cuttings left in the ditch. This could be a problem because it does flood there. The Clerk to follow this up with the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.
- Pavements are still very slippery due to green moss and algae, particularly by the clock. SMBC have agreed to come out and spray them – the Clerk to ask when this will be happening.

Garden Squares II

- There is still no news. It was agreed that the Chief Executive of SMBC should be asked for an update on progress.

Future Developments

- The proposal for the Cleobury Lane site includes 5 speed bumps on Dickens Heath Rd. Residents feel that 2 mini roundabouts, one at each end of Cleobury Lane, would be much better. The Parish Council agrees. Bellway Homes will be holding a consultation session on December 2nd 2014 in the Parish Rooms – at which residents can give feedback. The Parish Council agreed to formally request roundabouts rather than speed bumps.

Other Issues

- There is some progress with the inscription for the Memorial. The Parish Council is keen to have some input from young people, and is very pleased that Alderbrook School have agreed to set this as a project for their Year 7's.

Minute 90 (2014/15) Gardening/Landscaping

The planting of daffodil bulbs was discussed. Last year the Sea Cadets helped with this. The Parish Council will be looking for volunteers and ideas of sites for planting.

Minute 91 (2014/15) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 92 (2014/15) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None.

Minute 93 (2014/15) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday October 21st 2014

Proposed by Councillor O'Nyons, seconded by Councillor Holt, it was **Resolved** that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 94 (2014/15) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingSlippy Pavements

SMBC will be sending a team out to deal with these.

Haulage Routes for New Developments

SMBC will inform us when these have been agreed.

Openness of Parish Councils

It was agreed that all papers for future meetings should be posted on the website.

Problem Parking on Broom Lane

A copy of photos and a petition have been received, it was agreed that this should be included in the Parish Council response to the SMBC parking survey.

Minute 95 (2014/15) Planning Applications

2 additional planning applications were also considered:

- 2014/1951 - 40 Tythe Barn Lane - Fell 1 ash tree (diseased)
- 2014/1958 - Parkridge House - Convert to 22 apartments (instead of 18) with no change to car parking as outlined in previous application.

Planning application 2014/1866 - 60A Bridge House, Waterside was discussed regarding its change of use to a yoga studio. There is some concern about parking, but the Parish Council felt that the use of the units at Waterside should be encouraged.

No comments on any of the planning applications.

Minute 96 (2014/15) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Holt, seconded by Councillor O'Nyons, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the November 18th 2014 Agenda be approved – 3 direct debits and 8 cheques totalling £5,092.96. This included an additional cheque of £432 to Plantscape for extended watering of the hanging baskets. The Clerk to seek further information regarding an invoice for £1,354.50 from Stansgate Planning.

The Parish Council currently has a surplus of £89,560 and is projecting a surplus of just under £70,000 at the year end. Councillor Holt thanked the Clerk for very clear financial information.

The proposed budget for 2015/16 was discussed and approved. We have not yet been notified of the Council Tax Base for 2015/16, but the Parish Council plan to keep the precept unchanged at the 2014/15 level.

Minute 97 (2014/15) Reports from Councillors who have attended outside groups or events

None.

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 18th November 2014

Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 98 (2014/15) Barrier on Old Dickens Heath Rd

The barrier has been vandalised again. Dickens Heath Management Co. is keen to see it replaced with a couple of wooden planters. Matt Gardner at SMBC may be able to provide the planters, but if not the Parish Council agreed to meet the costs of the planters and their on-going maintenance. The Clerk to chase up the final approval needed from SMBC.

Minute 99 (2014/15) Proposed Road Names for the Braggs Farm Lane Development

Suggestions put forward by the Street Name and Numbering Officer for SMBC are: Coppice Way, Woodland Rd/Close, Meadow Rd/Close and Birchy Close.

There is already a Birchy Close in Dickens Heath, and a Coppice Walk in Cheswick Green. The Parish Council feel the names are a bit uninspiring and would welcome some more historical names.

Minute 100 (2014/15) Remembrance Sunday

It was a beautiful sunny morning, and all agreed that this went really well, with the largest attendance so far.

Minute 101 (2014/15) Village Playground

The draft letter to BNP Paribas relating to initiating discussions about taking over responsibility for the playground was approved.

Minute 102 (2014/15) Village Memorial

The site for the memorial was discussed, and whether it could be placed as a focal point on a roundabout. The Parish Council agreed that they would like it to incorporate a place for quiet reflection and therefore it would be best to stay with the proposed site opposite the library and Tesco.

Minute 103 (2014/15) Christmas Carol Singing & Christmas Tree

The Parish Council usually makes a donation towards the village Christmas Tree. A donation of up to £100 was again agreed for this year.

Tesco have offered to support the Christmas Carol Singing on December 16th 2014 at 6.30 pm with hot drinks, mulled wine and mince pies. Reverend Julie Humphries wishes to once again sing outside Tesco, with singers going into Mortons afterwards to warm up if they wish. The Parish Council agreed this.

Minute 104 (2014/15) The Parish Rooms

Cre8 would like to offer health and fitness seminars in the Parish Rooms in the New Year. This was agreed on the basis that Cre8 offer some general seminars free of charge.

Minute 105 (2014/15) Ongoing ReferencesLitter Collection

Steve, our new Village Handyman, is settling in. There was some discussion about dog bins and whether bag dispensers would make a difference to the amount of dog mess. It was agreed that an appeal to dog owners should be made in the Parish Council News in the first instance.

Elections 2015

It was also agreed that some information should be included in the Parish Council News in relation to standing for election as a Parish Councillor, and that an informal information evening should be held in the Spring 2015.

Minute 106 (2014/15) Correspondence

Solihull Police would like to recruit new 'Key Individuals' to join their network of members of the community who are willing to engage and contribute to local policing. Councillor Brandum expressed an interest in following this up.

Minute 107 (2014/15) Items for next agenda

None.

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 18th November 2014

Signature.....

Date.....

Private Section

Minute 108 (2014/15) Staff Issues

None.

Minute 109 (2014/15) Village Issues

This was discussed.

Meeting ended 8.55 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday December 9th 2014: 7.00pm The Parish Rooms