

Parish Council News – January 2015

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council's next meetings will be on Tuesday January 20th followed by Tuesday February 17th 2015, in the Parish Rooms, Waterside, off Rumbush Lane – at the new earlier time of 7pm. Please come and join us!

Remembrance Sunday Service in Dickens Heath

Remembrance Sunday was a beautiful sunny day with the largest attendance so far of residents – thank you to everyone who attended and everyone who helped with the organisation. Thank you to our ministers and readers, residents who manned the barriers, Fastaid, the Police Specials, Coffee Cloud and to SOS Group Services Ltd for their loan once again of the barriers.

The Parish Council has commissioned the design of a memorial for the village, which will hopefully be in place for next year's Remembrance Sunday. We are keen for our young people have some input, and asked local secondary schools if their students could write some words that could be used as an inscription on our memorial. We were delighted to receive some words written by Alderbrook School year 7 pupils, and wish to thank all the talented pupils. The Parish Council was very impressed by the remarkably high standard, and chose the words of Ryan Carter for the inscription.

Dog Fouling

Residents have recently raised concerns about the amount of dog mess around the village. It's highly unpleasant to see, but it's also a health hazard. Dog mess can carry various types of worms and other parasites, which can then be passed on to other dogs or washed into local waterways. The most serious health risk is of toxocariasis, and young children are most likely to be affected. Toxocariasis is caused by the parasite *Toxocara Canis* (roundworm) which live in dogs' digestive systems. Young children are more likely to be affected because they may not wash their hands properly and are more likely to put things in their mouths. Toxocariasis can cause breathing difficulties, seizures and red painful eyes with clouded vision. If left untreated, this can lead to blindness.

So dog owners – please dispose of your dog's mess immediately in a responsible manner.

Elections in May 2015

In May next year, all of the Parish Council positions will be up for election. The proposal to increase the number of parish councillor positions from 5 to 7 is also undergoing the required consultation. Details can be seen on our noticeboards or at www.dickensheathpc.org.uk – it looks likely that there will be 7 vacancies for the next election.

Dickens Heath is a large village, and the Parish Council is very keen to encourage residents who are interested in making a difference to their village and community to stand for election. In the Spring, the Parish Council will be holding an informal information event at which residents can find out what being a Parish Councillor involves.

New Scout Group in Dickens Heath

The Parish Council recently had the pleasure of meeting 2 representatives of The Scout Association who outlined plans for a first Dickens Heath Scout Group. There has been a lot of interest from residents, and volunteers are currently being sought in order to get the Group up and running. Further details can be seen on the Parish Council website.

Parking Review

SMBC have been carrying out a review into the parking restrictions that were introduced early in 2014. More than 250 responses have been received and the resulting report is due out in January 2015.

Phil Brandum

Chairman, Dickens Heath PC

Contact Us:

If you would like to get in touch, please contact Parish Clerk – Helen Marczak on 07772 469271, by emailing dickensheathpc@hotmail.com, or at 1 Wharf House, Waterside, Dickens Heath, Solihull B90 1UE.