

# Parish Council News – April 2018

## Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council's meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, our next meetings will be on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Please come and join us, with an opportunity to ask questions at the start of the meeting.

## Annual Parish Meeting for Residents on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

Each year, the Parish Council holds an annual meeting for residents, and this year our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. We have invited a representative from Dickens Heath School to come along to talk about the exciting developments happening at the School, and we will also ask those residents present to vote for the community groups/organisations that they wish to receive a share of our Community Chest Fund of £3,000 (see below for more details). We will also be providing the usual refreshments following the meeting – so please do come along if you are able to.

## Community Chest Fund of £3,000

If you are a member of a local community group or organisation, and you are looking for additional funding – then please do look at our website. The Parish Council are inviting applications for a share of this fund of £3,000 – local residents will then decide which applications should be approved, by voting at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for applications is April 20<sup>th</sup> 2018, and the application form and associated information can be downloaded from our website. If you have any further queries, or you would like us to send you an application form – then please get in touch with us at [dickensheathpc@hotmail.com](mailto:dickensheathpc@hotmail.com) or on 07772 469271.

## Update on the Village Playground

In the course of advertising our Community Chest fund, there have been many comments about it being used to update the playground. Unfortunately it's not quite that simple. The Parish Council have funds in reserve that we wish to use to buy a new playground for the children of Dickens Heath, but we can't do that while it is owned by the Receivers. The Parish Council have offered to negotiate to buy the playground, but the Receivers have so far not responded. Solihull MBC have agreed to assist us in trying to negotiate with the Receivers, and have sent an initial letter to them – we are currently awaiting a response.

## Would You Like to See Social Events for the Community in Dickens Heath?

The Parish Council have been able to secure the use of Dickens Heath Sports Club, its facilities and grounds, for 5 days or evenings per year – this is a great opportunity to organize some events to bring our community together, maybe a children's Christmas party, a family cinema evening, or a community sports event? The Parish Council are happy to support any such events – but we need you, our residents, to lead on this and tell us what events you wish to see taking place in Dickens Heath. Would you be prepared to assist in forming a committee to take this forward for 2018/19? Please get in touch if you may be interested in this, or would like some further information.

## The Parish Council – On the Move to the Library?

The Parish Council have been concerned for a while that the library in Dickens Heath is struggling. It is expensive to run, and it is not well used solely as a library so the Parish Council are concerned that SMBC may consider closing it. A potential solution would be for the Parish Council to relocate to the library and to meet some of the costs. We also have ideas for possibly turning the library into more of a community hub while of course retaining the library services. One idea is to incorporate a part time Post Office. Of course, all of these ideas are only a starting point and we have a long way to go before a decision is made. But we have begun negotiations with SMBC officers which have been very positive.

## Dickens Heath in Bloom – Best Kept Garden Competition

As part of Dickens Heath in Bloom – the Parish Council will be running a best kept garden competition, we would love to hear from anyone who wishes to enter their garden!

## **Maureen Holloway**

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

## **Contact Us:**

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