

Parish Council News – August 2018

Parish Council Meetings - Change of Date for September Meeting

The Parish Council's September meeting has been rearranged for Tuesday September 18th 2018, with the following meeting on October 9th 2018 – both meetings will start at 7.15pm. Please come and join us, with an opportunity to ask questions at the start of the meeting.

Dickens Heath in Bloom

As you read this, the In Bloom judges will already have visited Dickens Heath – they are due on Friday July 20th 2018. The Parish Councillors have been working very hard through these recent hot weeks – watering all of the planters every day that we have had no rain, which has been several weeks in a row as at writing! The hard work is paying off, the planters and flower boxes are really brightening up the village. We appealed for residents to enter our best front garden competition, and we have had a few entries – these will be judged by Rev. Theresa Jones and will be included in the In Bloom judging route if at all possible.



Update on Village Green and Playground

As the school summer holidays approach, residents have become more vocal in their frustration that the playground remains shut - due to safety concerns regarding the ageing equipment. Dickens Heath Management Co. do not have the funds to replace any of the equipment, and so their only option was to close the playground. As many residents are aware, the Parish Council has set aside funds to buy a new playground for the village, but they can't do this unless they can own or lease the land. The playground and Village Green are still 'in the control' of the Receivers of Parkridge Holdings. The Parish Council first tried to open up a dialogue with the Receivers some 3 years ago, and more recently we have also enlisted the help of Dickens Heath Management Co. and Solihull MBC's solicitor – without any success.

Some of the pupils at Dickens Heath School have offered to assist by writing letters to the Receivers. And at Festival on the Green the Parish Council collected over 100 signatures on a petition in support of the Parish Council buying the playground.

We feel that we have made some progress in recent weeks – Price Waterhouse Coopers have clarified that they are the liquidators of Parkridge Holdings, and they have been advised recently that the Receivers intend to 'vacate office' in the near future. At this point, the liquidators will take control of the remaining assets. PwC are encouraging the Receivers to vacate office, but they have no control over when it happens. PwC are aware that some land (which they believe includes the playground and Village Green) would need to be dealt with when the Receivers vacate office. PwC confirm that they will look at this matter as a priority once they have control of the remaining assets. This is definitely a step forward, and while we wait for the Receivers to vacate office, the Parish Council are in discussion with Solihull MBC's solicitor as to whether any other action can be taken.

This is a very frustrating situation for us all, but we continue to work towards our goal of providing Dickens Heath with a new playground.

Maureen Holloway

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

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