

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday July 11th 2017 in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Trevor Eames, Maureen Holloway (Chair), David Jones, Diane Potter, Alan Scholes, Doreen Wright.

2 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 56 (2017/18) Apologies for Absence

None.

Minute 57 (2017/18) Public Participation

None.

Minute 58 (2017/18) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 59 (2017/18) Report from the Borough Councillors

None.

Minute 60 (2017/18) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday June 20th 2017

Proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Wright, it was **Resolved** that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 61 (2017/18) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Bank Mandate

The bank mandate is now completely up to date.

Planning Application for 39 Birchy Close

An objection has been sent in, the Clerk to ensure that Borough Councillor Richard Holt has a copy.

Petition for Extension of Pavement to Dickens Heath Sports Club

Councillors Trevor Eames, Doreen Wright and Alan Scholes attended the meeting of the Borough Council at which Borough Councillor Richard Holt presented this petition, he did a very good job and the petition was presented to the Mayor, who had attended the opening of the Sports Club.

Main St Business Rates

Cre8 have forwarded information regarding their high level of business rates for Councillor Trevor Eames to look at.

Dickens Heath in Bloom

It was agreed that In Bloom judge Trish Willetts be invited to the October PC meeting. Some residents who are keen gardeners have also expressed an interest in attending and being involved.

Maintenance of Roads and Pavements

The manual brushing of the pavements has still not been done, and the weeds around the islands are now as bad as they were before the pavements were cleansed. This to be followed up with Matt Gardner and Kath Hemming.

The Chalice

There has been a complaint about late evening noise from the Chalice. However, the Chalice is not actually staying open that late, it usually shuts around 10.30pm. There is more noise coming from one of the apartments opposite, and complaints about this are being followed up.

Memorial

Paperwork necessary to obtain the licence for the memorial has been passed to the SMBC Legal Department.

Minute 62 (2017/18) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 63 (2017/18) Literary Litter Pickers – Community Litter Picks for DH

Councillor Maureen Holloway said that July's litter pick was again very disappointing, and this was the third monthly litter pick that had been supported by no-one except Parish Councillors. Councillor Dave Jones said that he has let SMBC have some of the equipment back and just kept a small amount of it - they will try a litter pick in August and see how it goes. There is no point in continuing to organise litter picks if there is no support from the community.

Minute 64 (2017/18) Dickens Heath in Bloom and Floral Displays

The Parish Council has received, with thanks to Elegant Homes, 2 troughs for the memorial site opposite the library and Tesco, and 12 planters for the island at Waterside. The Parish Councillors will be getting together to organise the planting of these.

Minute 65 (2017/18) Richborough Development Proposal

Solihull MBC have recommended that the Parish Council engage with Richborough with a view to arranging a Public Information Event to inform the community about their development proposals. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for residents to be informed about the proposals in this way, and the Clerk should arrange an initial meeting between the Parish Council and representatives of Richborough.

Minute 66 (2017/18) Welcome to the Village Signs

Councillor Alan Scholes will contact the supplier to discuss the gated signs.

Minute 67 (2017/18) Village Post Office

Members of the Parish Council will be attending a meeting in a week's time at SMBC to discuss the library, and the proposal for a Post Office will form part of this discussion.

Minute 68 (2017/18) Councillors who have attended Outside Groups or EventsTransport Survey

Councillor Trevor Eames met with Bettina Lange when she visited Dickens Heath with regard to the Transport Survey that she is carrying out, as Dickens Heath is one of the sites they are looking at. She is interested in any historic documents that the Parish Council has, and is looking at how best to improve public transport, focussing on this rather than cars. The Parish Council has a copy of the village masterplan – it was agreed that Councillor Eames should arrange for this to be scanned so that Bettina can have a digital copy.

Minute 69 (2017/18) Parish Council Away Day

This was a very useful morning, and some very good ideas for future projects were discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Councillor surgery was an excellent idea, and should be implemented as of September – in the Library on the last Saturday of the month, between 11am and 1pm. The Clerk to advertise this.

It was also agreed that the Away Day should be repeated on an annual basis.

Minute 70 (2017/18) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Holloway, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the July 11th 2017 Agenda be approved - 16 payments totalling £2,469.13 including additional payments of £11.94 to Opus for gas and £98.00 for the Away Day.

The regular monthly payments for August were also agreed – including salaries, allowances and cleaning of the Parish Rooms.

The invoice from Plantscape for the hanging baskets, floral boxes and watering maintenance was discussed. All was agreed except for the watering – the invoice included watering for the months of June, July and August. As the baskets did not arrive until early July, it was agreed that only 2 months of watering would be paid. If the watering continues into September, then an additional payment can be made at that point.

The Parish Council currently has a surplus of £111,000 and is projecting a surplus of £102,000 at the year end – this will be used to meet the cost of any projects, such as the memorial.

Councillor Dave Jones asked for clarification about the 2 loans, it was explained that the first loan was for the purchase of the Parish Rooms. The second loan was taken out for the refurbishment work – structural changes were required on safety grounds.

Minute 71 (2017/18) Parish Rooms

None.

Minute 72 (2017/18) Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Due to lack of time, it was agreed that the review of these documents should again be deferred to the September meeting – Councillors to retain the paperwork until then.

Minute 73 (2017/18) Neighbourhood Plan Website

There is a website for the Neighbourhood Plan, which was set up by a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee before this was put on hold. It is a basic website, with not much content, and Councillor Alan Scholes has the log in details for it. Councillor Scholes is not sure whether there is an annual fee associated with this website. It was agreed that no further fee should be paid to retain this website.

Minute 74 (2017/18) Parish Council News

The Parish Council page in the September DH Directory to include a summary of the projects put forward during the Away Day, and another plea for dog owners to pick up their dog's waste.

Minute 75 (2017/18) CorrespondenceCheswick Green PC Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

Cheswick Green Parish Council have forwarded their Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire, the Clerk to forward to all Parish Councillors to look at individually.

Dickens Heath in Bloom Suggestion

A resident has asked if the Parish Council would consider offering prizes for the best garden or best hanging baskets. It was agreed that this was a very good idea, and this would be done for summer 2018.

Parish Council Parking Spaces

A resident of Waterside would like to have 2 parking spaces together, and has asked whether the Parish Council would consider selling or renting out their spaces. It was agreed that the Parish Council wanted to retain the parking spaces, it is essential for any future sale that the property has 2 parking spaces.

Bins at Waterside

One of the businesses has complained that the bins are not all being emptied – this to be referred to Dickens Heath Management Co.

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 11th July 2017

Signature.....

Date.....

SMBC Brownfield Land Register

The Brownfield Land Register identifies all land which can accommodate at least 5 dwellings. SMBC are asking land owners to respond, and for example there is a site in Dickens Heath – the coach depot near to the Miller and Carter. The Parish Council doesn't need to take any action.

Canal and River Trust

An email from the Canal and River Trust has been forwarded by Jill Lovett, it was agreed that the Parish Council would look at co-ordinating some volunteer work on the canal tow paths in the Spring of 2018. The Clerk to contact Adam Noon at Solihull MBC to see whether he can put us in touch with any volunteers.

Minute 76 (2017/18) Items for Next Agenda

Parish Council Vacancy, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Minute 77 (2017/18) It was Resolved that, in accordance with paras I and II Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public should be asked to withdraw due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

Minute 78 (2017/18) Community Facilities

The Village Hall and Village Green were discussed.

Minute 79 (2017/18) Traders' Temporary Parking

Councillor Trevor Eames confirmed that SMBC have decided not to proceed with a long term parking scheme for traders. Various other ideas were discussed.

Minute 80 (2017/18) Parish Council Staffing over the Summer

Staff leave was discussed.

Meeting ended 9.40pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday September 12th 2017: 7.00pm The Parish Rooms