

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday January 21st 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Philip Brandum, Robert Cudmore, Alyson Glenn, Richard Holt (Chairman), Josh O’Nyons.

21 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 123 (2013/14) Apologies for Absence

None

Minute 124 (2013/14) Public Participation

Councillor Holt declared a personal interest in the Brockhurst Lane footpath issue – as he lives in Brockhurst Lane.

Brockhurst Lane Footpath Alteration

The Parish Council stated that they should not be making a decision on the proposed footpath alteration – that Solihull MBC is responsible for road safety. Residents debated whether there is a safety issue with the current footpath or not, and whether alternative proposals should be considered. The residents present at the meeting hold very strong but varying views on the issue. The Parish Council decided that they were not in a position to make a recommendation since they are not safety experts, and that Solihull MBC would be requested to carry out an independent safety review of the current footpath, and carry out another resident consultation.

Parking Restrictions

The parking restrictions are not yet being enforced because the painting of double yellow lines is not yet complete. Some patterns of parking have started to ‘shift’.

Whitlocks End Train Station

Some of the bushes on the approach to Whitlocks End Train Station need cutting back again.

Chicanes on Tythe Barn Lane

Residents would like a safety review of the chicanes by Akamba to be carried out. It was agreed that a request be forwarded to Solihull MBC.

Garden Squares phase 2

Further information should be available soon from Solihull MBC regarding a potential developer.

Proposals for Further Development in Dickens Heath

The Solihull Local Plan has been formally adopted, and the planning applications for Braggs Farm Lane and Cleobury Lane are going to planning committee on January 29th 2014.

The Chalice

The notices in the window that asked customers to be considerate about noise are no longer up, and noise late at night is a problem again. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the landlord to ask that the notices are reinstated.

Minute 125 (2013/14) Gardening Club

The planting of the 3 trees on the bare patch of grass at Buckridge Lane failed because there was found to be a layer of solid concrete just below the grass.

The Parish Council would like to plant up the bare looking islands, many of which are still unadopted by Solihull MBC. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask whether Redrow would give their permission for their islands to be planted up

Minute 126 (2013/14) Report from Borough Councillors

Councillor Ken Hawkins had forwarded a report.

Minute 127 (2013/14) Minutes of previous meeting held on December 10th 2013

It was proposed by Councillor Glenn and seconded by Councillor Cudmore, **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday December 10th 2013 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 128 (2013/14) Actions from the Minutes of the previous meetingParking Restrictions

Solihull MBC have confirmed that the enforcement officers will be working extended hours.

Unfinished Strip of Land

Neither Redrow, nor Dickens Heath Management Co, think this strip of land by the entrance to the Waterside underground car park is theirs. It was agreed that ownership should be checked with the Land Registry.

Whitlocks End Pedestrian Crossing

Work is due to start on the pedestrian crossing at Whitlocks End train station on February 24th 2014.

Parish Rooms Suspension

The suspension on children's groups using the Parish Rooms has been lifted following adjustment of the door closing mechanism.

Minute 129 (2013/14) Planning Applications

There were two additional planning applications – 2014/58 and 2014/59 - 73 Main St - for a William Hill licensed betting office. It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to this.

No comments on the other planning applications.

Minute 130 (2013/14) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Brandum, seconded by Councillor Glenn, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the January 21st 2014 agenda be approved.

It was **Resolved** that the parish council element of the council tax for 2014/15 should remain the same as 2013/14. A precept of £79,436 was therefore approved for 2014/15 – this will mean a slight reduction in the Parish Council's budget due to a slightly lower number of properties eligible for the council tax compared to last year.

The insurance for 2014/15 was approved.

Minute 131 (2013/14) Proposals for Further Development

The current Blythe planning applications for further development, including the 2 Dickens Heath ones, are going to the SMBC planning committee on January 29th 2014. Councillor Holt has registered to speak against the Dickens Heath applications.

Minute 132 (2013/14) Youth Club

Councillor Holt declared a personal interest as his son is a member of the youth club.

Councillor Holt has popped in to see how the new youth club is going. On the second week, he was pleased to see around 20 young people were there enjoying themselves.

Now that the youth club is up and running, the youth worker has identified some further equipment that he would like to purchase, and has asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to provide further funding of £500. It was agreed that the Parish Council would look at their request at the next meeting once the youth worker has put some estimates together.

Minute 133 (2013/14) Village War Memorial

It was agreed that the Parish Councillors would identify a suitable site once the evenings are lighter.

Minute 134 (2013/14) Parish Rooms

Safety of Doors

An engineer has adjusted the door mechanism so that they now shut as slowly as possible. It was agreed that a maintenance agreement should be taken out for the doors – at a cost of £300 plus VAT for the year.

Two other options, which had been identified for consideration by the risk assessor, were discussed. The first was that the handles on the outside of the doors could be removed. The Parish Council decided against this at the moment. The second was that sensors could be fitted, at a cost of £1,366 plus VAT – the Parish Council also decided against this.

Pop for Tots

It was agreed that a young children’s singing group could use the Parish Rooms on Sunday mornings as of September.

Minute 135 (2013/14) Ongoing References

Litter

A resident has asked whether the Parish Council could provide a litter picker – the Environmental Champions at SMBC will provide litter pickers.

It was agreed that that an additional bin by the canal on Brockhurst Lane should be requested from SMBC.

Minute 136 (2013/14) Correspondence

Rural Ward Action Plan 2014/15

The current Ward Action Plan contains refurbishment of the butterfly – to be funded by the Parish Council. It was agreed that a quote should be obtained before making a final decision. The Parish Council agreed that, in 2014/15, they would wish to see additional planting of flowers in the village.

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

The school is the only polling station in Dickens Heath, it was agreed that this was currently sufficient.

WALC Annual Briefing Day

It was agreed that the Clerk could attend this at a cost of £40.

Private Section

Minute 137 (2013/14) Youth Facility

This was discussed.

Meeting ended 9.35 pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday February 18th 2014: 7.30pm