

Parish Council News – February 2019

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 12th 2019 starting at 7.15pm, with the following meeting on March 12th 2019 – this meeting will start at 6pm to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting. Please come and join us, with an opportunity to ask questions at the start of the meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting – March 12th 2019 at 7.30pm

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting for residents, and it is your opportunity to raise with the Parish Council any matters of interest or concern. We are hoping to have a guest speaker and the meeting will be followed by the usual refreshments.

Update on the Bus Service from Dickens Heath to Solihull

Following the good news of before Christmas that Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) would after all retain a direct bus service from Dickens Heath to Solihull, we have now heard that the S3 contract has been awarded to Landflight (the old Silverline group). At the time of writing, TfWM had not made the full details publically available, but this is a very good start to the New Year and hopefully residents will soon see a more reliable service.

Update on Village Green, Playground and Small Nature Reserve at Waterside

Members of the Parish Council have been meeting regularly with representatives of Liquidators PwC, Savills, and Solihull MBC with the aim that the ownership of the Village Green, Playground and Small Nature Reserve at Waterside be transferred from the Liquidators in to public hands – SMBC have indicated that they are willing to take on this ownership, with the Parish Council taking on the maintenance costs. The Liquidators and Savills had indicated that they would make good defects that had resulted in the Playground being closed, and unsafe defects on the bridge from Waterside to the Small Nature Reserve. Savills have assured us that this has now been done. The Parish Council have ensured that a budget is included for 2019/20 to allow for maintenance of these areas, and SMBC officers are drawing up a Heads of Terms for the transfer of the land. Things may not be moving as quickly as residents would wish – but we are making steady progress.

Sale of the Parish Rooms and Parish Council Move to the Library

Several offers for the Parish Rooms have been received, the Parish Council have accepted the highest offer and the sale is now with the solicitors. Meanwhile Parish Councillors are meeting regularly with SMBC Library officers regarding their move in to the first floor of the library, with a view to providing the best possible use of the space for the Parish Council and community groups.

Request for Double Yellow Lines on Dickens Heath Rd alongside the Village Green

The Parish Council are regularly contacted by residents who have concerns about the parking on Dickens Heath Rd alongside the Village Green. That the road effectively becomes one way around the bend – causing a blind spot, problems for the bus, traffic issues and road rage. The Parish Council have asked for additional double yellow lines in this location – but we have never had the support of SMBC or the Police. We have now put in a formal request to SMBC, and such requests are now prioritised based on the level of need, and are assessed using a points system. We are only likely to be successful if we can prove that double yellow lines are needed – and SMBC require lots of evidence from residents as well as the Parish Council. If you have experienced difficulties with this stretch of road – then we would really like to hear from you.

Parish Council Budget for 2019/20 – Reduction in Council Tax

The Parish Council have looked in some detail at the budget for 2019/20 along with the corresponding charge that will be made to ratepayers. The village continues to grow in size and so there are more residents paying the council tax, but the Parish Council also plan to take on additional responsibilities with maintenance of the Village Green and Small Nature Reserve. Having taken this all into account,

and given that the Parish Council already holds a healthy level of reserves – the Parish Council have decided that they are in a position to reduce the precept charge to home owners by 5%.

Dickens Heath Football Club Success

And finally – we are delighted to hear of the success of Dickens Heath Football Club who, as of writing, have got through to the semi final of the league cup. A great start to 2019!

Maureen Holloway

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

Contact Us:

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