

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday March 12th 2019 in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

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

22 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 151 (2018/19) Apologies for Absence

None.

Minute 152 (2018/19) Public Participation

SLP Review Site 4 in Dickens Heath

Many residents were present to make it known that they object to Site 4. One resident stated that they hope the Parish Council and all residents will object to site 4, another had heard that Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins has a petition against site 4 with over 1,000 signatures. Chair Maureen Holloway responded that the Parish Council doesn't make these decisions, but will send in a response based on the views received from residents. A resident asked whether the PC has received any representations in favour of this development – the answer was no, not one.

Residents' Particular Concerns Raised re Site 4:

Will there be Adequate Flood Defences?

All new sites will have to show they are safeguarded from flooding for the lifetime of the development. Funding for flood defences to be available from 2021.

Do they Propose a Pathway through Birchy Close?

A pathway through Birchy Close, connecting site 4 to the village centre, was on the previous version of the SLP site 4 plans - it seems to have gone from these current plans. Councillor Eames confirmed that there are no proposals for a route through Birchy Close.

What about Local Infrastructure?

A resident said that the infrastructure of today is breaking, let alone with more development. What about today? Councillor Eames said that this consultation is just about identifying sites and numbers of houses, it is not dealing with infrastructure, schools etc. This will follow in a further consultation. In terms of today's problems – the PC is having regular meetings with SMBC officers to discuss what needs to be addressed now as well as part of the SLP Review. But it is difficult to get funds to address this – there are problems all across Solihull. Discussions include dealing with the parking along Dickens Heath Rd and keeping Braggs Farm Lane open until the traffic congestion problems have been sorted out.

Is this SMBC's Preferred Plan?

A resident asked if this was SMBC's preferred plan? Councillor Eames replied that yes it is – they have prepared it. The resident then commented that if that is so – won't it be difficult to stop it from happening? Chair Maureen Holloway replied that the Parish Council can only send in representations, and they will need to put forward relevant reasons for objecting.

Minute 153 (2018/19) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 154 (2018/19) Report from Borough Councillors

None.

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 12th March 2019

Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 155 (2018/19) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday February 12th 2019

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

Minute 156 (2018/19) Planning Applications

85 Birchy Leasowes Lane – 5 properties had been approved for this site, now they are seeking approval to squeeze in a further 2 houses. There was a lot of objection to the previous planning application – Councillor Trevor Eames to look into this further pending an objection from the Parish Council.

Dickens Heath School – erection of modular youth centre. The Parish Council has received no objections from residents to this planning application, and so will make no comments.

No comments on the other planning applications on the agenda.

Two additional planning applications have been received:

2019/00385 - 10 Broom Lane - Orangery to rear of property. No comments on this.

2019/00615 - 54 Birchy Close - Conversion of roof into habitable rooms, addition of dormers and internal alterations. Councillor Eames to look into this further.

Minute 157 (2018/19) Update on the Parish Council's Proposed Move to the Library and Sale of 1 Wharf House

The details of the sale of the Parish Rooms, and the temporary licence to occupy the 1st floor of the library (pending an amendment to the lease), are now in the hands of the solicitors.

The purchasers are aiming to move in by the end of March, and the Parish Council is working to a date of March 29th 2019 for the move if possible. SMBC have indicated that the PC will be able to move into the library when required.

Minute 158 (2018/19) Update on Meetings with Solihull MBC and the Liquidators about the Village Green, Playground and Country Park (Small Nature Reserve)

Solihull MBC are looking to acquire both the Village Green and the Small Nature Reserve, and then to sub-let the Village Green to the Parish Council on a 125 year lease. The relevant legal departments are now looking at the details.

Minute 159 (2018/19) Solihull Local Plan Review Supplementary Consultation

Councillor Trevor Eames read out a statement that summarised the Parish Council's position on this – the Parish Council have listened to the views of residents and these have been incorporated into the statement. Councillor Eames reassured residents that he has read every representation that had been sent to the Parish Council up until this afternoon.

The Parish Council will be making an objection to site 4 on the following basis:

Site 4 incorporates 2 housing locations. The smaller Persimmon site for 100 houses between Akamba, the canal and village will be difficult to object to given the criteria used. The larger site however is unacceptable – given the loss of sports grounds that would need to be replaced, and concerns regarding the impact on existing hedgerows, woodlands, openness and character of the area.

Minute 160 (2018/19) Proposed Prohibition of Driving on Braggs Farm Lane and Proposed Double Yellow Lines on Dickens Heath Road

No further update as yet.

Minute 161 (2018/19) Village Issues

Newsletter

A newsletter for March has been circulated with Look Local.

Festival on the Green

A new committee has been formed so that Festival on the Green 2019 can go ahead.

Minute 162 (2018/19) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Holloway, seconded by Councillor Potter, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the March 12th 2019 Agenda be approved – 2 direct debits and 22 payments totalling £5,337.41 including additional payments of £86.52 to Opus for gas, £52.68 to Ignis Fire Protection for the fire extinguisher service, £725.58 to Savills for the service charge for 1 Wharf House, £110.00 for the entry fee to Heart of England In Bloom and £300.00 to the Wilkes Partnership for fees relating to the sale of 1 Wharf House.

Minute 163 (2018/19) Community Chest Grants

No applications have yet been received for a community chest grant – this to be relaunched before March 26th 2019 with a new deadline of April 30th 2019.

Minute 164 (2018/19) Correspondence

The Public Sector Bodies (Website & Mobile Apps) Accessibility Regulations 2018

All public sector websites and apps must meet certain accessibility standards & publish a statement to that effect. This is to ensure accessibility to all users, including those with disabilities. Existing websites have until September 22nd 2020 to comply – further advice from WALC awaited.

Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre

The Dogs Trust, based in Kenilworth, have asked whether the Parish Council would be interested in them visiting to talk about their charity – to be deferred.

Making Tax Digital (VAT)

Where councils are not VAT registered and reclaim VAT using a VAT126 form, as we do, they will not be affected during 2019/20, nor does it seem likely that this will change for 2020/21.

Minute 165 (2018/19) Items for Next Agenda

None.

Meeting ended 7pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday April 9th 2019: 7.15pm in the Library (1st floor)