

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday July 9th 2019 in the Parish Rooms, Waterside

Present:

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

18 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 54 (2019/20) Apologies for Absence

None.

Minute 55 (2019/20) Public Participation

Defibrillator in the Village

A resident asked whether there was an update on obtaining a defibrillator for Dickens Heath. Councillor Di Potter has been into Tesco to ask about locating a defibrillator on their outside wall, their response was very positive and they also offered to make a contribution. Tesco have subsequently been in touch to let the Parish Council know that defibrillators are being rolled out to all of their stores. They confirmed that it will be located on the outside wall and will be managed by Tesco, which is ideal.

Planning Application for 7 Houses on Birchy Leasowes Lane

A resident asked whether the Parish Council would again be objecting to this on the basis of the flooding risk. Councillor Trevor Eames replied that the planning application went to full committee at SMBC, and that he and Borough Councillor James Butler had raised a strong objection that these technical conditions were being delegated to officers and not being referred back to committee. It has since been revealed that the flooding condition can be referred back to committee, and so the revised flooding scheme will do so. The Parish Council will therefore have an opportunity to look at the revised flooding scheme, which will be safer and more substantial than the original proposal.

Speed Cushions Proposed for Dickens Heath Rd

A resident asked whether, along with the proposed speed cushions for Dickens Heath Rd, there would also be a pedestrian crossing point? Residents from the new houses have to cross the road to get to the school. Councillor Trevor Eames replied that a pedestrian crossing point will be provided along that stretch of road as part of the improvements.

Library Sign

A resident asked about the incomplete library sign. There will be a new joint sign for the Library and Parish Council as a part of the lease for co-occupation.

Fires in Field across the Canal from Waterside

A resident reported that there have been fires in the bales of hay in the field across the canal from Hutchings Lane. The fire brigade have been called out 5 times recently and have gone across the Waterside bridge with fire extinguishers. The farmer really needs to move the hay.

Severn Trent Work on Dickens Heath Rd

A resident commented that the closure of Dickens Heath Rd for work by Severn Trent was going to cause major disruption for residents. It was agreed that the details would be publicized on the PC website and Facebook.

Petition re Solihull Local Plan Review

Some residents have put together a petition to the Parish Council – asking them to change the wording of their response to the Solihull Local Plan Review to make clear that there is an objection to Site 4. The Chair replied that this was on the agenda as the next item.

Minute 56 (2019/20) Petition in Relation to Site 4 in Draft Solihull Local Plan

The Chair read out a statement in response to this petition, which confirmed that Solihull MBC are treating the Parish Council's response as an objection to Site 4 and that one word in the response has been amended – to insert the word 'objection' in place of 'reservations' in the first paragraph of Question 12. There followed some discussion about the issue, and the resident who co-ordinated the petition thanked the Parish Council for making the amendment.

Minute 57 (2019/20) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 58 (2019/20) Report from Borough Councillors

None present.

Minute 59 (2019/20) Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Tuesday June 11th 2019

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

Minute 60 (2019/20) Actions from the Previous Meeting

Speed Humps on Dickens Heath Rd

Councillor Alan Scholes confirmed that these would definitely be speed cushions and this area is being carefully monitored with regard to potential flooding.

Litter Picking Equipment in Library

Litter picking equipment is now in the library and available for members of the public to borrow if they wish. This has been publicized.

Annual Away Day

An Away Day was confirmed for September with the Neighbourhood Plan to be part of the agenda.

Minute 61 (2019/20) Planning Applications

There was one additional planning application – 2019/01694 for a first floor side extension at 17 Tythe Barn Lane.

No comments on the planning applications.

Councillor Trevor Eames confirmed that the planning application for work to an oak tree at 15A Whitchurch Lane has been refused.

Minute 62 (2019/20) Youth Facility at the School

Councillor Nargis Rashid reported that the youth facility building is a shell which is being installed during the school holidays to be ready for October 2019. Consultation will take place with the pupils in years 5 and 6, and at the Fiveway Café. An event on the Village Green will also take place during the summer. There is a questionnaire which the Parish Council will publicize and encourage young people to complete, so that the young people will hopefully use the facility and feel ownership of it. Activities are planned for 5 days a week, with the Scouts due to use it on 2 evenings a week and the Fiveway Café on another. The Parish Council will be funding youth worker activities on another evening each week. An article is also due to be published in a local newspaper, this is being initiated by SMBC.

Minute 63 (2019/20) In Bloom

The judging is taking place on July 18th and a route has been drawn up. The School are very enthusiastic about meeting the Judges.

Minute 64 (2019/20) Festival on the Green

This went very well, despite some bad weather – the Committee worked really hard to ensure that the event was a success.

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Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 65 (2019/20) Events Attended by Councillors

Solihull Area Committee

Councillor Trevor Eames reported that the Police were due to attend SAC, but cancelled at short notice. There is a great deal of pressure on Police numbers, and it is difficult to get hold of a member of the Police. Chris Barr of SMBC did speak about Travellers – Chadwick End and Castle Bromwich parish councils have had problems, and this may affect us if the PC leases the Village Green. It is best to use Common Law powers as the land owner – an enforcement notice can be served, which serves notice that the Travellers are trespassing and they have to move on. This usually works, but can cost between £4,000 and £6,000 each time.

SMBC do take prompt action to deal with Travellers and Dickens Heath PC will need to be aware of the procedure if this happens to the Village Green. Councillor Eames to contact Chris Barr for advice.

Minute 66 (2019/20) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Holloway, seconded by Councillor Potter, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the July 9th 2019 Agenda be approved – 18 payments totalling £207,904.14 which includes full repayment of the Public Works Loans Board mortgages on 1 Wharf House, plus an additional payment of £46.00 to WALC for a training day.

The routine payments for August 2019 were also agreed, as there is no Parish Council meeting during August.

Report on Finances for the Year to Date

This was received, there is currently a surplus of £116,000.

Annual Governance & Accountability Return

This has been forwarded to the External Auditor.

Bank Mandate

This is in the process of being updated.

Minute 67 (2019/20) Parish Council Website and Email

The Parish Council's website currently uses the domain dickensheathpc.org.uk. We have been offered the domain of dickensheathpc.uk. It was agreed that the current domain name is sufficient.

Minute 68 (2019/20) Review of Policies and Procedures

Councillor Nargis Rashid and the Clerk to progress this over the Summer.

Minute 69 (2019/20) Grant Application from Dickens Heath FC

A grant application has been received from Dickens Heath Football Club, requesting £800 towards pitch hire at Dickens Heath Sports Club, and this was discussed. Councillor Trevor Eames said that the Parish Council had expected to see more promotion from DHFC so that the village knows what they are doing – Councillor Alan Scholes had prepared a page on the Parish Council website to promote the Club before the Cup Final, but has not received a photo or any information. The Parish Council agreed that they would award a grant of £400, and would be prepared to award a further grant of £400 once the Club can show that they are regularly promoting themselves and their fixtures to residents to encourage participation and support.

Minute 70 (2019/20) Correspondence

Anti-Social Use of Motorbikes

Residents can report the anti-social use of motorbikes on 0121 717 1500 or at

bikeissues@solihullcommunityhousing.org.uk

Redirection of Post from 1 Wharf House to the Library

This is due to finish on July 18th 2019.

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Minute 71 (2019/20) 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 72 (2019/20) Village Green

A representative from the Open Spaces Society has asked whether the PC would like their assistance in registering the Village Green as a Village Green. It was agreed that the Parish Council were grateful for the offer, but that it is a bit premature at this stage.

Meeting ended 9pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday September 10th 2019: 7.15pm in the Library (1st floor)