

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday November 12th 2019 in the Library, Dickens Heath

Present:

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

Borough Councillors; Ken Hawkins

3 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 115 (2019/20) Apologies for Absence

None.

Minute 116 (2019/20) Public Participation

Road Humps on Dickens Heath Rd

A resident commented that the road humps that have been installed on Dickens Heath Rd are useless. They had been installed, then ripped out, and reinstalled lengthwise. If driving an ordinary sized car – the humps are barely noticeable. The humps should have been widened rather than lengthened. Another resident commented that the road humps have made no difference to the speed of vehicles. Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins asked for the details to be forwarded – he said that a contractor for Bellway has paid for this, and if they are installed then they need to be effective. The resident commented that the road humps by Tidbury Green School are much more effective. Councillor Hawkins will follow this up.

Lamp Posts on Dickens Heath Rd

A couple of the lamp posts are still not working – the one before and the one after the Fishers Drive bus stop. This is a safety issue, children are walking when it is dark – the Clerk to follow up.

Tree Debris on Birchy Leasowes Lane

At the corner of Birchy Leasowes Lane, some trees have been chopped down and the remains are still there. Solihull MBC have removed all that was on the public highway, the residue is on private land – SMBC have given them notice to remove it but nothing has happened. Councillor Ken Hawkins agreed to follow this up.

Parking on Short St

A low loader, with a van on top, is being regularly parked on Short St – a resident has questioned whether it is legal to park such a vehicle on a residential street. Councillor Trevor Eames and Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins confirmed that this vehicle is not HGV category, so it is legally parked and there is nothing that can be done, other than for the Parish Council to write a letter asking them not to park there.

Minute 117 (2019/20) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

Councillor Maureen Holloway declared an interest in the planning application for 1 Old Grove Lane.

Minute 118 (2019/20) Report from Borough Councillors

Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins reported that he has met with the Vice Chair of the Governors at the School about parking in Three Acres Lane. They are considering it as a 'school street', but officers are worried about where those cars would go. Parking is awful there and Councillor Hawkins feels that the School can do more – he has heard that the School will be doing some posters.

In terms of flooding, there has been a preliminary report following the flooding of last year – but a follow up report is due. Councillor Hawkins will chase it up.

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Signature.....

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The first meeting for the new youth and community facility at the School is taking place soon. He is also following up progress on the traffic impacts study. Councillor Hawkins concluded by saying that he is very glad that he was able to work with the Parish Council to keep the current Library hours of opening.

Minute 119 (2019/20) Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Tuesday October 8th 2019

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

Minute 120 (2019/20) Actions from the Previous Meeting

Bus Services

The A5 service isn't stopping at the bus stops and picking everyone up as it should be, Councillor Trevor Eames to follow this up. The Clerk to chase up the request for a bus shelter at clock island.

Minute 121 (2019/20) Planning Applications

1 Old Grove Lane

This is on the new David Wilson site and Councillor Trevor Eames reported that, in planning terms, there are no issues. However, there is a restriction on development on the site which prevents extensions during the first 5 years – which is imposed for the benefit of the developer. It isn't a planning issue and therefore Solihull MBC won't be interested. But – most of the homeowners probably won't be aware of this restriction, and when they come to sell they may have a problem if they don't have the permission of the freeholder. The Parish Council has a contact at the managing agent, Ground Solutions, and Councillor Eames proposed that the Parish Council should try to assist by flagging this up for future planning applications on the site. Therefore, there are no comments for SMBC but Councillor Eames will let Ground Solutions know.

85 Birchy Leasowes Lane – Flooding Conditions

Consent has been given for this – subject to a drainage scheme as the land has a history of flooding. The flooding conditions went to the SMBC Committee, although none of the concerns raised by the Parish Council were included, but it will be private land and so SMBC will have no responsibility. Councillor Trevor Eames summarised concerns about the way this scheme has been addressed, and Councillor Alan Scholes stated that it is a fact that the area floods and the surface water will discharge on to Birchy Leasowes Lane. SMBC is the Flood Authority and so has an interest in making sure that the developer addresses flood concerns. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact SMBC to place their concerns on record.

Minute 122 (2019/20) Library Lease for Co-occupation

The solicitors are still working on the Library lease for co-occupation. Library officers will be arranging for the upstairs shelving to be removed and the walls made good.

Minute 123 (2019/20) Community/Youth Facility at the School

The Parish Council have agreed to fund a youth worker, as they did before, and SMBC are now making enquiries about a youth worker for the new facility, for one night per week. It was agreed that further information was required about the hours and how many weeks a year they are proposing along with the associated costs.

Minute 124 (2019/20) Village Green and Playground

Today's meeting with the Liquidators, Savills and SMBC was postponed as SMBC's solicitor is still working on the document for the transfer of the land. The Parish Council's solicitor is working on the lease from SMBC to the PC and the Parish Council discussed a diagram of the Village Green land to be leased. The Clerk to follow up whether the land should exclude the hedge along Old Dickens Heath Rd which is believed to already be owned by Solihull MBC. Some details of the current Village Green maintenance costs have been received from Dickens Heath Management Co, but the final details are awaited.

Minute 125 (2019/20) Village Traffic Islands

The island at Brixfield Way needs clearing and replanting – Councillor Mike Small to follow up some quotes.

Minute 126 (2019/20) Solar Christmas Trees

Bellway have given permission for their lamp posts by the new developments to be used for some solar trees, and the trees should be arriving on November 15th ready for the switch on 2 weeks later.

Minute 127 (2019/20) Project to Plant Additional Trees in Dickens Heath

Councillor Mike Small has initiated a project to plant extra trees in Dickens Heath. The Woodland Trust will provide free saplings. Extra trees can hopefully be planted around the Village Green, and the PC will be looking for suitable locations all around Dickens Heath where, in conjunction with SMBC, new trees can be planted. Councillor Small has spoken to members of the Parish Council and 12 different suitable types of sapling have been chosen as a preference. All being well, planting will commence early in Spring 2020.

Minute 128 (2019/20) Remembrance Sunday Service 2019

This year's Remembrance Sunday Service was again very successful and very well attended. The church warden from St Patrick's Church has rung to forward thanks to all those involved in the organisation of the service. The Clerk to forward thanks to everyone. It was disappointing that, for the first time, there was no Police presence and no reply from them at all about the event.

Minute 129 (2019/20) Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Singing

The Parish Council agreed a £100 donation towards the Christmas Tree on the Village Green. The tree will be lighting up at 5.30pm on Saturday November 30th 2019 with the lamp post trees lighting up on the same day. The Councillors agreed that they would like to hold the community Carol Singing outside Tesco once again – and agreed a provisional date of Tuesday December 17th at 6pm. The Clerk to speak to the Tesco manager.

Minute 130 (2019/20) Reports from Outside Group or EventsSolihull Area Committee

Councillor Trevor Eames reported on the SAC meeting. They received an update on the Police system of assessing priorities. Unless it is a serious crime or a crime against the person, the Police now don't investigate a lot of crimes. All crimes are logged, but action is restricted to a priority schedule. And even with more serious crimes, resources are allocated based on whether they expect to get a result. They also received an update on the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group – Solihull is now part of the Birmingham and Solihull CCG. There was also an update on the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and the Draft Games Strategic Transport Plan. A lot of investment in transport is planned, but it doesn't affect Dickens Heath at the moment.

Minute 131 (2019/20) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Rashid, seconded by Councillor Wright, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the November 12th 2019 Agenda be approved – 22 payments totalling £13,074.53 including additional payments of £100.00 for the village Christmas tree and £2,905.00 to SMBC for the second quarter's rent for the Library first floor.

Routine Payments for December 2019

As there is no Parish Council meeting during December, the payment of December's routine monthly payments was agreed.

Report on Finances for the Year to Date

This was received, there is currently a surplus of £134,000 and a projected end of year surplus of £101,000.

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Bank Mandate

This has now been updated.

Meeting to Discuss Budget and Precept for 2020/21

The Parish Council will meet informally in December to discuss a proposed budget and precept 2020/21 for agreement at the January PC meeting.

CIL Return for SMBC

SMBC requires information about the CIL funds received by the Parish Council, along with whether and how any funds have been spent. The PC received £12,648.91 in CIL funds earlier in the year, none have been spent as yet, and it was agreed that the funds had been earmarked for the Village Green/Playground once the lease to the Parish Council has been finalised.

Minute 132 (2019/20) Updated Policies and Procedures

Disciplinary, Grievance and Complaints Policies

These were approved.

Minute 133 (2019/20) Grant Applications

A resident has requested a donation for winter plants for the planters at Waterside. A donation of £50 was agreed.

Minute 134 (2019/20) Correspondence

Maintenance of Blocked Drains and Overgrown Vegetation

Several residents have contacted the Parish Council with concerns about blocked drains, overgrown vegetation along Dickens Heath Rd and trees blocking out light from lamp posts along Tythe Barn Lane. A meeting to be arranged with SMBC Neighbourhood Co-ordinator Matt to discuss these.

Wildflower Sowing

Sites for wildflowers will need to be confirmed with SMBC by early February 2020. A meeting to be arranged for mid January 2020.

Meeting ended 9.25pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday January 14th 2020: 7.15pm in the Library (1st floor)