

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday June 7th 2022

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Mark Connolly-Dowson, Diane Potter, Richard Small (Chair) Doreen Wright.

Borough Councillors; Ken Hawkins

10 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 28 (2022/23) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Trevor Eames, Nargis Rashid and Mike Small.

Minute 29 (2022/23) Public Participation

Library First Floor Space

Chair Richard Small gave an update on Solihull MBC's proposal to install 'working space pods' on the first floor of the library. This will allow those who are working from home to use this area as an alternative. It will also mean that the Parish Council's rent will reduce correspondingly.

Noisy Antisocial Car

A resident reported that roads including Rumbush Lane are being plagued by a noisy black VW Golf. It is untaxed and has been reported twice. The Chair agreed to pass the details on to the PC's Police contact.

Minute 30 (2022/23) Replacement Playground

Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson gave an update on this – he and Councillor Doreen Wright met with the representative of chosen supplier Kompan, and explored some alternatives including coloured wetpour, an additional playhouse along with play panels and a xylophone. An inclusive piece of equipment is included. The total quote for this is £65,000 plus VAT (the VAT can be reclaimed). During the Jubilee event, the new plans were shared with residents and the feedback was very positive. Councillor Doreen Wright asked whether the musical instrument would cause noise nuisance for the residents of the apartments above the Village Hall – this can be discussed with the supplier.

A vote was taken and all agreed that an order should be placed for the new playground specification at an additional cost of £15,000 over the original budget. The Parish Council has received additional CIL monies of just over £5,000 and the remaining £10,000 can be funded from reserves.

Kompan have advised that they have a 10 week lead time and it will be a 4 week installation. The Clerk to forward the order to Kompan.

Minute 31 (2022/23) Youth Opportunities at The Hub at Dickens Heath School

Chair Richard Small gave an update – The Hub was built for young people to use. It has been shut due to Covid and is still severely under-utilized. It was suggested that the headteacher of Dickens Heath Community Primary School be invited to a Parish Council meeting in the Autumn, and that opportunities for a youth club and youth facilities be investigated.

Minute 32 (2022/23) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None.

Minute 33 (2022/23) Report from the Borough Councillors

Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins gave an update:

- He congratulated the new Councillors on their election and co-option to the Parish Council and congratulated everyone on a great Jubilee event.
- The double yellow lines on Dickens Heath Rd should be going in soon.
- Feedback from the Solihull Local Plan Inspector is still awaited.
- The proposals for the Working Hub on the Library second floor should hopefully lead to extended opening hours for the Library.
- A slightly amended planning application is in for the already approved pub at Tidbury Green Farm.
- SMBC have funding for a cycle route from Dickens Heath to Blossomfield Rd.

Minute 34 (2022/23) Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday May 10th 2022

Proposed by Councillor Di Potter, seconded by Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson, it was **Resolved** that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Minute 35 (2022/23) Planning Applications

No comments.

Minute 36 (2022/23) In Bloom

The hanging baskets will be arriving on the evening of June 20th, and it was agreed that the Best Front Garden/Flower Boxes competition should be run once again.

Minute 37 (2022/23) Risk Assessment for the Tesco Car Park

This was approved.

Minute 38 (2022/23) Village Clock

The clock is still not telling the correct time, it was agreed that Solihull MBC should be chased up as they maintain all the clocks in the Borough, and the Clerk to contact Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins.

Minute 39 (2022/23) Queen's Baton Relay

The Queen's Baton Relay is passing through Dickens Heath on Tuesday July 26th 2022. Solihull MBC have asked for a risk assessment and plan of activities for the day. Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson will look at forming a small committee to organise the activities, the Clerk to look at the required paperwork.

Minute 40 (2022/23) Feedback from Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event

This was a very successful event, the organisers did a great job, as did the litter pickers after the event. It was proposed that the frequency of bin emptying on the Village Green should now be increased to twice a week for the Summer months - this was agreed.

Minute 41 (2022/23) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Di Potter, seconded by Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the June 7th 2022 Agenda be approved – 24 payments totalling £5,234.84 including additional payments of £16.95 to M Connolly-Dowson for posters, biscuits and sweets for the Jubilee event, £20.00 to D Potter for plants for the planters at the school and £109.26 to BT for phone/broadband.

Jubilee Event Costs

It was agreed that the Parish Council would meet the £230 cost of the helter skelter.

Internal Audit Report 2021/22

This was approved.

Minute 42 (2022/23) Communication and Engagement

Communication from the Parish Council has definitely improved over the last month using Facebook. Breakthrough Communications have provided quotes for working on a strategy and e-newsletter. It was agreed that the Councillors would get together for a communications workshop in the next few weeks and then go back to Breakthrough Communications.

Minute 43 (2022/23) Correspondence

Dickens Heath Village Market

The new organisers of the Dickens Heath Village Market will be running monthly markets in the Village Hall starting on August 20th 2022. They have asked if they can put advertising signs up on the playground railings – it was agreed that this should not be encouraged given that there will be a new playground in the Autumn. Also they asked about using the area immediately in front of the Village Hall for a few stalls – it was agreed that this needed to be referred to the Village Hall Committee.

Request for Additional Lighting in Buckridge Lane

Initial indications from the Solihull MBC Ecologist are that this would not be allowed due to the presence of bats.

Minute 44 (2022/23) 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 45 (2022/23) Complaint

The complaint was discussed and it was agreed that this was not a complaint that the Parish Council could deal with, the complainant to be advised to contact the SMBC Monitoring Officer.

Meeting ended 8pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday June 21st 2022: 6.30pm in Dickens Heath Library