

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday October 18th 2022

Present:

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

Clerk: Ms Helen Marczak

Minute 86 (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 excluded due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

Minute 87 (2022/23) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson.

Minute 88 (2022/23) Interviews for the Parish Clerk and Employment Terms

There have been 3 applications for the position and 2 were interviewed. Hannah Raithby-Allin was the best candidate and she has been offered the job. Hannah has requested the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and has said she cannot accept the job with NEST. The Chair said that if Hannah does not accept the job, then it will have to go back out to advert with no guarantee of an appointment. WALC have said that a lot of Clerks are leaving, and that if a candidate is suitable then the PC should seriously consider the enhanced pension.

Various comments were made by Councillors:

- The LGPS is very expensive, likely to get more so in the future, it is unaffordable.
- Equal opportunities must be considered, the current Clerk has the LGPS and so should a new Clerk.
- The new Clerk's hours have already been increased, if the LGPS is included then the precept will have to be increased.
- It is difficult currently to appoint a good Clerk and it is only fair to offer the same pension scheme as the current Clerk.

A vote was taken on whether to offer Hannah the LGPS:

Councillors Richard Small, Nargis Rashid, Mike Small and Di Potter voted in favour.

Councillors Trevor Eames and Doreen Wright voted against.

Resolved that Hannah Raithby-Allin should be offered the LGPS as new Parish Clerk.

Meeting ended 7.30pm

Next Meeting : Thursday October 20th 2022: 6.30pm in the Library