

## The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Present:**

**Dickens Heath Parish Councillors;** Trevor Eames, Diane Potter, Nargis Rashid, Doreen Wright.

3 members of the public

Clerk: Ms Hannah Raithby

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**Minute 137 (2022/23) Nomination of chair**

Nargis Rashid and Doreen Wright nominated Trevor Eames to be Chair for this meeting. Trevor introduced the new clerk Hannah Raithby and explained the circumstances around appointment.

**Minute 138 (2022/23) Apologies for Absence**

Mark Connolly-Dowson, Mike Small, Richard Small (Chair)

**Minute 139 Public Participation, Mrs J Walters (advisor to CPRE, Campaign to Protect Rural England)**

The chair welcomed Mrs J Walters to the meeting. Mrs Walters explained that she would like to help with Solihull local plan in any way she can. She is the chair of the planning committee of CPRE Warwickshire and a resident of Dickens Heath. Parts of the plan have been deemed unsound by the Inspector after the examination in public. Which means it doesn't conform to local or national policies, in this case it is to do with the number of houses, some parts like the NEC he doesn't think are deliverable. Housing numbers are in Abeyance until SMBC can address this. In 2017 the Parish Council carried out a survey and around 90% of the residents who replied to the survey objected to site BL1. Significant concerns about the sustainability of BO1. Relocation of sports fields hasn't been determined and should have been at the time of enquiry. Under planning law this means it's undeliverable. Richborough are proposing to put a planning application for site BL1 in the next few months. They have written to Solihull Council to ask if the environmental impact statement has been done which was not publicised and they then wrote back and said you don't need one. Info provided by Star planning (for Richborough) is inaccurate, it didn't include wildlife sites and other important info. She wants to urge the council to investigate the environmental impact statement. Michael Gove has given 2 years to review the 2-year plan against the changes the government propose and to get this adopted. And while doing this they will make sure that these places are less at risk from speculative developers by reducing the amount of land they need to show as available on a rolling basis. Solihull council have two years to review their plan and we could do a neighbourhood plan. Tidbury Green Parish Council are willing to work together on this.

J Walters suggested alternative sites such as Tidbury Green Golf course and many reasons why the BO1 site is not suitable including access issues and wildlife, no ability to put in footpath. Traffic studies done were only main roads, no fine grain roads done. We have an opportunity to try to stop this proposed site. The Chair commented that the trouble is that all proposed sites have objections and Mrs Walters pointed out that these are the worst ones. The chair thanked Mrs Walters for coming along to the meeting and making the Parish Council aware of this.

**Minute 140 (2022/23) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations**

None

**Minute 141 (2022/23) Update from Councillor Ken Hawkins**

Wharf Farm - I understand the applicant will be submitting amended plans later this week or next week. This is in response to suggestions from SMBC planners.

Speed limit - the decisions re 20 mph zones went through last month but unsure as to when the signage etc will be installed.

Average Speed Cameras - these have been installed on the A34 from the M42 island to Marshall Lake Road. They will go 'live' on 16 January - they are functioning now, and average speeds have reduced but enforcement will take place after the 'going live' date.

**Minute 142 (2022/23) Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

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

**Minute 143 (2022/23) Clerk's Update on Actions**

Staffing Situation

The councillors proposed to meet on the 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> of January to discuss the staffing committee and staffing issues.

Bank Mandate

Need to organise to add Ms Raithby, Councillor Richard Small and Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson.

Exterior Defibrillator and bleed kit

Need to look at location because last time no location could be found and that is why the current defibrillator is in Tesco.

**Minute 144 (2022/23) Planning Applications**

Two additional planning applications were considered:

10 Brixfield way – 2022/02656 – Proposed loft conversion to include side dormer. Proposed roof reconfiguration to include installation of rear window. It was decided that, if the building regulations were adhered to, there is no need to object.

5 Collier Gardens – 2022/02628 – 5 Collier Gardens – Proposed alterations to existing garage including raised ridge height, proposed erection of side dormers, proposed installation of external access staircase. J. Walters advised that a resident has put in formal objections due to loss of privacy and security. In contravention of the 'Backland Policy'.

54 Whitchurch – 2 storey extension to rear, small footprint. No comments to be made.

**Minute 145 (2022/23) To Consider an update on the Solihull Local Plan, Associated Correspondence, and possible Neighbourhood plan.**

Meeting to be held with Councillor Richard Small, Councillor Trevor Eames and Mrs J Walters to discuss the issues she raised during public participation in regard to site BO1 and Solihull Local Plan.

**Minute 146 (2022/23) Proposed Car Parking Scheme in the Village Centre**

Details are still being finalised.

**Minute 147 (2022/23) RoSPA Inspection of Playground**

RoSPA inspection has been done, seen by all councillors, and published on the website. Everything complies with required safety standards.

**Minute 148 (2022/23) Communications Strategy**

Parish Council email addresses liaise with website host to set up new email addresses linked to the website.

**Minute 149 (2022/23) Parish Council Management Issues**

Meeting to sort RFO contract to be arranged over the next couple of weeks.

Cancellation of BT contract - agreed by all.

New Mobile phone £230 - agreed by all.

Clerking Essentials course for new clerk – agreed by all.

Purchase Projector for use in meetings £80 – agreed by all.

**Minute 150 (2022/23) Financial Matters**

Proposed by Councillor Diane Potter, seconded by Councillor Doreen Wright, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the January 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 agenda be approved – 11 payments for January totalling £6307.84 to include additional £352.80 to RoSPA for the playground inspection, £1027.10 to Zurich for the Annual Insurance and £144 to Woods Farm for the Christmas tree.

7 payments for December totalling £5984.93.

Library rent is unknown at the moment.

CIL funds to be allocated to the playground – agreed by all.

Budget and Precept

A proposed budget was discussed and due cost pressures in the next year all councillors agreed on an increase in the precept of 5% to £85601 – the clerk to send the correct documentation to SMBC.

**Minute 151 (2022/23) Correspondence**

Pension courses the RFO needs to attend three 1.5 hour courses to learn how to use the new pension portal.

Parking query Beech close requesting parking restrictions to be extended but because the Bellway development isn't adopted by SMBC. Advice given that either Bellway or a Management company are responsible.

Drains on Old Dickens Heath Road – this is definitely not the responsibility of DHPC or the DHMC – possibly needs to go to Severn Trent. Councillor T. Eames to check with Management co Area 2.

**Minute 152 (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 153 (2022/23) Tesco carpark fence**

This was discussed.

**Meeting ended 8.35pm**

**Next Meeting : Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> 2023: 6.30pm in the Library**