

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday February 16th 2023

Present:

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

9 members of the public

Stand in Clerk: Ms H Marczak

Minute 154 (2022/23) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Mike Small, Trevor Eames.

Minute 155 (2022/23) Public Participation

Issues with Management Companies

A resident – owns a one bed flat in Garden Squares. Centrick is the management company. There have been problems with the service charge bills. Ground rent has increased massively. Centrick as bad as Savills. Service charge has tripled. Terrible service from Centrick. Councillors to look at Hamzal Hussain who lives in Dickens Heath and has taken over their own property management company. He is on The Only Way is Dickens.

Planning Concerns in Dickens Heath and Surrounding Area

Jean Walters - Major changes to national planning system. Solihull Council have sent a difficult letter back to inspector, ignoring these changes, which is wrong. Solihull Council have not even taken it to one of their committees. Put pressure on Borough Councillors to raise it to make representations at meeting at Solihull Council on February 22nd. These changes need discussing. Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins has a surgery in Dickens Heath library this Saturday the 18th Councillor Richard Small to liaise with Jean Walters and Mark Rehorn, Chair Of Tidbury Green Parish Council will get in touch with the Borough Councillors. Jean Walters - asked for formal resolution to oppose site BL1, Councillors to look at background and bring to future agenda.

Resident - football clubs - no relocation plan.

All agreed with Councillor Richard Small liaising with Mark Rehorn to respond.

Damage to Islands in the Village

Resident - Island by Copperfield Court still damaged and unlit. Raised with Solihull Council before and no response. Raise with Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins on Saturday.

New residents - Sissinghurst Court - parking on pavements and breaking slabs. Those paying the service charge are paying for replacement slabs. Councillor Richard Small replied that parking scheme is coming in, still discussing terms and conditions.

Minute 156 (2022/23) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 157 (2022/23) Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2023

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 158 (2022/23) Parish Council Decisions

Communications and Events Committee Terms of Reference

Majority approved, Councillor Doreen Wright against. Budget requested - £1000 maximum for Coronation event - all agreed.

Infographic Design Estimate

Approved, four in favour - Councillor Doreen Wright abstained.

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Signature.....

Date.....

Proposal to reduce committees from 3 to 2

Communications Committee plus Finance and Staffing Combined Committee proposed by Councillor Nargis Rashid - all in favour.

Approval on Amended Communications Strategy Recommendations One and Three

Approved, four in favour.

Town and Parish Council Elections -4th of May 2023

Publicity – Approved – four in favour.

Do you know what it is like to be a Parish Councillor?

Solihull Council will be publicizing the Notice of Election on March 22nd, which is when purdah will start.

Funding for Planters

Proposal to plant each one twice a year. Chair Richard Small thanked Councillors Nargis Rashid and Doreen Wright. A budget of £1006 agreed. All in favour.

Copperfield Court – Tidying up of small Patch of Land

Councillor Doreen Wright can't do it so defer until May and the new Parish Council.

Coronation Event

Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson - Big event on Saturday the 6th of May. Based on successful Jubilee event. Holding initial meeting in the next week, planning something for all age groups.

Minute 159 (2022/23) Tesco Car Park

Freedom of Information request still ongoing. The new Solicitor's advice didn't look very professional.

Councillor Richard Small has produced breakdown of risks regarding the car park, his view is the Parish Council is carrying a significant amount of risk.

Councillor Richard Small - the next step is to follow up on historical assumptions.

All agreed to contact Kirstie Forrester who was the original solicitor involved.

Councillor Richard Small - Needs to be revisited. No confirmation that Parish Council only owns the tarmacked area of car park. Councillor Richard Small to look at our copy of the report so we know what the Parish Council is responsible for.

Minute 160 (2022/23) Councillors Action log

Village playground sign - Happy with content Councillor Nargis Rashid to tweak with Hannah Raithby. Thanks to Hannah.

Minute 161 (2022/23) To Consider Village Areas of InterestProposed Car Parking Scheme in the Village Centre

No Update

Tree Preservation Order

Two Oak Trees on Fishers Drive/Dickens Heath Road, one has a Tree Preservation Order and we would like to see a Tree Preservation Order on the other, both are over 100 years old.

Councillor Doreen Wright is asking the Parish Council to put a Tree Preservation Order on it.

Hannah Raithby to contact Councillor Doreen Wright to get photographs and log the location - all in agreement.

Community Hub

Some discussion but no decisions yet. All agreed with Councillor Richard Small being representative.

Hanging Baskets

All agreed to the same number as last year if there was no increase in cost.

Defibrillator

Hannah Raithby to chase up Councillor Mike Small about location. Can it go on Village Hall, this is the preferred location, seek Village Hall approval.

Newspaper Renewal

The librarian informs us this is popular and would like it to continue, £66 is the cost.

Approved, all in favour, for another three months.

Parish Council Email Addresses

In progress.

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E-Newsletter
Very Successful.

Minute 162 (2022/23) Parish Council Committee Updates

Parish Clerk and RFO roles – Progressing as expected.

Communications and Events Committee - Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson is Chair.

Finance and Risk Committee will be merged with the Staffing Committee. Councillor Nargis Rashid to send out terms of reference for this to be agreed at next meeting.

Minute 163 (2022/23) To Consider Planning Applications

2022/02493 - 170 Tythe Barn Lane – To give an update after meeting as Councillor Trevor Eames is not present and he has the information.

18 Griffin Lane – All agreed to Councillor Trevor Eames' comments to be forwarded to Solihull Council.

No comments on other planning applications.

Minute 164 (2022/23) To Consider a Date and Format for the Annual Parish Meeting

Agreed to have the APM on the same evening of the March Parish Council Meeting, 14th March. Councillor Richard Small to present Annual Report. Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson to arrange refreshments. Ask Streetwatch and Salma Zulfiqar to attend.

Minute 165 (2022/23) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Nargis Rashid, seconded by Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the February 16th 2023 agenda be approved – 20 payments totalling £6187.01.

Additional invoice from Fairways for works to the garden in the Tesco car park – check work has been carried out. Councillor Doreen Wright and Councillor Trevor Eames to check.

Library rent is unknown at the moment.

Future CIL funds to be allocated to the new website – agreed by all.

Internal Audit – all agreed for Bill Robinson to carry out the Internal Audit.

Minute 166 (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 167 (2022/23) Engagement with Residents

This was discussed.

Meeting ended 8.40pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday March 14th 2023: 6.30pm in the Library