

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday July 11th 2023

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Richard Small (Chair), Mike Small, Sarah Barrett, Maureen Holloway, David Easterby, Liz Woodus.

3 members of the public

Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Minute 196 (2023/24) Apologies for Absence

Councillor Mark Connolly-Dowson.

Minute 197 (2023/24) Public Participation

Copperfield Court Island

We were advised by Solihull Council that this island would be sorted by the end of June, this hasn't happened – Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins agreed to follow this up for us.

Clock Island

Councillor Mike Small has proposed, with the village handyman, to clear up the clock island (weeds etc). A member of the public questions why the other islands aren't being done. A discussion around asking our usual contractors, Fairways, to quote for sorting the other islands – Clerk to action this.

Can the money from the hanging baskets be used to plant flowers on the islands? Clerk to ask Plantscape if they are able to do this.

Shouldn't Solihull MBC be maintaining the islands? Clerk to contact them to ask this, copy in Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins to this email.

Can we also ask Solihull MBC if we are able to have sponsorship for the islands, and maybe we could use the sponsorship money to maintain and have floral arrangements on the islands if Solihull Council aren't willing to maintain them.

Councillor Holloway believes that the islands are now adopted and should therefore be being maintained by Solihull Council.

Rumbush Lane

There are overgrown trees blocking the pathway, can we get it cut back? Clerk to report to Solihull Council.

New Speed Limit

How is it going? Seems that cars are driving at the same speed as they were before. Ideas were discussed on how to make people take more notice of the limit. The idea of T-shirts for the children to wear as they go to and from school, flashing sign of some kind on the welcome gates. The possibility of a speed visor was discussed and the cost involved. Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins felt it may be a good idea to have our own visor so that we can collect the data and decide where it would be a good area for the police to speed check. Could we get the Police to come with their mobile unit for a day to do speed checks? Councillor Richard Small agrees to contact the police to ask them.

The idea of sharing a speed visor with local Parish Councils was discussed. Tidbury Green and Cheswick Green will be approached to ask.

Minute 198 (2023/24) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 199 (2023/24) Update from Borough Councillors

Planning

Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins met with Councillor Holloway and our planning advisor to discuss the objection to plans in Birchy Close, this objection has now been registered with Solihull Council.

Wharf Farm

Councillor Hawkins will wait and see what the professionals say about this application but if it is approved he will push for the highways side to be in line with the rest of Dickens Heath.

- Councillor Hawkins left the meeting.

Minute 200 (2023/24) Minutes of the meeting held 13th June 2023

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

Minute 201 (2023/24) Parish Council DecisionsVillage Hall Councillor to sit on the Committee

Councillor Woodus offers to do this – all agree.

Appointments with the Clerk

All agree that appointments must be made to meet with the Clerk, including Councillors and Public.

Freedom of Information Policy

All Agree that we need one, Clerk will circulate the policy suggested by Councillor Holloway.

Bike Shed Roof in Tesco Car Park

Clerk to ask Centrick to see if they can check it/get it inspected to see if it is dangerous. Also ask if Centrick are able to undertake regular inspections on the car park.

Clock Island Equipment

Equipment to clear up the Clock Island £50 – All in agreement apart from Councillor Easterby who abstained.

Persimmon Homes

Councillor Holloway states that it's a good idea to have a meeting with them as it gives us a chance to see what they are proposing. Councillor Easterby agrees.

Are we able to look at the plans first?

Whatever we do we must make sure it is communicated properly with the public. Be clear and open.

It was suggested that we look back on the questionnaire that was done a few years ago to see what the priorities of the residents are.

We have already objected to site BL1. Should we ask Persimmon why they want to meet with us? Because they want to tell us what they want to do.

As we have already objected should we just be here to support the residents as and when they want to object.

It is decided that Persimmon should meet with the public first and Councillors can attend as well if they wish to and it will be decided later if the Parish Council should meet with them privately. All agree to this.

Parking in Tesco Loading Bay

Tesco have agreed to put up bollards and keep them there so that people can no longer park in the loading bay as this is causing a hazard to pedestrians.

Permitted Use of Village Green

All agree that 'No BBQ's' should be added to the sign. Councillor Barrett to review the sign.

Minute 202 (2023/24) Tesco Car Park

Still waiting for a reply from the Solicitor.

Minute 203 (2023/24) Councillors' Action LogPlayground Inspections

The clerk advised that Fairways already do an inspection of the Playground each week and they have agreed to send this over to us which means we no longer need to carry out a separate inspection.

Remembrance Sunday

This will be on the 12th of November, Councillor Holloway to contact the Bugle player.

All agree to continue in the same way as we did last year. Clerk to sort the road closures.

Councillor Connolly-Dowson to see if he can get some volunteers as we didn't have enough last year.

Minute 204 (2023/24) To Consider Village Areas of InterestCar Parking Scheme

Still waiting for the company to sort out the fine details with vendors and residents, will continue to chase this.

Youth Club

Trying to push for summer holiday pilots – The Parish Council have £3000 allocated for this. They may run out of time to sort this out for the summer but on track for September.

Councillor Richard Small would like to revisit this to increase the funding at some point.

Library

Defibrillator and bleed kit cabinet is here – waiting for an engineer to come back to us to fit it. Councillor M Small will make sure that photographs are made available for us to use in communications with the residents.

Request for extra hours for the Library is being considered.

Councillor M Small would like to have an agreed budget for the library which will be added to the September agenda for discussion and decision.

Copperfield Court

The management company should take responsibility for this. The planter which is on this land is the Parish Council's so it will need to be emptied and moved which can be done once the area has been cleared. Clerk to give details of Management company to Councillor M Small so he can make contact with them.

Minute 205 (2023/24) Finance and Risk Committee

Councillor Richard Small will organise a training plan and dignity at work policy.

Minute 206 (2023/24) Communications and Events CommitteeMeeting

The next meeting of the committee will be set up before the summer Councillor Connolly-Dowson will organise this.

Newsletter

Councillors Barrett and Connolly-Dowson to arrange this.

Management Companies

The Communications Committee will ask residents for these by email.

Village Security

They now have vest cam and is sharing footage with the police regularly – the Communications Committee will share this to the residents.

Minute 207 (2023/24) To Consider Planning Applications

2022/01866 – Wharf Farm, 123 Dickens Heath Road. Erect 8 detached houses and new access. Report and objection has been submitted on the Portal – it must be the clerk who does this Councillor Holloway advised.

2023/01383 – 22 Meadow Pleck Lane – rear extension - All ok with this application.

2023/01398 - 12 Clay Pit Lane – Re-pollard tree – All agree to leave the tree officer to deal with this.

Minute 208 (2022/23) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Maureen Holloway, seconded by Councillor Richard Small, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the July 11th 2023 agenda be approved – 19 payments totalling £17,489.93, and regular payments for August as there will be no meeting.

Meeting ended 8.33pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday September 12th 2023: 6.30pm in the Library