

## The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Present:**

**Dickens Heath Parish Councillors;** Richard Small (Chair), Mark Connolly-Dowson, Sarah Barrett, Maureen Holloway, David Easterby, Liz Woodus.

4 members of the public

Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins

2 members of the local Police Team

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

---

**Minute 209 (2023/24) Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Mike Small.

**Minute 210 (2023/24) Public Participation**

Grass Verges

A resident raised the issue of having the verges cut on Tythe Barn Lane and advised that he has managed to sort this with Solihull Council and should be sorted going forward, he will keep us updated.

Service Charges

Councillor Richard Small raised an issue that was brought to him by a resident regarding service charges on Willow Garden/Gorcott Lane. With service charges rising considerably he was wondering if the Parish Council or Borough Councillors have any powers to intervene with this. Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins advised that there is nothing Councillors can do about this as it is really a private matter. Councillor Sarah Barrett suggested that the best way to do something about this would probably be getting residents together to challenge the Management Company. Councillor Woodus advised that if all residents are in agreement, they can vote to change management company, there is a process for this.

Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins has been approached by some of the businesses on Main Street to see if Solihull Council would be willing to adopt Main Street, there are discussions happening around this, it's been ongoing for a while. It is likely to go on well into the Autumn.

Canal Bridge

A resident asked about canal bridge - Tythe Barn Lane - Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins advised that it was checked but had been deemed not to be a risk, will double check with the relevant department for us.

**Minute 211 (2023/24) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations**

None

**Minute 212 (2023/24) Update from Borough Councillors**

Planning

Councillor Ken Hawkins advised that Richborough plan to launch a pre-consultation this week for site BL1. He is concerned about some issues around transport and relocation of sports facilities. Richborough must be able to say they have consulted.

Wharf Farm

This is a planning item for October.

Road Safety

Councillor Hawkins advises that we have some of the safest roads in Western Europe. If the 20mph speed limit makes people reduce to 30mph, that is a success. Spoke about the use of speed visors again.

The boy racers in the area have started again, the various agencies are working to get the injunction back in force again, it lapsed due to lack of evidence.

Local Government Boundary Review

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Signature.....

Date.....

Blythe will be affected by this, Blythe have 12,000 electors which is around 25% bigger than the others. He encouraged the councillors to have their say on which area they would like to join.

#### Island on Dickens Heath Road

This island still hasn't been repaired, Councillor Hawkins will check in to this and let us know what is happening. Councillor Richard Small to raise a concern with Alan Brown as well.

#### **Minute 213 (2023/24) Update from Local Police Team**

##### Police Update

Advice on burglaries locally and best locks to avoid your property being broken into. Flyers are available at the Parish Council office if anyone would like more information. They advised the use of disc locks on vehicles and to keep keys in tins in the house to keep them safe from technology that may be used to steal vehicles. They advised they were holding a beat surgery on the 18<sup>th</sup>. They will be holding these regularly. They commented on how good Dickens Heath Streetwatch are and how this is effectively reducing crime in the area.

Reassurance about the dog near Miller and Carter, this is in hand and will be taken care of in due course. Councillors raised their concerns that this has been reported many times and we were reassured that although it seems like nothing is happening, things like this take time and it is being dealt with.

Councillor Richard Small raised the speeding issues in the village, PC Claire Flynne is helping with this. The 20mph speed limit was discussed and the police advised that it should be possible to arrange some speed checks in the area and gave a contact name for us to approach to arrange this.

#### **Minute 214 (2023/24) Minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Proposed by Councillor Liz Woodus, seconded by Councillor Dave Easterby, it was **Resolved** that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

#### **Minute 215 (2023/24) Parish Council Decisions**

##### Islands in the Village

We have had no reply from Solihull Council about the roundabouts in the village regarding rules around having flowers, are we allowed to have them and are they willing to support that. Councillor Holloway and Councillor Barrett agree to survey the roundabouts.

##### Floor Standing Solar Christmas Trees

All agree not to have these. Councillor Richard Small has an appointment with Solihull Council to discuss alternative arrangements for Christmas lights. He will try to get a better deal or have less depending on price.

##### Library Budget

The Parish Council needs to see a breakdown of what the money will be used for before it can decide on this, Councillor Mike Small will be asked if he can provide this at the next meeting and a decision can then be made.

##### Tree on the Village Green

One tree on the green is dead, Councillor Maureen Holloway agreed to contact Sarah Glasgow at Solihull Council to see if they can help with removal and/or replacement trees.

##### Memorial Plaque for Former Councillor Bob Cudmore

Carry forward to the next meeting, more time needed to decide at this difficult time.

##### Persimmon Homes

All agree not to send a letter and not to attend the meeting at the present time. We are currently at the pre-application, consultation stage and can respond when the full planning application has been submitted.

The Parish Council are open to meeting with them once they have met with the public – all agreed.

##### Expenditure and Requesting Increases to Agreed Amounts

Move to the next meeting – all agreed

##### Overgrown Planter

All agree to clear the area and move the planter to the memorial area.

##### Birmingham Mail Subscription – Should it Continue?

The Parish Council voted unanimously to end the subscription.

**Minute 216 (2023/24) Tesco Car Park**

Centrick have confirmed that they own assets such as bike sheds and pumping station, we need to contact the Land Registry to ask them to alter the deeds. Councillor Dave Easterby confirmed he will action this.

**Minute 217 (2023/24) To Consider Village Areas of Interest**

Parking Scheme

Still awaiting news on this.

Hutchings Lane

The issue with parking was discussed and it was decided that the Clerk will contact the resident to give advice on arranging a disabled bay or other parking restriction to help with the situation.

Youth Club

Councillor Richard Small presented the proposal for this collaborative funding opportunity, the proposal was that we fund the room hire and that SMBC will fund the Youth Worker/service providers who offer a multitude of activities.

Councillor Holloway suggested that the Parish Council should fund the cost of the youth worker as agreed in November 2019 in the sum of £3000 rather than fund room hire for other organisations. There was further discussion around this topic. Vote for agreement to the youth club provision proposal from Councillor R Small – four in favour, Councillor Holloway against and Councillor Barrett abstained.

**Minute 218 (2023/24) Finance and Risk Committee**

Councillor Easterby gave an update, during their first meeting they went through the Terms of Reference, have planned to review all policies which will then be presented to the full council. Tesco Car Park was discussed and other smaller items.

**Minute 219 (2023/24) Communications and Events Committee**

Meeting

The next meeting has been planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.

Newsletter

This has now gone out.

Website

Councillor Barrett is going to audit the website.

Village Green and Playground Signage

Councillor Barrett and the Clerk are working on this.

Parish Council Team Photograph

As soon as possible we will arrange to get a photograph of the whole team.

Quiz Night

The Communications and Events Committee would like to put on a quiz night in January or February.

Councillors Litter Picking

Could all councillors do a small amount of litter picking each month – to be organised but all agreed this was a good idea.

**Minute 220 (2023/24) To Consider Planning Applications**

2023/01726 – 28 Tythe Barn Lane – Rear Single Storey extension. All agree this application is fine.

2023/01757 – 274 Dickens Heath Road – Two Storey Side extension and extension to front of property. All agree this application is fine.

**Minute 221 (2022/23) Financial Matters**

Proposed by Councillor Maureen Holloway, seconded by Councillor Dave Easterby, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the September 12th 2023 agenda be approved – 35 payments totalling £10,253.96, and one extra payment of £136.08 for Fairways for additional bin emptying for September.

**Meeting ended 9.10pm**

**Next Meeting : Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> 2023: 6.30pm in the Library**