

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday November 14th 2023

Present:

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

7 members of the public

2 members of our local policing team

Planning Advisor to the Council, Jean Walters

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Minute 235 (2023/24) Apologies for Absence

Councillor Mike Small and Councillor Dave Easterby

Minute 236 (2023/24) Public Participation

Traffic around school

A resident suggested the idea of offering parking over the bridge where old Tythe Barn Lane meets new Tythe Barn Lane for school pupils to try to alleviate the traffic and road rage that happens around the school at drop off and pick up times. Can we contact the school about this? Councillor Connolly-Dowson advises that the school often contact parents about the traffic anyway. Councillor Barrett wonders if it might be just moving the problem. Councillor Holloway suggests that Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins would be a good person to talk to as he is responsible for highways. Police team update that they can look at getting some patrols done at school drop off/collection times to see if they can spot any of the road rage problems. We will contact the school to ask about it and raise the idea with them.

Neighbourhood Plan

A resident asked if we're able to restart the neighbourhood plan. Planning advisor Jean Walters advises that we need to set up a planning sub committee which would include members of the public along with one councillor as the chair. Councillor R Small advises which committees we already have and that we are spread thin already and our knowledge in this area isn't good. We'd like to support the public, but we're limited on capacity. Jean is suggesting that this is a priority for the residents. Councillor Holloway suggests that we consider paying someone to help with this issue and the planning sub-committee. We know that paying someone will be expensive, but we don't have the expertise to deal with these matters. J. Walters agrees that it would be best to pay someone to do this, Tidbury Green are starting a neighbourhood plan. Jean can advise us on these matters but cannot be on the sub-committee.

A resident asked how this will fit into the local plan as Solihull Council will be the ones who decide, we have no say in it. J. Walters replied that we would liaise with Solihull Council and work with them, she believes it is best to employ someone to do this.

Posting Pictures

A resident asked if people are allowed to post pictures of young people who are believed to have been responsible for antisocial behaviour in the village on Facebook and what the rules are around this. The police confirmed that there is no age restriction on this. They wouldn't encourage it and would prefer the images to be sent straight to them but there are no laws preventing it.

Birchy Close

A resident raised the issue of a structure that has appeared in the garden of 48 Birchy Close, it is around 30 foot and is inches from the boundary line standing at around 3 metres high. It is brick built and has smoke coming from the chimneys from 10am, sometimes until 5pm in the evening. The smoke is affecting the neighbours considerably and they would like us to

object to the retrospective planning application. Jean Walters advises that the rules are being broken and will advise on wording for objection.

Minute 237 (2023/24) Update from the local Police Team

Graffiti In the Village

The police confirmed that they have found the person responsible for the graffiti in the village and had planned to pay them a visit later in the evening. The Police would like us to encourage residents to report any anti-social behaviour to them as soon as possible as they recently caught two youths in balaclavas on the green playing music after a call from a concerned resident.

Speed watch

On the 25th of November there will be speed watch in Dickens Heath, Street watch have volunteered to help with this. If there are enough people breaking the speed limit, then pro-laser will be used. PCSO Roland Tabb will email the Clerk to update on how the Speed watch event went.

Youth Club

Update from SMBC about funding for the youth club at the Hub in Dickens Heath. Austin was meant to update Councillor R Small about funding for the youth club. A meeting is planned for the 22nd of November so we should have an update then.

Minute 238 (2023/24) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 239 (2023/24) Update from Borough Councillors

The clerk relays the email Ken Hawkins sent:

We still await any further information from developers in respect of the consultation they held regarding land off Tythe Barn Lane and Tilehouse Lane; We have both captured images from the recent flooding that can be used to make representations whenever the formal planning application arises.

No further update.

Minute 240 (2023/24) Minutes of the meeting held 17th October 2023

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

Minute 241 (2023/24) Parish Council Decisions

Website Proposal

All agree to the website proposal and a big thank you to Sarah for her hard work on this project.

Fairways Quote to move the Planters and clear area outside Ice.

All reject quote – Clerk to look for other quotes.

Christmas Tree

All agree to original plan of large 15-foot cut tree and smaller rooted tree to be planted this year with a view to this being the Parish Council tree in future years when it has grown. Arrangement for a generic memorial plaque of some kind instead of individual names.

Minute 242 (2023/24) Finance and Risk Committee

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

The next meeting will be on the 5th of December at 6.30pm in the Library.

Minute 243 (2023/24) Communications and Events Committee

Social Media

The posts have been scheduled for the next few weeks and the Dickens Heath Directory/e-newsletter will be done next week as well.

Christmas Lights/Carols event

Christmas lights/Christmas tree and carols will be at Mortons, Pop voices will be there. There will be an offer on mulled wine at Mortons and mince pies from Tesco.

Quiz Night

This is likely to be held in February to fund raise for the village hall.

D-Day

We will begin planning this after Christmas.

Remembrance Sunday Next Year

This event will be run by the Communications and Events Committee next year.

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Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 244 (2023/24) Tesco Car Park

No Update.

Minute 245 (2023/24) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's UpdateTable Tennis Table Suggestion

There has been a suggestion from a young person from the village that we consider having an outdoor Table Tennis Table on the Village Green. The Councillors ask that the clerk look at costs for this and the Councillors will discuss it at the next meeting.

Minute 246 (2023/24) To Consider Village Areas of InterestFaded Lines In The Village

Councillor Barrett is concerned that the faded lines are encouraging bad driving in the village and wonders if we can ask if the Council can repaint the lines.

Bellway Site

This has been adopted by SMBC, can we ask them to start ticketing people for parking half on the pavement? The Clerk will contact Solihull Council.

Traffic Islands in the Village

We need to organise to get some quotes for the floral displays on the islands. The clerk will get quotes for this but could do with a little clarification on what we would like.

The damaged island has been repaired to an extent, but the ironwork still needs to be addressed.

Youth Club

Councillor Richard Small has a meeting with Solihull Council next week so should have an update after this.

Library

We haven't had an update on what we will be paying for the rent now that we have reduced the space we are using, need to ask Solihull Council again for the updated amount.

Fairways

Still awaiting the contract from them, Clerk to chase again.

Tree Preservation Orders

We have got a temporary TPO on a tree in Birchy Close, there is an online form. Councillor Holloway has asked if Councillors can help to identify any Oak trees they feel may be suitable for a TPO.

Opportunity for Free Trees

The ones that have been put on the Village Green in the past have always been damaged and died, can we look at putting some on the nature reserve/country park? Councillor Woodus will look into this.

Minute 247 (2023/24) To Consider Planning Applications

2023/02258 - 48 Birchy Close, B90 1QL - Retrospective planning application for a covered gazebo with barbeque and pizza oven. All agree that we will make an objection to this planning application.

2023/02297 - 68 Lady Lane - Extension to form new first floor with associated alterations, single storey rear extensions, single storey detached garage and new front boundary wall - Planning advisor Jean Walters is concerned about this application as it is on green belt land and will have an adverse impact on surrounding bungalows. All agree to object to this application.

2023/02110 - 8 Clay Pitt Lane - Rear ground floor extension and garage conversion - All agree this application is fine - no comment.

Minute 248 (2023/24) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Richard Small, seconded by Councillor Maureen Holloway, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the November 14th 2023 agenda be approved - 19 payments totalling £5538.66. And that regular payments for December 2023 can be made as there is no meeting in December.

All agree to approve the Staff Pay Award 2023/24 (an increase of £1 per hour for all staff)

Meeting ended 9pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday January 16th 2023: 6.30pm in the Library