

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday April 9th 2024

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Richard Small (Chair), Adam Weber, Liz Woodus and Mike Small

6 members of the public

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Minute 290 (2023/24) Apologies for Absence

Councillors Dave Easterby and Maureen Holloway

Minute 291 (2023/24) Public Participation

Service Charges in the Village

Residents raised the issue of the cost of Main Street and the village centre, which are paid for by a minority of village properties, and they asked what the councils and highways are doing about this unfair situation. They feel they should be encouraging subsidies from builders selling new houses or attach a service charge to all new properties built to try to spread the cost of the village centre to more than just those who are currently paying for it. Main Street is a private road in name only. Councillor R Small advised that we have agreed to use our influence where we can, Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins has advised that this issue has gone to Crown estates for their consideration, which Dean Ward at Solihull Council had said at a previous Parish Council meeting. Councillor R Small will follow this up with Dean Ward. The resident feels that if development companies are making a lot of money, they should be investing in the Village Centre – he would like to see them give the Parish Council money to take over the Village Centre.

Minute 292 (2023/24) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 293 (2023/24) Update from Borough Councillors

Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins sent an email update advising that the issue of Main Street being adopted has gone to the Crown Estates for their consideration and he will update us as soon as he hears anything more on this matter.

Minute 294 (2023/24) Minutes of the meeting held 12th March 2024

Councillors Liz Woodus proposed and Mike Small seconded, all in favour, the minutes are approved.

Minute 295 (2023/24) Parish Council Decisions

In Bloom – All agree that due to lack of interest we will not participate in this for this year but will review for next year.

Committees – All agree to discuss this at the next meeting as the Councillor who wanted to raise it was not in attendance.

Projector – All agree to invest in a high-resolution projector, the cost will be around £1000 but Councillor Weber will find a good one and we can try it at the meeting in May.

Working Group/Planning Advisory Group

Councillor Weber advised that we need to help enable residents who want to object to site BL-1 with an easy way to do so. Councillor Weber has had a meeting with Jean Walters on how to do this. It will be similar to the wizard that was suggested before but he will keep us updated on this. All agree to change the name of the Planning working group to Planning Advisory Group.

Graffiti Wipes

All agree to buy some more graffiti wipes for the volunteer group in the village for £36.49

Minute 296 (2023/24) Finance and Risk Committee

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Signature.....

Date.....

No update at the moment, chair of this Committee was not present.

Minute 297 (2023/24) Communications and Events Committee

Volunteer to Chair the Committee

Councillor Mike Small agrees to chair the committee and Councillor Liz Woodus agrees to be vice chair of the committee. The next meeting will be on the 16th of April at 7pm where they will discuss D-Day.

Minute 298 (2023/24) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's Update

Annual Parish Meeting was discussed and agreed for the 30th April. Councillor Richard Small agrees to put together an update for this. Councillor Mike Small discusses the Councillors action log and his concerns that the clerk is having responsibility for a lot of the actions. It is agreed that each action should be allocated to one of the Councillors. Clerk to action this. Fairways contract for the maintenance of the village green is discussed as the price has now increased. Clerk to send increased amount to Councillor Richard Small so that he can contact Fairways to ask about this and ask for the reason for the increased amount. Clerk to check that countrywide quote is still valid. Parish Council to make decision on whether to change once this information has been provided.

Minute 299 (2023/24) To Consider Village Areas of Interest

Speed Reduction Proposals

No update

Youth Club at Community Hub

Councillor Richard Small is involved with this and updates that it is in progress.

Library

Councillor Mike Small updated about the library to say that no more money has been spent. Another first aid training event is happening the following Saturday with 14 people potentially attending. Councillor Mike Small advises that it will probably be every six months for the first aid training after this one. He also updates that there will be a pottery class organised by himself. He would like to start a mental health first aid, hopefully on the 6th of June, and depending on the success of this would like to make a regular thing due to loneliness in the area. Baillie Carlton from Solihull Council will be attending the next Parish Council meeting, Councillor Mike Small has been trying to get extra hours for the library from Baillie Carlton for quite some time.

Fairways Contract

Councillor Easterby agreed to help review the contracts and quotes that we've received regarding the maintenance of the village green. And report back to the full council.

Parking Scheme in Tesco Car Park

Once we've had confirmation from Centrick that we are not at risk with the pumping station etc this is something that we need to revisit.

Minute 300 (2023/24) To Consider Planning Applications

None

Minute 301 (2023/24) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Dave Easterby, seconded by Councillor Richard Small, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the April 9th 2024 agenda be approved – 17 payments for April totalling £6550.50. The entry fee of £110 for In Bloom was not approved.

Meeting ended 8.22pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday May 14th 2024: 6.30pm in the Library