

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday May 9th 2024 at 6.30pm

Present:

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

Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins

D H Streetwatch; Charley Vedmore

1 member of the public

Clerk: Ms Hannah Raithby

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Dave Easterby and Maureen Holloway

2. Report from the Parish Council Chair – Richard Small

Chair Richard Small thanked the Parish Council staff and current and former Parish Councillors for their hard work, in keeping the Parish Council's activities running through the challenges of the past year, and also thanked residents for their input and involvement. He also thanked Streetwatch for their continued support to keep the village safe. He summarised some of the issues and achievements of the last year, which included:

- Infographic outside Morton's
- Youth Club provision agreed and should commence shortly for twice weekly youth club activities
- Planning advisory group to help represent the residents in objecting to the proposed developments in and around the village
- Defibrillator outside the Library (already been used twice)
- Delivery of free first aid training in collaboration with Central Fast Response
- Supporting the Library with warm hub funding
- Coronation Celebration
- Remembrance service
- Christmas lights switch on

He discussed possible projects that the Parish Council may like to get involved in going forward, for example

- Canal towpath improvements
- Speed signs/awareness

The full report can be seen on the Parish Council website.

3. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting held on March 14th 2023

These were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Blythe Borough Councillors invited to Speak

Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins complimented the Parish Council on how effective we are as a Parish Council. He introduced Keith Green who was newly elected the week before and spoke about how pleased he was to have him on board.

Main Street

It has gone to the Crown, there hadn't been a further update as far as he was aware.

Development

With regards to development in the area, there are three in the local plan. The Christmas tree farm, Dog Kennel Lane and Tythe Barn Lane. Fifteen thousand new houses are needed in Solihull by 2025.

Primary care is the thing that the developers and the Council need to think about, how are they going to provide these services for the new people who will be here.

The developers will need to take flooding into account and put measures in place to prevent this.

Site BL1 Tythe Barn Lane, they are trying to relocate sports facilities, the only option is to buy council land in Cheswick Green but this isn't a good idea in his opinion, this is proving to be a real problem for the developers.

Flooding

Dickens Heath has a culvert that can't take the water which means it floods frequently. One solution is a bigger culvert but the problem with this is that it could cause a problem further down towards the Shirley area.

5. Issues of Particular Local Importance

Days meetings are held

A resident asked if it would be possible for us to hold meetings on a different day of the week, the Parish Council agreed to try this.

Meeting ended 7.35pm