

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday October 8th 2024

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Adam Weber, Maureen Holloway, Mike Small.

2 members of the public, 1 representative from Centrick.

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Minute 68 (2024/25) Apologies for Absence

Councillors Stewart Halford, Liz Woodus, Richard Small (Chair)

Minute 69 (2024/25) Public Participation

Centrick

Update on Main Street. The person who owns the road doesn't want to close it, they will surrender it to The Crown as Solihull Council won't take ownership of the road. Eventually it will have to be adopted by Solihull Council. The only real risk is the maintenance of it. The Crown would then be responsible for it. Centrick need proof to show to the owner that Solihull Council aren't willing to take the road on. Centrick have tried to work with Solihull Council to get the road adopted but they are not willing to co-operate.

Minute 70 (2024/25) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 71 (2024/25) Update from Borough Councillors

None in attendance

Minute 72 (2024/25) To Receive an update from the Planning Advisory Group about Site BL1

Councillor Holloway gives an update on the public meeting that was held in September and advises there will not be another one until we have news about the Local Plan. She also thanks the Clerk for getting the urgent letter about the Local Plan into Solihull Council on time as it was important for them to have it before the decision is made. The Parish Council should receive a formal response. The letter outlines the reasons why the Birmingham homes should not be included in the Local Plan. Councillor Mike Small asked about the Planning Wizard and how much it is being used. Councillor Weber updated that someone on Facebook shared the wizard which made a massive spike in use, we now have around 460 people who have used the wizard.

Minute 73 (2024/25) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on September 10th 2024

Councillors Adam Weber proposed, and Maureen Holloway seconded, all in favour, the minutes are approved.

Minute 74 (2024/25) Youth Club

No Update

Minute 75 (2024/25) Parish Council Decisions

Terms of Reference for Planning Advisory Group

All agree to the circulated copy.

Personalised Gazebo for Events

Need to find out if the more expensive option will make the Gazebo more durable. Agree to decide via email as we need to order this before the next meeting.

Minute 76 (2024/25) Finance and Risk Committee

Budget

Councillor Weber advised the Council about the proposals from The Canal and Rivers Trust to undertake work on the vegetation along the Canal. The work would be carried out over the

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Signature.....

Date.....

winter and would help with the quagmire, there is currently no light getting through. The total quote for this work is around £18,000. It is expected that the Parish Council will contribute something towards this. Councillor Weber feels that £6285 would be an appropriate contribution. A full proposal will be discussed at the next meeting but this will need to be considered in the budget.

Minute 77 (2024/25) Communications and Events Committee

Councillor Mike Small updated that the planning for Remembrance is underway. All agree to purchase the suggested mic set which is £101.99. Councillors discuss the possibility of paying for a trumpeter for around £300 for Remembrance or using the lady who is leading the singing at the event who has offered to play the Last Post on the Clarinet. All agree to the Clarinet. The posters for Remembrance will be printed and distributed to local businesses. 20 extra copies will be given to Centrick to distribute in the apartment blocks. Councillor Mike Small suggests that we need to start thinking about Christmas, he will organise the Christmas tree with Woods Farm as we do every year, suggested that the lights switch on will happen on the 1st of December. Plantscape trees will be co-ordinated to start at the same time. He feels that next year we need to start organising events earlier on so that we are better organised. They have organised another First Aid event in the Library for the 30th of November.

Minute 78 (2024/25) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's Update

The Clerk has updated the action log, requests all Councillors take a look at their actions.

Minute 79 (2024/25) To Consider Village Areas of Interest

Speed Reduction Proposals

No update

Youth Club at Community Hub

38 children are attending the younger age group and they have some on the waiting list. The older age group is not yet full.

Library

On Saturday the Library wasn't open due to lack of staff now that Cathy has left, two Councillors are meeting with Kate Bunting this week to discuss the future of the Library. The Parish Council do support the Library wherever possible, there is an annual budget of £500 to help them with extras.

Service Charges in the Village

No Update

Lamp Posts/Christmas Lights

No update

Parish Council Strategy

Councillors Holloway and Weber attended an event to find out about additional funding streams and the Parish Council will follow this up. We managed to get funding for the Table Tennis Table for the Village Green. We need to look at ways to get further engagement from the residents of the Village as this will mean we are more likely to be successful in getting the additional funding. Councillor Holloway spoke about having more noticeboards as this may help, other Parish Councils have more boards than us. A suggested popular location for this is the bus stop area by the clock island and Whitlocks End train station.

IT Platform Update

No Update

Village Hall

No update

Minute 80 (2024/25) To Consider Planning Applications

Beech Lane planning application for a hip to gable loft conversion is permitted development but may not look good from the street scene. Solihull Council may allow it but we could make a comment to consider the street scene.

With regards to Birmingham Airport's application to extend night flights and whether to make a comment, Councillor Holloway will ask for advice from our planning advisor.

Minute 81 (2024/25) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Maureen Holloway, seconded by Councillor Adam Weber, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the October 8th agenda for be approved - 17 payments

totalling £5493.61 plus an additional payment of £59.14 to T. Griffiths for plants and an additional £25 to increase the payment to £100 for Central Fast Response.

To Consider Proposed Guidelines for New Bank Account with Unity Trust Bank

All agree to the proposed guidelines and agree that Councillors Holloway and R Small should be authorised to set up bank payments in the event that the Clerk or RFO cannot.

Minute 82 (2024/25) Correspondence

Nothing to update at the moment.

Minute 83 (2024/25) Discuss Co-Option Applications

It is decided that this should be discussed and agreed at the next meeting due to the low number of Councillors present.

Minute 84 (2024/25) Simon Litter Picker Hours/Holiday

It is decided that more discussion needs to take place with Simon before any decisions can be made.

Meeting ended 8.30pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday 19th November 2024: 6.30pm in the Library