

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday February 11th 2025

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Richard Small (Chair), Adam Weber, Maureen Holloway, Stewart Halford, Liz Woodus and Vicky Taylor.

9 members of the public, 1 representative from Centrick

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Minute 115 (2024/25) Apologies for Absence

Councillor Mike Small

Minute 116 (2024/25) Public Participation

Main Street

A resident raised the issue of service charges being paid by those that live in the apartments on Main Street. They pointed out that they still pay their council tax as everyone else does but they also are now paying very high fees which have doubled from what they used to be. Councillor R small advised that we are working to try to get Main Street adopted, there have been disagreements between the Liquidator and Solihull Council and proper procedures don't seem to have been followed. The Centrick representative advised that Main Street goes all the way down to Waterside and isn't owned by Centrick or Solihull Council, it is still with Dickens Heath Development Company. The current plan is to send the road to The Crown. There have been discussions with the Parish Council to try to come to another agreement but until there is any hope of another resolution the road must go to The Crown. The road was closed because it was believed to be dangerous, but they have now had confirmation that it is not dangerous. The procedure for it going to The Crown can take around a month. The Crown may put pressure on Solihull Council to adopt the road but that is not the only possible outcome. There was a discussion about areas of the pavement where the slabs have been damaged, a resident speaks about a lady who fell over and was knocked unconscious. Another resident asked about disabled spots and our Centrick representative advised that these will be part of the area that is going to The Crown.

Bellway Estate

A resident raised the topic of activity in the Bellway estate, there has been some work happening in the area with trees and green land which may cause damage to the trees. Councillor Maureen Holloway adds that this is a public open space with trees that have Tree Preservation Orders on them. The Parish Council have written to Solihull Council with their concerns and will try to get an update on progress.

Beech Lane

A resident feels it is very dangerous on the corner by the chicane because of the parking on that side of the road Counsellor R small asks the resident to e-mail the photo so we can look into it.

Akamba Site

Resident advised us that this site has now been flattened and wondered what will happen to the land. Jean Walters advised that it will be considered as a brownfield site.

Minute 117 (2024/25) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None in attendance.

Minute 118 (2024/25) To Receive an update from the Planning Advisory Group about Site BL1

Planning

Dog Kennel Lane

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Signature.....

Date.....

Update from Councillor R Small about the ongoing planning issues in the village. There is now an agreement in place for the Dog Kennel Lane development that there will be a green area separating this from Dickens Heath, this was thanks to Richard Holt and Jean Walters.

Local Plan

The local plan is no longer in place, the Parish Council are hoping that Richborough won't be in the new Local Plan.

Councillor Holloway updated that the Parish Council sent a letter to Solihull Council, we have had a response and we are hoping to arrange a meeting to discuss it further with a view to understanding the technical aspects.

Persimmon

The Parish Council have met with Persimmon Homes, they were very receptive as they always are. The Parish Council thanked them for the updated design, we requested something to be done about the apartment block which is currently planned to be opposite bungalows. They are going to look at relocating this. There was also a discussion about having better connectivity with the path and cycleway. And whether there should be one zebra crossing rather than two. Jean Walters advised that we are still objecting to the site on Greenbelt grounds. She believes that the new local plan needs to start with a traffic study.

A resident thanked everyone for their help with this matter as his bungalow would have been affected by the apartment block, he is very grateful.

Minute 119 (2024/25) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on January 14th 2024

Councillors Richard Small proposed, and Vicky Taylor seconded, all in favour, the minutes are approved with two minor amendments noted on the document.

Minute 120 (2024/25) Parish Council Decisions

Which Charities Should We Support This Year

All agree to split any money raised between corns and Dementia UK.

Christmas Tree

To relocate the tree would cost around £13,000 another idea would be to cut it down and use it for one year. We will get some information on this from Woods Farm if possible.

Car Park Signs

All agree to having car park signs to indicate where our car park is located.

Tidy up of Car Park

All agree to the annual tidy up of the car park for £490. Centrick have provisionally agreed to contribute £100 to this as they are responsible for some of the undergrowth in the car park.

Backup for Car Park Inspections

Councillor R Small agrees to be the backup when Councillor Taylor is unavailable.

Mental Health Book Bundles

All councillors agree to purchase four of the bundles for the local education settings at around £109.88 in total.

Insurance

All Councillors agreed to the one-year Clear Councils insurance at a cost of £1,256.49.

Auditor

All agree to use Bill Robinson again.

Minute 121 (2024/25) Finance and Risk Committee

The next meeting is booked for the 27th of March 2025.

Minute 122 (2024/25) Communications and Events Committee

The Village Hall has been booked for the three events throughout the year, fun day, Remembrance Day and the Christmas lights switch on. The Village Hall Committee has expressed that they would like to join efforts with us for Christmas. A lot of vendors for the summer event have already been booked, we need to investigate organising any others that we would like.

The Facebook poll got a good response. The top three most popular events being the Easter egg hunt with 77 votes, movie night with 63 votes and quiz night with 59 votes. Councillor Taylor would like to organise an afternoon tea event on or around the 5th of May to commemorate VE day, we need to check availability for the Village Hall. The next meeting of

the Communications and Events Committee will be on the 14th of March at 11:00 AM. All Councillors agreed to have an Easter Egg Hunt, Councillor Taylor will lead on this event.

Minute 123 (2024/25) Councillors’ Action Log and Clerk’s Update

Bridleway Flooding

There has been no resolution on this issue, the Clerk will chase it with Solihull Council.

APM in March

All Councillors agree to having the APM in March when we have the full Parish Council meeting.

Airport – Barston Parish Council’s Request

The request for a contribution towards challenging the decision made about the airport hours is discussed. Four Councillors against this, Councillors Holloway and Taylor abstain

Minute 124 (2024/25) To Consider Village Areas of Interest

Main Street

This has been covered in the Public Participation section; the Parish Council will chase the S106 agreement with Solihull Council. If there is a bond on the road the S106 agreement will enforce this.

Library

The lift in the library has been broken for around six months Councillor Halford has made some inquiries and there has been a problem getting the parts from Finland. He is going to speak to the engineer to see if there's anything we can do to help with this.

Lamp Posts

Councillor R Small has a call booked in with Dean Ward at Solihull Council about this on Friday the 14th February.

IT Platform Update

The Clerk has sorted the Domain Name, it will go live once payments have been made.

Village Hall

Yasmeen, the administrator has resigned, an advert for the position will be going out shortly. The heating in the Village Hall is still a problem. James Taylor of the Village Hall Committee is sorting an application to apply for funding.

Minute 125 (2024/25) To Consider Planning Applications

No action to be taken on any of the planning applications.

Minute 126 (2024/25) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Vicky Taylor, seconded by Councillor Maureen Holloway, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the February 11th agenda for be approved - 15 payments totalling £8,330.35 including an additional payment of £3,000 to Dickens Heath School for the Youth Club (withhold Fairways payment until there is a resolution).

Minute 127 (2024/25) Correspondence

Nothing to update at the moment.

Meeting ended 9.23pm

Next Meeting : Tuesday 11th March 2025: 6.30pm in the Library