

## The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday March 11th 2025

**Present:**

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

1 member of the public, planning advisor Jean Walters

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

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**Minute 128 (2024/25) Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Mike Small and Stewart Halford

**Minute 129 (2024/25) Public Participation**

Highway Safety

Jean Walters raised the issue of a dangerous junction at Cleobury Lane/Rumbush Lane, there have been several accidents there over the years. Also the junction of Birchy Leasowes/Tilehouse Lane. There aren't sufficient visibility splays. She proposed that the Parish Council have a meeting with Highways. Councillor R Small advised that we already have a meeting with them in April. We will be having regular meetings with them. Jean Walters advised that the hedge needs to be cut back but because it's ancient hedgerow, needs to be the council that sort it out. Jean also advised that there are currently traffic surveys being done in the area. When these are complete the Parish Council may need to consider using the money that has been allocated for an independent traffic survey to be done. Councillor Weber mentioned that a lot of the roads are dangerous to drive on at night due to potholes.

Youth Club

A resident wondered how we manage the youth of the area especially if there are new developments coming soon. She is interested in being involved. She's a street-based youth worker so specialises in chatting to young people out and about. There was a discussion around ideas of how she could get involved with the work the parish Council are doing.

**Minute 130 (2024/25) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations**

None

**Minute 131 (2024/25) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors**

None in attendance.

**Minute 132 (2024/25) To Receive an update from the Planning Advisory Group about Site BL1**

Planning

The Planning Advisory Group have had a meeting to talk about a letter that needs to be sent to the environment agency about flooding. Stormwater flooding is a reason to refuse planning. The Parish Council need to agree they are happy to send the letter, map and evidence. All agree to this.

Councillor Holloway and Jean Walters are meeting with Mark Andrews and Gary Palmer at Solihull Council to discuss the ongoing planning issues and to offer advice. Sequential test needs to be done for stormwater flooding. Jean is going to provide Solihull Council with case law. Solihull Council only have 26 months to make the new Local Plan. Solihull Council have started the traffic study. Jean Walters feels it's likely the Parish Council will need to spend the money to get an independent traffic study done which has already been allocated in the budget.

**Minute 133 (2024/25) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Signature.....

Date.....

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

### **Minute 134 (2024/25) Parish Council Decisions**

#### Bus Consultation

The Parish Councillors all agree to send a message as a single voice, Councillor Taylor has drafted something for this and will circulate it to the other Councillors.

#### Christmas Tree

There are two issues with transplanting the tree, firstly the cost, secondly the chance of the tree dying after it has been moved is very high. There was a discussion about having a medium size tree put onto the green instead. Councillor Taylor is going to investigate getting some information on a slightly bigger tree. Concerns about how to dress a very large tree and how to ensure it is done safely. All agree to ask Countrywide if they will be able to help with this.

#### Consider Joining CPRE

All agree to this at £60

#### Canal and Rivers Trust

Councillor Weber advises that the Canal and Rivers Trust have pulled out of the tree works by the canal as they have commitments elsewhere.

- Councillor Weber leaves the meeting

### **Minute 135 (2024/25) Finance and Risk Committee**

Councillor Taylor updates. They have a meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>, The dignity at work policy has been drafted and sent out to the committee for review. The training plan is a work in progress. The budget for the youth club is £3000 which has been paid which will take the club to the summer season. The budget for this for 2025/6 is £3500.

### **Minute 136 (2024/25) Communications and Events Committee**

Easter Egg hunt, this will take place on Easter Sunday.

VE Day tea dance on the bank holiday in May – they will be discussing the detail at the next meeting.

Lamp lighting ceremony for VE day, the lamp will cost £55 – All agree to this.

Fun Day will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> August – we have booked Boogaloo babes and a lot of the catering, DJ is confirmed.

Councillor Holloway suggests asking the member of the public who attended who is a youth worker to come to the fun day.

The donkey sanctuary will be having a tombola at the fun day

It was confirmed that the budget for the event being held this year is £3500.

It was agreed to invite the group that have requested to use the village green for a charity event to the Communications and Events meeting.

#### Communications Strategy

This will be ongoing, we are getting the website sorted, followers on social media have doubled.

### **Minute 137 (2024/25) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's Update**

Floral Display for Summer All agree to add Copperfield Court island to the summer display. We will also request a quote for Waterside Island. Councillor Holloway intends to plant daffodils in the troughs on the Waterside island in the autumn.

#### Review the Action Log

CCTV – Councillor R Small and V Taylor are going to look into this.

#### Bridleway Flooding

This has now been resolved by Solihull Council, it was down to a blocked pipe. Resident has been in touch and is happy.

### **Minute 138 (2024/25) To Consider Village Areas of Interest**

#### Main Street

Meeting with MP Neil Shastri-Hurst and other stakeholders on Friday morning.

#### Noticeboard

We need a handyman to come and sort the noticeboard, it is leaking and generally looks shabby.

#### IT Platform Update

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Signature.....

Date.....

This is progressing.

Village Hall

We are organising lots of events at the Village Hall

Library

The Parish Council feel that the Library is looking shabby from the outside and would like to request a repaint.

Do the Library have an accident book?

**Minute 139 (2024/25) To Consider Planning Applications**

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

**Minute 140 (2024/25) Financial Matters**

Proposed by Councillor Vicky Taylor, seconded by Councillor Maureen Holloway, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the March 11<sup>th</sup> agenda be approved - 15 payments totalling £6,561.44 (withhold Fairways payment until there is a resolution), including an additional payment of £1092.74 to Kompan for playground repairs.

**Minute 141 (2024/25) Correspondence**

Nothing to update at the moment.

**Meeting ended 9.23pm**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th April 2025: 6.30pm in the Library**