

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday April 8th 2025

Present:

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

1 member of the public, planning advisor Jean Walters

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Minute 142 (2024/25) Apologies for Absence

Councillor Adam Weber

Minute 143 (2024/25) Public Participation

Allotment Association

Two members of the Allotment Association joined the meeting to discuss the frustration that they have felt recently. Some members of the Solihull Council Parks Association recommended that they applied for CIL funding from SMBC. Unfortunately, they were given incorrect information about where to apply for the funding and encouraged to go through lengthy processes which were unnecessary and they were turned down for the funding. The Parish Council have agreed to approach the department at SMBC to ask why this has happened and convey the upset it has caused. The members of the allotment association will contact the Clerk with full information. It is also possible for the Allotment Association to approach the Parish Council to ask for funding.

Minute 144 (2024/25) Update from Winnr Sport about the Youth Club

The youth club started in September last year, they thank us for our contribution to funding it. It has been a fun journey for them and the younger age group is full and has a waiting list. The Friday group has less but they have successfully moved some of the older ones from Monday to Friday. They have done some detached youth work in the village. They are advertising to try to get more to attend and visiting Alderbrook School to do a talk soon. They have started doing the first hour on a Friday on the Village Green to encourage engagement. Looking forward to next year, he will have to fill in reports on how the scheme has been going so far along with the school, hopefully it will be extended but there are no guarantees. The Parish Council have invited them to attend the event we are holding on the Village Green on August the 30th.

Minute 145 (2024/25) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 146 (2024/25) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None in attendance.

Minute 147 (2024/25) To Receive an update from the Planning Advisory Group about Site BL1

Planning

The Planning Advisory Group have drawn up a letter in response to the Persimmon site, they would like this to be submitted, the 17th of April is the deadline. Planning advisor Jean Walters is working on a further response to the Environment Agency. She feels it would strengthen our case if the Local Parish Councils joined together to oppose the developments. All Councillors agree that Jean Walters can approach Tidbury Green Parish Council to ask if they would like to join together on this.

Minute 148 (2024/25) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on February 11th 2025

Councillor Vicky Taylor proposed, and Liz Woodus seconded, all in favour, the minutes are approved.

Minute 149 (2024/25) Parish Council Decisions

PA System

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The Parish Councillors all agreed to the Mackie sound system at £2000.

Village Green Policy

All agree to add 'BBQs are prohibited on the Village Green' to the policy

Main Street

Councillor R Small spoke about Main street going to The Crown. All Councillors agreed for there to be a working group set up and all agreed to be in the working group. The main objective is to get a dialogue going with the residents about the options.

Waterside Island

Councillors Holloway, Taylor and Woodus agreed to organise the bedding plants for this island. A majority of Councillors agreed to pay Plantscape to water them throughout the summer months at £720. Councillor Woodus against.

Party on the Village Green

Councillors all agreed to the requested parties on the Village Green if there is an agreement that there will not be a BBQ of any sort.

Minute 150 (2024/25) Finance and Risk Committee

Councillor Taylor updates. They have a meeting on the 27th March, they will be circulating Risk Assessment, Standing Orders and 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 151 (2024/25) Communications and Events Committee

There was a discussion around the amount being spent on the music for the events, including two lots of £1000 for a brass band. The Clerk shared her concerns if no sponsorship is forthcoming. Councillor Taylor reassures that she is confident that she will get a decent amount of sponsorship. This was officially decided at a Communication and Events meeting. Councillor Woodus feels that with Boogaloo Babes and the Brass Band along with the DJ this will be too much for the summer event. Councillor M Small raised his concerns about the sound levels and upsetting the residents that live around the Village Hall. It is agreed to contact the residents about this.

Councillor M Small also speaks about the number of events that are being planned this year, which is now at eleven, could possibly be more. Historically the Parish Council only had two events a year. He would like Councillors to make sure we are all working together to make sure the work is shared and to consider the amount of extra work this puts on to the Clerk. They are working to try to increase the communication with residents and boost number of followers.

Minute 152 (2024/25) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's Update

No update currently

Minute 153 (2024/25) To Consider Village Areas of Interest

Christmas Lights

Councillor Taylor has been doing some research into potentially getting some slightly larger trees for the roundabouts and possibly having battery or mains powered. She would like to get some quotes; all councillors are happy for her to do this.

Library

The Parish Council are giving £75 to the Library for their VE day event, this will come out of their usual budget.

Lamp Posts

Solihull Council will be doing a survey on them and replace them based on Health and Safety. 20 MPH signs have gone up.

CCTV

Councillor Taylor has some information on this and will share with Councillor R Small

IT Platform

Now have office 365 setup. We will have a training session over the next couple of weeks. The website will happen after the emails are sorted.

Village Hall

The new administrator has started, no further update at the moment.

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Minute 154 (2024/25) To Consider Planning Applications

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

Minute 155 (2024/25) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Vicky Taylor, seconded by Councillor Maureen Holloway, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the April 8th agenda be approved - 18 payments totalling £7,022.41 including additional payments of £46.36 to T Griffiths for plants, £69.99 to S Halford for the Easter Bunny Costume and £75.00 to the Fusilier Museum for the VE Day learning session in the Library

Minute 156 (2024/25) Correspondence

Nothing to update at the moment.

Meeting ended 9.03pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th May 2025: 6.30pm in the Library