

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

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

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Maureen Holloway, Liz Woodus, Mike Small, Stewart Halford, Vicky Taylor (chair) and Adam Weber.
1 member of the public.

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Minute 39 (2025/26) Apologies for Absence

None

Minute 40 (2025/26) Public Participation

Persimmon Development

A resident spoke about his ongoing concerns around the Persimmon development and the plan to put the apartments across from the bungalows. Councillor Taylor reassured him that we are doing everything we can to help and get them to relocate the apartments.

Minute 41 (2025/26) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 42 (2025/26) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None in attendance. Apologies had been received, it is the main Solihull Council meeting tonight.

Minute 43 (2025/26) To Receive an update from the Planning Advisory Group about Site BL1

Councillor Taylor updated that they had a meeting with Persimmon and delivered the message about the apartments discussed above. Planning adviser Jean Walters has a plan to form a green buffer around Tidbury Green and Dickens Heath. The Green belt consultation has been received by Solihull Council and they will be looking at it.

Minute 44 (2025/26) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on June 10th 2025

Councillor Vicky Taylor proposed, and Maureen Holloway seconded, all in favour, the minutes are approved.

Minute 45 (2025/26) Parish Council Decisions

Bramble Bees Use of Village Green – we are awaiting more information on this. No decision can be made at this time.

Minute 46 (2025/26) Finance and Risk Committee

Councillor Taylor updates. Finance and Risk Training plan and Dignity at Work Policy are due to be signed off at the next meeting of Finance and Risk Committee. The Clerk to be the Data Protection Officer, will need to undertake training annually. All Councillors agree to this.

Minute 47 (2025/26) Communications and Events Committee

Councillor Small updates, he suggested a WhatsApp group just for sharing holiday dates for all Councillors and staff so that we can be more aware of when people will be away to keep things running smoothly. All agree to this. Councillor Weber advised that the new platform will have features like this and agrees to give everyone training when the time is right.

Fun Day on the Village Green

Acorns is the charity we are planning to support. We have most vendors confirmed. Councillor Weber is going to have a stall. Louis from Winnr sports is going to be there and we have two bands booked as well as a DJ. The main fun day will run from 11am to 6pm weather permitting. Before 11am there will be a demonstration of lady's football. £4000 budget for all events this year so we need to be mindful of not overspending. The organisation of the event is looking good, we could do with a couple more volunteers if possible. Adverts and banners will be done soon.

Minute 48 (2025/26) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's Update

Clerk updates, almost all emails are sorted. SORN cars in the Tesco car park are being dealt with, it's a long process. Discussion around speed visor, this is still on the Parish Council agenda, Councillor Halford is working on it. CCTV is still in progress, waiting for a quote at the moment. Planters at Waterside have been an issue which the Clerk is trying to help with.

Minute 49 (2025/26) To Consider Village Areas of Interest

Christmas Lights

Councillor Taylor has sent out some ideas for this. The electricity idea is extremely expensive so is a no go. Councillor Taylor proposes that we ask Solihull Council again about having the Christmas lights on the Lampposts like we used to have, she will let us know how much they quote.

Main Street

There has been a response from the Crown about our email, it said they haven't got the information yet.

Library

Councillors Small and Halford had a meeting with Kate Bunting about the Library which they felt went well. They are recruiting for a new member of staff. The Librarians have been giving out the QR code to complain about the closures of the Library, we have been promoting this as well and Solihull Council have had over thirty complaints already. Nothing is allowed to be stored in the server room. Councillor Small has been in contact with Solihull Council about holding some language classes in the Library to support our non English speaking residents.

CCTV

Awaiting quotes for this.

IT Platform

This is all progressing nicely.

Village Hall

Councillor Taylor would like to go to a Village Hall meeting as they have shown an interest in working more closely with the Parish Council. Councillor Small suggests that it would be good for a representative to come to the Parish Council meeting to talk about what they would like to do. It is agreed this is what should happen. Councillor Woodus updates that the Village Hall has had quite a few issues with people not leaving the premises how they found it.

Minute 50 (2025/26) To Consider Planning Applications

Planning enforcement are now involved with 9 Brixfield Way which was discussed at the previous meeting.

12 Brockhurst Lane, this tree is not on their land, this has been reported to the tree officer.

14 Brixfield Way, this is all ok, within permitted development.

Minute 51 (2025/26) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Maureen Holloway, seconded by Councillor Liz Woodus, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the July 8th agenda be approved - 17 payments totalling £26507.40 including an additional payment of £486.51 to Councillor V Taylor for events expenses for VE day. Proposed by Councillor Maureen Holloway, seconded by Councillor Liz Woodus, **Resolved** that the regular payments for August be approved due to there being no meeting in August.

Minute 52 (2025/26) Correspondence

Watering of flowers, by Plantscape, to clarify this is done usually late in the evening which is what was agreed following a complaint that they were done at 3am. This only happened as Plantscape were trying to get all the displays out.

Beech Lane, query about hedge obscuring view. Councillors don't think this is a major issue, Solihull Council can decide what to do if they report it to them which is the advice the Clerk gave to the resident.

Minute 53 (2025/26) Annual Increment Pay Award For Clerk

It is decided that the Clerk needs to have her PDR before this is decided and can be backdated if necessary. Will need to be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting ended 8.03pm

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Signature.....

Date.....

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th September 2025: 6.30pm in the Library