

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday February 10th 2026

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Liz Woodus, Stewart Halford, Vicky Taylor (chair), Andy Cardoza, Maureen Holloway and Adam Weber.

Borough Councillors Keith Green and Richard Holt

3 members of the public.

Planning Advisor Jean Walters

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Minute 107 (2025/26) Apologies for Absence

Councillor Jim Harte.

Minute 108 (2025/26) Public Participation

Planning Advisor spoke about planning application relating to Old Yardleas, Tythe Barn Lane sports field. It is 60% on local wildlife site which the applicant states are of no consequence but the area has very rare marshland plants on it which Jean has researched with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. In the application they plan to take 9 protected trees down, but the area extends further north where the trees aren't protected. This will upset the wildlife balance. Jean believes this is a good way to move forward with this and would like the Parish Council to support getting the trees protected.

Minute 109 (2025/26) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 110 (2025/26) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Keith Green updated, there have been concerns about the old Akamba site being used as an illegal tip, the Council have been out to check it and it all seems to be fine but they are going to do further checks. There have been skips going in and out. We managed to get some photographs from the next field. The Council will be looking into it further. Keith spoke about the Old Yardleas development as well, they are waiting to see where the alternative site will be. The first phase of Solihull Town Centre has started and provisionally second phase has been agreed.

Councillor Richard Holt spoke about the issue with the gate at Waterside. He has requested a copy of the transfer and will be looking into this further. There was a discussion about what the Parish Council are going to do to try to resolve the situation. We will continue to work with Solihull Council to see if this can be resolved.

Minute 111 (2025/26) To Receive an update from the Planning Advisory Group about Site BL1

Councillor Taylor updated. We are working on a Neighbourhood Plan, their next meeting is on the 17th February. Jean has spoken to Gary Palmer at Solihull Council about this. Jean spoke about the consultation of the Local Plan at Solihull Council. She feels we should wait to do our own consultation until later on due to the other consultations that are happening at the moment. Jean spoke about us making a response to Solihull Council's Local Plan consultation. Jean also spoke about Green Belt/Grey belt, coalescence and villages and hamlets joining together.

Minute 112 (2025/26) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on January 13th 2026

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

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Signature.....

Date.....

Minute 113 (2025/26) Parish Council Decisions

TDF Fitness Grant Application All agree to grant application of £1200 for youth work.

CCTV

It was decided that we will approach the Village Hall to ask for permission to put the CCTV on their wall and ask if we can keep the hub in the hall somewhere secure. We will ask them what cameras they need and if they are able to contribute.

Internal Auditor 2025-26

All Councillors agree to Helen Dubois for the internal auditor this year apart from Councillor Weber abstains.

Parish Council Insurance

All Councillors agree to Clear Councils Insurance for three years as it is the best value, £1,290.78 for 2026/27.

IT Policy

Councillors Weber, Taylor, Holloway and Cardoza agree to the IT policy.

Minute 114 (2025/26) Finance and Risk Working Group

Next meeting is on the 7th April.

Minute 115 (2025/26) Communications and Working Group

Next meeting is the 16th February

Minute 116 (2025/26) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's Update

Village Green Signs – It is agreed to ask Neil who is one of our volunteers for help with the signs on the Village Green.

Orton Media – All Councillors are happy to continue with Orton Media for publishing the Newsletter.

Minute 117 (2025/26) To Consider Village Areas of Interest

Canal – Councillor Weber to hand over to Councillor Cardoza who is interested in this.

Halloween – The Police are attending next months meeting.

Youth Club – Councillor Cardoza is going to lead on this.

Christmas Lights – We are concerned about using Solihull Council for the Christmas lights, partly due to cost but also due to being tied into using them. We are trying to find an alternative resolution.

Islands – Councillor Halford is working on getting some support from a local garden centre. There will be some work done on the Waterside island on the 17th of February at 2pm

Minute 118 (2025/26) To Consider Planning Applications

No Comments

Minute 119 (2025/26) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Andy Cardoza, seconded by Councillor Maureen Holloway, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the February 10th agenda be approved - 16 payments totalling £5472.81 including two extra payments to WALC for £48.00 each and a payment to Krystal Hosting for £12.00

Minute 120 (2025/26) Correspondence

Correspondence from Balsall Council about their Christmas Lights is discussed.

Minute 121 (2025/26) Items For Next Agenda

Benches.

Meeting ended 9pm

Next Meeting: March 10th 2026: 6.30pm in the Library