

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday April 14th 2026

Present:

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

2 visitors from Electric Vehicle Charging Initiative

Planning Advisor Jean Walters

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

RFO: Ms H Marczak

Minute 138 (2025/26) Apologies for Absence

Councillor Stewart Halford

Minute 139 (2025/26) Public Participation

None

Minute 140 (2025/26) Electric Vehicle Charging Initiative

Presentation given to the Parish Council about the potential of having Electric Charging Places in the Car Park that the Parish Council own behind Tesco. Information given to help the Councillors decide, this will need to be decided by September.

Minute 141 (2025/26) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 142 (2025/26) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

None in attendance

Minute 143 (2025/26) To Receive an update from the Planning Advisory Group about Site BL1

Councillor Harte updated. They have been working on the Local Plan, they need to arrange to meet with the Solihull Council planning officers. They need to undertake community consultation, they are working on getting a plan put up in the Library.

Akamba site, there are some issues on this site, the Ward Councillors are having discussions to try to resolve this.

Severn Trent Water have given us a point of contact, they are going to meet with some of the Parish Councillors to have a walk around the village and discuss flooding issues as well as an opportunity to discuss the plans for infrastructure for the proposed sites in the area. All Councillors agree to Councillors Holloway and Harte meeting with the representative from Severn Trent Water.

Councillor Harte will circulate a letter to Councillors via the Clerk to Mark Andrews at Solihull Council and another letter to Highways. All Councillors agree to these letters being drafted by Councillor Harte.

Minute 144 (2025/26) To Consider Planning Applications

None

Minute 145 (2025/26) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on March 10th 2026

Councillor Vicky Taylor proposed, and Councillor Jim Harte seconded, all in favour, the minutes are approved.

Minute 146 (2025/26) Parish Council Decisions

Summer Display - All agreed to move the Calcutt Way planters to the island near Cornwood House.

Coffees for Volunteers - All agree to buying refreshments for volunteers following litter picks and other big volunteering events.

Minutes of Dickens Heath Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 14th April 2026

Signature.....

Date.....

Letter to MP about Governance – All agree to send a letter to the MP about the potential governance changes, but the letter will need to be reworded and circulated to Councillors for agreement.

Trolley for litter picking and sign cleanup – all agree to the purchase of the trolley for around £70.

Vendor Agreement – All councillors agreed to make some suggested changes to the agreement. Councillors felt that charging £70 and 10% of takings on top would probably put some people off and we'd like to have lots of stalls in attendance. Suggestion of £50 or a bit less for the pitches and no percentage of takings as this wasn't paid by some vendors last time anyway. The Clerk will suggest this to the group helping to organise the summer event.

IT Upgrade – All agree to upgrading the laptop for the RFO as well as the Clerk which has already been agreed.

Music Licence – All agreed to the renewal and felt it was the right cover for the number of events we have planned this year.

Terms of Reference for Working Groups

All agreed with the draft Terms of Reference, the Clerk will arrange for them to be published on the website.

Minute 147 (2025/26) Finance and Risk Working Group

The Finance and Risk Working Group recommend starting a reserve fund for 1) replacement of the playground in the future and 2) repairs to the car park. All agreed to this and allocating £15,000 of the CIL money we have recently received for the playground, and £1,000 for the car park.

Minute 148 (2025/26) Communications and Events Working Group

Easter Egg Hunt – This event was very successful with around 95 children and their families in attendance. There was a great group of volunteers helping with this event which meant it ran smoothly.

Tea Party – this is happening on the 31st of May, we need to ask for some volunteers to help.

Summer Fun Day – on the 29th of August.

The school choir have been booked for the Christmas event after last year's success.

Minute 149 (2025/26) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's Update

Scouts Using the Village Green on 25th April 25th – All agreed to this.

Car Park – It was decided to wait until a decision is made about the electric charging parking spaces to investigate getting the car park repainted. Councillors discussed the problems with car parking in this car park and would like to hear from residents if possible. We will try putting a note on cars that are parking inconsiderately first and then approach SMBC to ask about parking enforcement if nothing improves.

Minute 150 (2025/26) To Consider Village Areas of Interest

Canal – Councillor Cardoza spoke about the canal towpath being unusable at certain times of the year and having a quote for £850,000 to renovate between bridges 10 and 15. There was a discussion around asking developers to contribute towards this cost but also about ways to get funding or volunteers to help.

Christmas Lights – It was suggested that we consider having the solar trees on the islands again as we did two years ago but having more of them so it is more impactful. It was agreed for Councillors and the Clerk to have a walk about the village to decide if this would be the best way forward due to the major constraints placed on the Parish Council by Solihull Council.

Village Hall – It is suggested that the Village Hall and the Parish Council collaborate to produce a leaflet detailing all events happening in the village organised by the two entities. All Councillors agree that this is a great idea.

Islands Highways Maintenance – Councillor Harte to write to Solihull Council to ask for information on when this will be looked at. All agreed to this.

Wishlist – Councillor Harte suggested that the Parish Council should have a wish list of things they would like to aim to achieve.

Minute 151 (2025/26) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Andy Cardoza, seconded by Councillor Maureen Holloway, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the April 14th agenda be approved - 18 payments totalling £7865.60 including one extra payment to T Griffiths of £313.94 for planters and compost. The first instalment of the precept has been received, and the end of year accounts were approved.

Minute 152 (2025/26) Correspondence

Correspondence from residents regarding the gate at Waterside is discussed and potential resolution ideas, we will continue to try to get this resolved.

Councillor Holloway will contact David Waterson at Solihull Council this week regarding the gate.

Minute 153 (2025/26) Items For Next Agenda

None.

Meeting ended 8.57pm

Next Meeting: May 12th 2026: 6.30pm in the Library