

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

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

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Vicky Taylor(chair), Jim Harte, Maureen Holloway, Stewart Halford, Adam Weber, Andy Cardoza

Borough Councillor Keith Green

One visitor from Solihull Council's Youth Provision Team, Jade Peynado.

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Six members of the public

Minute 41 (2026/27) Apologies for Absence

Liz Woodus

Minute 42 (2026/27) Public Participation

A resident raised the issues they have been having with children using the ramp into their underground car park and riding around on their bikes. They have learned how to open the shutters so they can get in even when it's locked. Councillor Taylor advised to keep speaking to the police who can liaise with local schools to see if they know them, also recommends speaking to Streetwatch who can arrange to visit certain areas at specific times to target problem areas.

Another resident spoke about the kerb on Main Street and how it is disappearing. Councillor Taylor advised that Main Street is not adopted by Solihull Council and that it has been with Liquidators and will soon be with the Crown Estates.

Another resident raised the parking at Gorcott Lane where there is a dead end, a lot of cars parked on the double yellow lines.

Minute 43 (2026/27) Solihull Council Youth Provision

Jade advised that there will be a youth offer of multi sports and wellness at the Youth Hub from September. There will also be three youth activities in Dickens Heath over the summer holidays which she will confirm when she has more details. It is agreed that they can park the van on the Village Green for the youth activities.

Minute 44 (2026/27) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 45 (2026/27) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Green spoke about the planning applications that are coming to the area, he has been working on this, he would like to work collaboratively to oppose these developments. He and Councillor Ken Hawkins are meeting with Taylor Wimpey to gather more information.

Minute 46 (2026/27) To Receive an update from the Planning Advisory Group about Site BL1

Councillor Harte updated, they have sent in a letter about the 110 houses at Rumbush Lane West. They have been thinking of ways to streamline the Planning Advisory Group processes. Concerns around schools and infrastructure due to the proposed developments was discussed. The letter about the Strategic Green Gap has also been sent in. The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing, discussion around it needing to be in line with Local Plan. They would like to have a board at the Fun Day event to raise community involvement and would like to do this at the Village Hall Craft Fair on the 8th of August as well. All agree to these.

Minute 47 (2026/27) To Consider Planning Applications

None

Minute 48 (2026/27) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on June 9th 2026

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Signature.....

Date.....

Councillor Maureen Holloway proposed, and Councillor Jim Harte seconded, all in favour, the minutes are approved.

Minute 49 (2026/27) Parish Council Decisions

Litter Picking Risk Assessment – All agreed to adopt this but with one element removed which the Clerk will arrange.

Grant Application for Arts Connect – All agreed to go back about this application and ask for more information on dates, location, KPI's, programme layout and large amount for refreshments.

Use of Village Green

All Councillors agreed to the use of the Village Green by TDF fitness on the 22nd of August and agree to pay the £18 for the use of the Village Hall toilets for their event.

Library Newspapers

All agreed to pay this as long as it's the hard copies, not online

Minute 50 (2026/27) Finance and Risk Working Group

No update. Provisional date for meeting is the 15th of September

Minute 51 (2026/27) Communications and Events Working Group

Village Fun Day – The Parish Council will be taking on more of the responsibilities for this day as the organisers are reluctant to take full responsibility for it. There was a proposal to pay £500 for the soft play provision for the day which all Councillors agreed to, then there can be a very small fee charged to each child of £1 which we'd like all proceeds to go to the charity. We'd like a sign to let people know that the Parish Council have sponsored it.

Minute 52 (2026/27) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's Update

Benches on Village Green – Councillor Halford has four people coming to provide quotes for installing the benches on the Village Green, and some other jobs that need to be done, including replacing the small stones by the memorial.

Planters – Councillor Taylor will look into getting some quotes for stone planters to replace the large ones at the Clock Island.

TDF Fitness – Des has approached us about another grant to run classes for the local children over the six weeks holiday. The councillors are happy with this in principle but have some questions. It was agreed that we will ask these and aim to get it agreed via email so it can go ahead over the holidays.

Minute 53 (2026/27) To Consider Village Areas of Interest

Canal – Agreed to chase the Canal and Rivers Trust about the bridge.

Village Hall – They have a Craft Fair happening on the 8th of August with 17 stalls.

Islands Highways Maintenance – We have a great group of volunteers who are attempting to take care of the islands in the Village.

Electric Charging Vehicles – Agree to contact Cheswick Green Parish Council to ask them about their recent installation of ECV's in their car park. Discussion around getting quotes for our own suppliers.

Gate at Waterside – We would like to organise a meeting with Bob Wiggins about the Waterside Gate.

Christmas Lights – Alan from Plantscape to come and have a walkabout to see what we can have this year. Also like to have some Christmas tree reflectors on the posts on the Village Green.

Minute 54 (2026/27) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Andy Cardoza, seconded by Councillor Vicky Taylor, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the July 14th agenda be approved - 13 payments totalling £12900.82. This is a reduced amount as Councillors decided to pay half of the invoice to Plantscape due to the poor condition of the summer flower displays.

The report for the finances of the Parish Council was received and approved by all Councillors.

Minute 55 (2026/27) Correspondence

We have had some complaints about people parking in the disabled bays in the car park, it is agreed that we will start putting letters on the cars when we can. Enquire to see if Solihull Council can ticket our car park.

Minute 56 (2026/27) Items For Next Agenda

None.

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Signature.....

Date.....

Meeting ended 9.18pm

Next Meeting: September 8th 2026: 6.30pm in the Library