

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday June 9th 2026

Present:

Dickens Heath Parish Councillors; Liz Woodus (chair), Jim Harte, Maureen Holloway.

Borough Councillor Keith Green

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

Clerk: Ms H Raithby

Minute 25 (2026/27) Apologies for Absence

Councillors Vicky Taylor, Stewart Halford, Adam Weber and Andy Cardoza

Minute 26 (2026/27) Public Participation

None

Minute 27 (2026/27) Solihull Council Youth Provision

Jade advised that there is a good chance that the funding from Solihull Council for the Youth Club at the Youth Hub will be finishing at the end of this academic year. This is due to various reasons, but the popularity of the Youth Club has not been what it was in the previous year. The Youth Hub at Dickens Heath School isn't working as well as Solihull Council would like unfortunately. The Parish Council confirmed that we have paid our part of the funding directly to the school which is to pay for the use of the Youth Hub room until the end of March 2027. Jade is trying to organise it so that the facility will be used and will keep us informed of the progress. We need to email Austin at Solihull Council to arrange for a representative of the Parish Council to attend the Youth provision meetings and to clarify the situation with funding.

Minute 28 (2026/27) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

None

Minute 29 (2026/27) To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillors

Councillor Green spoke about the changes to waste collection in the borough where there will be new food waste collections each week and other waste and recycling will be two weekly. He also spoke about the proposed changes to the way the Library will be run with the potential introduction of opening without staff to create a community hub. There would be swipe cards to gain access to the building and CCTV installed. The details of this have not been agreed yet.

Minute 30 (2026/27) To Receive an update from the Planning Advisory Group about Site BL1

Councillor Harte updated. They have not had a formal PAG meeting as they met with Severn Trent Water and Mark Andrews from Solihull Council.

Severn Trent Water will deal primarily with problems that affect residential areas but as the Parish Council have raised concerns about the open spaces, she has indicated that they have been looking at the open space flooding as well. They have also indicated that they will have a look at Main Street. We need to send through to them the evidence we have of flooding. She is also working to get the roads, ditches and culverts maintained properly as this should help with some of the flooding.

Mark Andrews from Solihull Council they are under immense pressure as they don't currently have a local plan and developers are taking advantage of this. Lots of applications are being received. He was open to the Parish Council's idea of the Green Gap and putting it into the Local Plan but suggested it wasn't without its problems. He suggested identifying areas within the Green Gap which have particular attributes and marking on the map where wildlife/ancient woodland etc is located. He expressed a need for us to get our Neighbourhood Plan underway as soon as possible. There is a team that can help us with this, Gary Palmer

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and Emma Tinsley. Solihull Council's Councillor workshop – Infrastructure Planning in the South of the Borough – Councillor Taylor and Planning Advisor Jean Walters have agreed to attend this workshop.

Minute 31 (2026/27) To Consider Planning Applications

None

Minute 32 (2026/27) Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on May 12th 2026

Councillor Liz Woodus proposed, and Councillor Jim Harte seconded, all in favour, the minutes are approved.

Minute 33 (2026/27) Parish Council Decisions

School Grant Application – All agreed to defer this decision as we need to see the accounts in their depleted state before a decision can be reached, once the project funds have been spent.

Summer Display – All agreed to move the Calcutt Way planters to the Village Green by the seating area near the Village Hall entrance if this is possible.

Lone Working Policy – All agreed to the suggested policy.

Coat of Arms Policy – All agreed to the suggested policy.

Minute 34 (2026/27) Finance and Risk Working Group

No update.

Minute 35 (2026/27) Communications and Events Working Group

Tea Party in the Village Hall – This event was very well attended and we have had some very nice feedback.

Veterans for the Remembrance Event – All agreed to go ahead with this.

Minute 36 (2026/27) Councillors' Action Log and Clerk's Update

Remarking of the Tesco Car Park Lines – We have asked for a quote via Centrick for this as they had a company redoing their disabled bays.

Bin Store being blocked by cars – we have requested that Centrick put a sign on the bin store as this is their property. They have agreed to this.

Planning Wizard – Work has commenced on this.

IT platform update – Councillors Weber and Taylor will be putting on some training on Teams for those that would like it.

Meeting with SMBC about the Gate at Waterside – We are going to email again about this as the four weeks has now passed.

Planter at Waterside – All agree to replace the wooden planter at Waterside for £94.99

Minute 37 (2026/27) To Consider Village Areas of Interest

Library – The Library has been closed on Saturdays again due to a change in staffing, we have a meeting with Solihull Council about this.

Christmas Lights – Plantscape are going to come and have a look at our suggested locations for floor standing Christmas trees as an alternative to the lamp post lights which we can no longer have.

Village Hall – They have been very proactive with the new team and have applied for some grants, things seem to be going fairly well.

Islands Highways Maintenance – We have requested that Solihull Council undertake some maintenance on the islands and paths as they are looking very messy.

Minute 38 (2026/27) Financial Matters

Proposed by Councillor Liz Woodus, seconded by Councillor Maureen Holloway, **Resolved** that the payments in Appendix I of the June 9th agenda be approved - 18 payments totalling £6165.02 including three extra payments to V Taylor for £68.39 for printing flyers, V Taylor for 287.78 for Catering and supplies for the Tea Party and L Owen-Small for £120 for the Vocalist at the Tea Party.

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

Minute 39 (2026/27) Correspondence

Correspondence was discussed, no further actions needed, Clerk has dealt with all enquiries.

Minute 40 (2026/27) Items For Next Agenda

None.

Meeting ended 8.27pm

Next Meeting: July 14th 2026: 6.30pm in the Library

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