

## **HOCKLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st May 2008 at Cheswick Green Village Hall

### **Present:-**

Cllr R Holt	Chairman
Cllr B Brown	Vice Chairman
Cllr P Kennard	
Cllr B Lintern	
Cllr M McCarthy	
Cllr M Pettinger	
Cllr A Vine	
Cllr P Seddon	
Cllr D Skelding	
Cllr T Hodgson	(present for items 29 – 37)
Mrs D Weir	Clerk

Members of the Public: Mr M Brown, Mrs A Perry, Mrs S Byrne,

Cllr Holt opened the Meeting asking members for nominations for Chairman.

Cllr Holt was proposed by Cllr Pettinger and seconded by Cllr Skelding. There were no further nominations.

### **Minute 38/2008 – Election of Chairman**

**IT WAS RESOLVED**:- that Cllr Holt be elected Chairman for the period ending with the annual meeting of the Council in May 2009.

Cllr Holt took the Chair.

### **Minute 39/2008 – Election of Vice Chairman**

The Chairman asked for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Cllr Brown was proposed by Cllr Pettinger and seconded by Cllr Skelding.

**IT WAS RESOLVED**- that Cllr Brown be elected Vice Chairman for the period ending with the annual meeting of the Council in May 2009.

### **Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Brown, Chairman, Hockley Heath Pavilion and Management Committee, together with Mrs Audrey Perry and Mrs Sue Byrne to the meeting. Mr Brown requested details of the contractor who had been awarded the grounds maintenance contract. He spoke in support of the Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Fairways, and asked members if they would take the views of the Management Committee into consideration when renewing the grounds maintenance contract. The Management Committee had a good relationship with the contractor, who also undertaken for them, and they lost the benefit of his experience when a new contractor had been awarded the contract without reference to them.

Mr Brown asked the Parish Council to consider awarding a long term contract when this was next renewed. With regard to the Management Committee Accounts, he understood these had now

been finalised and he advised that the Management Committee had incurred a £4,500 loss compared to £2,500 profit the previous year. The Management Committee had incurred expenditure as a result of vandalism and other significant repairs. They had also not received the benefit of income from the carpark. The income from the lettings had not been significant to cover the overall loss. He further advised that they may be seeking a donation from the Parish Council to offset the loss.

Mrs Audrey Perry requested the Parish Council's support when it considers the work required to Hockley Heath Pavilion to bring the showers and in particular the toilets upto an acceptable standard.

Mrs Sue Byrne, Hockley Heath, updated members on problems with the local bus service which appeared to be as a result of change over of the driver in the afternoon. The Clerk confirmed that she had previously referred the complaints about the bus service and the contractor to the Vehicle Operating Service Agency who had taken up the various complaints and were investigating them.

#### **Minute 40/2008 - Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

**Apologies** received from Cllr Robinson, Cllr Arfan and Cllr Thompson

#### **Minute 41/2008 – Committee Membership**

Members reviewed membership of the following Committees

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the following members be elected to Committees for the period ending with the annual meeting of the Council in May 2009:-

##### **a) Planning Committee**

Cllr M Pettinger	Cllr D Skelding
Cllr M McCarthy	Cllr P Kennard
Cllr B Brown	Cllr A Vine
Cllr V Arfan	

One representative to be co-opted from each Residents Association

##### **b) Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Cllr B Brown	Cllr B Lintern
Cllr A Vine	Cllr M McCarthy
Cllr P Seddon	Cllr R Holt
Cllr D Skelding	

##### **c) Village Hall Committee Representatives**

Tidbury Green Village Hall	Cllr P Kennard
Cheswick Green Village Hall	Cllr B Brown
Hockley Heath Pavilion	Cllr M McCarthy

##### **d) Wood Lane Allotments**

Cllr B Lintern  
Cllr P Kennard

#### **Minute 42/2008 – Membership of Outside Bodies**

Members reviewed representation on external bodies.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** the following representation on external bodies be agreed ending with the annual meeting of the Council in May 2008.

**Police Consultative Forum**  
Cllr M McCarthy

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Dickens Heath Working Party**  
Cllr A Thompson  
Cllr V Arfan

**West Midlands Police  
'L' Ocu Rural Assembly**  
Cllr M McCarthy

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Blythe Valley Working Party**  
Cllr B Lintern

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Conservation Advisory Committee**  
Cllr D Skelding

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Local Strategic Partnership Forum**  
Cllr P Seddon

**Earlswood Lakes Partnership**  
Cllr P Kennard  
(if the Partnership continues to meet)

**Solihull Area Committee**  
Cllr Brown

**Minute 43/2008 – Election of Health and Safety Representatives with regard to land not covered by Village Hall Management Agreements and matters not dealt with by Village Hall Management Committees**

Members noted that Cllr Pettinger was the current representative who undertook weekly inspections as a layperson. The Chairman suggested the Parish Council should decline to appoint a representative and to seek urgent clarification from Zurich Municipal with regard to obligations to undertake inspections.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Clerk take advice from Zurich Municipal with regard to obligations to inspect the parish council's premises and land.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**Minute 28/008 - Local Government Pension Scheme Changes – April 2008**

Members noted that this matter had been referred to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and it was hoped that a response would be available at the June Parish Council Meeting.

**Minute 29/2008 – CPRE – Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

Cllr Brown reported to members on the meeting he had attended on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at the Old Silhilians Club, Solihull, on behalf of the Parish Council together with the Clerk. The meeting had been called to seek the views of local organisations and residents on the part that the Warwickshire branch of CPRE could or should play to assist local groups in the protection of the region. CPRE had expressed concern at the low turnout for the meeting which they felt may have been due to wrong email addresses being used and a further meeting was proposed.

The **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008** had been circulated.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Minutes be approved.

**Minute 44/2008 - To fix the amount of the Chairman and Members Allowances for 2008/2009 in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003**

Members noted that the Clerk had requested details of any increase in allowance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that an allowance be approved for the Chairman of £1,653 per annum and members of £827 per annum in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003, for 2008/2009.

**Minute 45/2008 - Hockley Heath Gardening Club – Request for Donation**

Members noted the report from Hockley Heath Gardening Club and request for donation of £300 towards purchase of bedding plants for the containers in Hockley Heath village.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that a donation of £300 be made to Hockley Heath Gardening Club under the provisions of S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972

**Minute 46/2008 - Cheswick Green Residents Association – Request for Donation for social events**

Members considered the request for grant funding received from Cheswick Green Residents Association in respect of the social events planned for the local community. Members noted that the community events were planned for residents of all ages.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Parish Council contribute £500 towards the cost of the social events to be organised by Cheswick Green Residents Association in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 s137.

**Minute 47/2008 - Cheswick Green Recreation Ground – remedial repairs to goalmouth**

Members considered a request by Cheswick Green Residents Association for remedial repairs to be undertaken to the Goalmouth at Cheswick Green Recreation Ground.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that a budget of £300 be allocated for remedial work to be undertaken, subject to advice of the Grounds Maintenance Contractor with regard to turf or seed.

**Minute 48/2008 - Dickens Heath Library – Request for donation**

Members noted receipt of a letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008 from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council requesting the Parish Council continue funding a number of reader development activities with children age 7 – 11 at Dickens Heath Library and outlining proposals for a programme for 2008/2009.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that a donation of £750 be made to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for provision of reader development activities to be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 s137.

**Minute 49/2008 - Notice of Audit of Accounts**

Members noted that the Clerk had received Notice of Audit of Parish Council's accounts.

**Minute 50/2008 - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council – Public Rights of Way – summary of work undertaken**

Members noted receipt of a letter from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and report detailing the work undertaken within in the parish by the Rural Footpaths Ranger for the period February – April 2008.

### **Minute 51/2008 - Solihull MBC – Three Year Integrated Highway Plan**

Members considered a letter from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008 giving details of its 'Three Year Integrated Plan' detailing schemes to be undertaken with a list of reserve schemes. The Clerk had received the scheme for the Blythe Ward and requested details of the scheme for the Dorridge/Hockley Heath Ward.

Members considered the lack of adopted roads in Dickens Heath to be a health and safety issue.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Clerk write to Caroline Spelman MP expressing concern at the state of the roads in the new village of Dickens Heath, problems due to the lack of parking, and roads which have not been adopted. A lot of the roads have not been adopted and because of this they have not been maintained by the Highway Authority. As the roads have not been adopted they cannot be policed and the subject of road traffic regulation orders, therefore, the police do not have the powers to undertake road traffic policing.

### **Minute 52/2008 - Solihull MBC – Britain in Bloom – Match Funding Scheme**

Members considered a letter received from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 inviting the Parish Council to take part in the Solihull in Bloom 2008 Funding Scheme. Members considered the budget for hanging baskets in Dickens Heath and other planting. With regard to the containers at Cheswick Green, Cllr Brown stated that he understood the planters were due to be emptied and planted up by Cheswick Green Residents Association. He agreed to contact Mrs Daniels to confirm the planters could be emptied, but should not be planted.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that a budget of £3,500 be approved for the hanging baskets at Dickens Heath Village and for the containers to be planted at Cheswick Green. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Lintern with regard to submitting a planting scheme to the Borough Council for approval.

### **Minute 53/2008 - WALC – details of training seminars for members**

Members noted receipt of correspondence from WALC regarding forthcoming training seminar 'Being a Good Councillor and Clerk' at Alderminster Village Hall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 or at Bourton on Dunsmore, Rugby on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at a fee of £30 per delegate.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that this item be deferred to the June Parish Council Meeting.

### **Minute 54/2008 - Zurich Municipal – Seminar 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008**

Members noted receipt of correspondence from Zurich Municipal regarding a seminar to be held at Banbury on 2nd July 2008 covering promoting a sensible approach to Risk Management and Health and Safety as one of the focal points of the Health & Safety Commission's strategy to 2010 and also Contracts and Partnerships with regard to local councils employing a range of contractors to carry out service functions and risk management and potential liability implications for town and parish councils.

One free place was available as part of the LCAS membership with additional places at a cost of £30 plus VAT.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Chairman, Cllr Brown and the Clerk be authorised to attend the Seminar at a cost of £30 plus VAT with one delegate to go free of charge.

### **Minute 55/2008 - Finance**

Members noted that a bookkeeper had been appointed who it was hoped would be able to attend the next Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting.

**Minute 56/2008 – West Midlands Police – Solihull Community Speed Watch  
5th June 2008 - Tidbury Green Village Hall, Dickens Heath Road. Tidbury Green**

Members noted receipt of the invitation from West Midlands Police to the launch of the Solihull Community Speedwatch Scheme which was being launched by volunteers at Tidbury Green on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2008. West Midlands Police advised that the scheme would commence in the Tidbury Green area of Solihull with a number of local residents volunteering to participate and the scheme would be extended to other parts of the borough.

It was proposed that the volunteers would work in groups of 3 or more wearing fluorescent speed watch tabards. They would identify speeding drivers who will then be issued with warning letters from the police.

Cllr Seddon updated members on training of volunteers for the Tidbury Green traffic monitoring initiative. He advised that the majority of drivers were using mobile phones or driving with no seat belt on.

**Minute 57/2008 - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council – Safer Communities Plan  
Consultation - Solihull MBC – Safer Communities Plan 2008-2011**

Members considered the draft version of the "Safer Communities Plan 2008 – 2011 from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. The Local Strategic Partnership's Safer Communities Strategic Group, with contributions from the local community and stakeholders had developed the 'Safer Communities Plan 2008 - 2011'. The plan sets out the vision for the next three years, what is wanted to achieve and what will be done.

The plan is currently in draft and in order for it to be finalised, comments were welcomed from stakeholders, partners and community groups. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council would like the consultation to be as wide as possible and asked for it to be shared.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Safer Communities Plan Consultation be noted.

**Minute 58/2008 - Rumbush Lane junction with Brockhurst Lane - Speed Limit**

The Clerk reported that she had arranged a meeting with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Road Traffic Officer, the PCSO and local residents to consider a complaint of speeding traffic at the junction of Brockhurst Lane and Rumbush Lane. The problem regarding the state of the unfinished roads had been discussed, drivers parking on the squareabouts and the problem of policing with the roads being unadopted had also been raised.

Following the site meeting, the Road Traffic Officer confirmed that an up to date plan would be provided indicating the roads forming part of the adopted highway in Dickens Heath Village and a warning sign and "Slow" marking on Brockhurst Lane, Dickens Heath were proposed. The Clerk asked for the Parish Council to be advised when these would be installed.

**Minute 5/2008 - West Midlands Regional Assembly – Regional Spatial Strategy – Phase  
Two Revision Draft Submission to SOS- Interim Advice on extension to Formal  
Consultation 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

Members noted that the consultation had now been extended to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008 to provide an opportunity for consultees to consider the government's study when making responses to the Phase Two Revision Draft, and felt that any response to the Phase Two Revision Draft should be deferred.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that this item be deferred until the next Report on the Strategy is published.

**Minute 124/2004 - Proposed Motorway Service Area at Jctn 4 M42 Monkspath – Public Inquiry - Update**

Members considered advice from the Planning Consultant with regard to pursuing an application for costs.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the question of costs be left to the Barrister to pursue if he felt the Parish Council had a legitimate case to pursue an application for costs because of the continued adjournments allowed and that if he felt that an application would incur more costs, not to pursue the application.

**Minute 59/2008 - Solihull Area Committee – Local Councils Charter**

A copy of the Local Council's Charter had been circulated to members.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Parish Council adopt the Local Council's Charter.

**Minute 60/2008 - Clerk's Report**

Members noted the Clerk's report on correspondence she had received regarding issues raised by residents at Hockley Heath and which had been dealt with.

**Minute 25/2008 - Hockley Heath Pavilion – Proposed Refurbishment**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that this item be deferred to the June Parish Council Meeting.

**Minute 61/2008 - WRCC – Annual subscription**

Members considered the benefits of subscribing to Warwickshire Rural Community Council in particular, the advice service available to parish councils with responsibilities for village halls.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the annual subscription to WRCC of £45.00 be approved.

**Minute 35/2008 - Parish Review – Update**

Members noted advice from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council that the Department for Communities and Local Government has now formally transferred the review to the Borough Council for consideration and decision under the new provisions and it will now be a matter for the Borough Council's Governance Committee to consider.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC/PRESS**

The meeting is not likely to be open to the public during discussion of this item under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2).

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that this item be considered in private.

**Minute 62/2008 - Representatives Reports**

Members noted Cllr Kennard's Report on the recent meeting of the Allotments Association he had attended and also his Report on the seminar he had attended on the Solihull Local Development Framework – Shaping the Future of Solihull.

Cllr Brown advised that the account for the flood damage to Cheswick Green Village Hall had been received and forwarded onto the Residents Association's Insurers.

Cllr Kennard advised members of the forthcoming dates that the steam train would be running.

Cllr Lintern reported on the recent Britain in Bloom ceremony which she had attended.

**Minute 63/2008 - Any Other Business**

A copy of the Annual Report submitted by the Chairman and also a copy of the Report submitted by Ward Cllr Meeson had been circulated to members.

Cllr Seddon raised an incident with members, when he called an ambulance to a man who had collapsed whilst fishing and it took the ambulance 30 minutes to arrive, with the Air Ambulance Service arriving first. He had tried to resuscitate the man, but unfortunately, he had died. The problems with computer addresses were discussed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.50 pm.