

MINUTES
DEFFORD & BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th June 2021 at 7pm held at Besford Court Hall

PRESENT: Chairman J Clarke Vice Chair S Rees Cllr S Harris Cllr I Spiers
County Cllr A Hardman Clerk L Yapp

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllrs R Davies and G Marshall

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None declared

- a) *Cllrs are reminded of the need to update their register of interests*
- b) *To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature*
- c) *To declare Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature*
- d) *Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the clerk at least 4 clear days prior to a meeting.*

Cllrs who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No parishioners were in attendance

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from meetings dated 16th March 2021 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Harris – all in favour

4. **FINANCE**

- a) Approval of receipts and payments to 10th June 2021 (made since last meeting)
- b) Payments for authorisation:

SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
SO		Clerks Salary	268.04
	1228	Lengthsman March 20/21	312.00
	1229	Lengthsman Expenses	50.00
	1230	Salary Shortfall April	39.16
	1231	Cheque Cancelled	
	1232	Teak Oil - Playground	23.51
	1233	Zoom / SLCC Subs.	45.26
	1234	Insurance	422.43
	1235	Subscription	586.41
	1236	Payroll Services	95.40
SO		Clerks Salary	307.20
SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
	1237	Grass Cutting	652.50
	1238	Lengthsman April	144.00
	1239	Street Lighting Transfer	359.66

- c) Approval of Year end Accounts – circulated to Cllrs - Accounts were approved, proposed Cllr Clarke, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour
- d) Annual Governance & Accountability Return Part 2– Internal Audit – The clerk reported that the internal had been carried out – there were no issues of concern raised by the internal auditor
- e) Annual Governance & Accountability Return Part 2– Certificate of Exemption – The clerk presented the Certificate of Exemption for approval – this was accepted as an accurate statement. Approval proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour
- f) Annual Governance & Accountability Return Part 2 – Section 1 Annual Governance Statement – The Annual Governance Statements were presented and considered by the parish council and it was agreed that all statements had been adhered to - Approval proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour

- g) Annual Governance & Accountability Return Part 2 – Section 2 Accounting Statements – the accounting statements had been presented to Cllrs and approved, proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour

5. PROGRESS REPORTS:

- **Millennium Green** – the new play equipment has been ordered and we are awaiting delivery – it is hoped this will be in place for the beginning of the school summer holidays. It was agreed that the Picnic in the Park be put back to the end of August, in the hope that the new climbing frame will be installed. It was also felt, that as we are still under ‘some restrictions’ by the end of August, these will have all been lifted, and many families would have already had their summer holiday
- **Church Wall** - works should have started on this back in May. The clerk has been advised that there is a 30-week delay on getting materials. Whilst the parish council finds this totally unacceptable, we have challenged the contractor, but at the moment there is little we can do. The contractor is trying to source somewhere else to get the bricks required and we await hearing from them
- **Street Lighting** – almost all of the upgrades have been carried out. There are two which require a bit more work, and will involve traffic management. These will be completed shortly.
- **Meetings** – since the Government decided that we can no longer hold Zoom meetings and have to revert to Face to Face meetings, it has been difficult to hold these because of venue availability (and the restrictions they are having to abide by), and also as we have been waiting for all Cllrs to have had both their Covid vaccines. We will be reverting back to bi-monthly meetings from July (followed by September, November, January, March and May). Parishioners are reminded they are welcome to attend

11. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – To be confirmed