

MINUTES
DEFFORD & BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 7pm held at Besford Court

ELECTION OF CHAIR - Cllr Clarke volunteered to stand again as Chair, proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Marshall – all in favour

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR - Cllr Rees volunteered to stand again as Vice Chair, proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Marshall – all in favour

PRESENT: Chairman J Clarke Vice Chair S Rees Cllr R Davis (also in capacity as District Cllr)
Cllr G Marshall Clerk L Yapp

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllr S Harris

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 – There were no parishioners in attendance

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

4. **CO-OPTION** – There are still 2 vacancies – one for Defford and one for Besford. Interested parties should make contact with the Clerk

5. **REPORTS:**

- a) **County Cllr Report** – No report received
- b) **District Cllr Report** – District Cllr Davis reported that whilst Wychavon held healthy reserves, these may take a ‘dip’ in the coming months due to the financial impact of the Covid pandemic

6. **FINANCE**

a) Payments for approval / made since the last meeting – *a copy of the full accounts had been forwarded to Cllrs* . Payments proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Rees

1240		Clerks PAYE	170.79
1241	O/P £12	Lengthsman May	144.00
SO		Clerks Salary	307.20
SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
1242		Lengthsman June	108.00
1243		Cheque Cancelled	
1244		U/Pmt Salary May & June	78.32

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Proposed acceptance of the payments and accounts to date Cllr Clarke, seconded Cllr Rees – all in favour

Account balances (less unrepresented cheques):

Current Account: £38,354.33

Deposit Account: £4056.39

7. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- a) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Marshall reported that he had met with the Footpath Officer (WCC), undertaken some training and been provided with equipment. Some paths have been attended to by Cllr Marshall and also WCC but it is important that issues are reported on the WCC 'Report It' facility on the CC website. There are currently 23 'open' cases across 19 paths in Defford and 21 'open' cases across 18 paths in Besford, with some dating back to 2012. Cllr Marshall is continuing to walk the paths, reporting on issues and where possible, replacing way markers and cutting back some overgrowth.
- b) Lengthsman – The new LM is now working well within Defford & Besford
- c) Street Lighting – All but two lamps have now been upgraded. Lamp 1 (Crown Lane / Main Road junction) requires some work by adjacent property owner to remove tree (a site visit with Prysmian is awaited). Lamp 5 (Hillview – opposite alleyway) was due to be upgraded but there are issues with the height of the lamp and the overhead cable. Following inspection by Western Power, they considered the lamp satisfactory and should any replacement be required, this would be the responsibility of Western Power in due course.
- d) Flooding – The clerk would speak to the resident who raised the concerns over the blocked culvert to establish if this has yet been resolved. There was also a report made of a blocked drain in Defford – Cllr Marshall to advise the clerk of the exact location to enable this to be reported to WCC.
- e) Speeding / Traffic Calming – Cllr Harris would liaise with WCC regarding the addition of 'SLOW' signs to be painted in the roads. Any further traffic calming measures would be considered as soon as the final invoice has been received following the recent street lighting upgrades and we have a clear indication of any remaining CIL funds
- f) Harpley Road, Car Parking – Cllr Rees reported that she has heard nothing back from Rooftop. The clerk suggested that contact be made to the Chief Executive and would provide contact details.

8. PLANNING:

- a) Home Farm Housing Survey – Cllr Clarke advised that he would now be able to move forward with the survey
- b) 21/01447 – ST Josephs, 4 Besford Court Estate – replacement doors and windows – *awaiting decision by WDC*

11. OPEN SPACES

- a) Millennium Green:
 - **Climbing Frame:** The climbing frame has now been installed and positive reviews have been received from residents. Two picnic tables (with wheelchair access) have been ordered and awaiting delivery.

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- **Access** - Concerns have been raised regarding access to the MG by travellers who are moving around the area. The gate to the playground has been locked, but this is problematic for anyone with a pushchair or wheelchair. It was agreed that village residents would be given the code to the gate whilst we investigate a more permanent arrangement. Cllr Harris suggested 'pile driving' large posts into the ground – spaced apart enough to allow the grass cutting equipment, but not big enough to allow larger vehicles and caravans. Quotes are being sourced for the timbers and enquiries made to see if there is anyone locally with equipment who do this.
- **Picnic in the Park** – a decision had been made to defer this to 22nd August, to enable the climbing frame to be fitted, and to coincide with the lifting of restrictions.

12. PROJECTS

- a) Car Park – It had been identified that there was some tidying up necessary in the car park – strimming and hedge cutting. Cllr Clarke would speak to Cllr Spiers about this
- b) Electric Car Charging Points – Nothing to report but Cllr Clarke would take this forward.
- c) Repair to Church Wall – Works scheduled to start at the end of July. There had been a delay due to unavailability of materials, but this had now been resolved.

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr Marshall reported that new 'branded' signage was now in place in Defford with repeater signs and 'refresher' signs to be in place. The group currently had 43 members. Pershire Safer Neighbourhood team had made a visit to Defford but it was considered that more notice would be needed in order to get the message out to the wider community.

14. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – Nothing to report

15. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS had been circulated to Cllrs

16. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

17. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Date for the next meeting – Tuesday 21st September at 7pm. It was recorded that the parish council are keen to resume and alternate meetings in Defford Village Hall but due to the availability of Cllrs on certain nights of the week, and the 'cleaning' down process between users of the hall, it has not been possible to accommodate the parish council in Defford VH. It is hoped that this will be resolved in the very near future.