

MINUTES
DEFFORD & BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 2nd September 2021 at 7pm in the village hall

PRESENT: Chairman J Clarke Cllr J Harrington Cllr S Harris Cllr G Marshall Clerk L Yapp

1. APOLOGIES – were received from Cllrs S Rees, I Spiers and R Davis (also in capacity as District Cllr)

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 the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Nothing was raised

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from meetings dated 20th July 2021 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Clarke – all in favour

4. CO-OPTION – Cllr Harris formally advised the parish council that this was his last meeting as he had now moved house. The clerk reminded Cllrs that we now had a total of three vacancies (two for Besford and one for Defford). There had been some interest shown but the council were in full agreement there was a need to promote the vacancies and how the parish council works (to serve the community, rather than anything political). Cllr Marshall offered to put something on Facebook, and to invite parishioners to future meetings to listen in, rather than feel under any pressure to become a Cllr.

5. REPORTS:

- a) **County Cllr Report** – Nothing to report
- b) **District Cllr Report** – Nothing to report

6. FINANCE

a) Payments for approval / made since the last meeting – *a copy of the full accounts had been forwarded to Cllrs*

1245	Electricity - street lighting	260.21
1246	Add'l Insurance	76.80
1247	Internal Auditor Donation	28.00
1248	Picnic Tables (MG)	924.00
1249	Grass Cutting	480.00
1250	Church Wall - Deposit	9348.00
SO	Clerks Expenses	15.00
SO	Clerks Salary	307.20
1251	ICO Renewal	40.00
1252	Lengthsman July	138.00
1253	Cheque Cancelled	
1254	Climbing Frame	16150.80
1255	Church Wall - Balance	9348.00
1256	M/Green Sign	58.80
1257	Playground Safety Report	132.00
SO	Clerks Expenses	15.00
SO	Clerks Salary	307.20

2021/15

Account balances (less unrepresented cheques):

Current Account: £12,871.55

Deposit Account: £4,056.36

7. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- a) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Marshall reported that he continued to keep an eye on footpaths and PRoW's and to undertake 'strimmer training' organised by WCC. There are currently 19 'open' reports in Besford (5 of which were reported during 2021), and 23 reports in Defford (6 of which were reported in 2021). He has applied for details of the WCC Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3 which covers footpaths maintenance).

It was noted that planning application 21/01908 included an application to divert a footpath, but objections were received by WCC on this

- b) Lengthsman – The LM continues to work in the villages. The clerk reminded Cllrs to let him know if they were aware of any flood risks (i.e. blocked drains, culverts etc)
- c) Street Lighting – Street lighting upgrades have now been completed with the exception of one lamp which need discussion with the adjacent property owner due to there being a tree growing around the lamp. The clerk would chase the contractors on this.
- d) Flooding – All Cllrs to report to the clerk or WCC direct any flooding issues as soon as identified in order for them to be actioned as soon as possible.
- e) Speeding / Traffic Calming – Discussion took place regarding possible traffic calming options with a suggestion of SLOW and GIVE WAY markings in the road at Ladywood Road / Rebecca Road cross-roads. The clerk would raise this with WCC
- f) Harpley Road, Car Parking – Cllr Rees is still awaiting feedback

8. PLANNING:

- a) Home Farm Housing Survey – Cllr Clarke reported that he would now get on and get this ready for distribution to the residents of Besford
- b) 21/01447 – St Josephs, 4 Besford Court Estate – replacement windows and doors – *approved by WDC*
- c) 21/01557 – The Oak, Defford – 7 motel / holiday let room and associated infrastructure – *approved by WDC*
- d) 21/01750 – 27 Lower Drive, Besford – retrospective application for single storey rear extension. *The parish council commented on this application and a decision is awaited from WDC*
- e) 21/01908 – 3 x 4-bedroom houses, garaged, access and ancillary works – *The parish council commented on this application and a decision is awaited from WDC. As reported under Item 7 (a) above, there was a proposal to divert the PRoW which has been object to by WCC Footpaths*
- f) 20/000037 & 38 CM (Worcs. County Council) - Planning application made under Section 73 of the Town 21/02035 – Land adj. Avonside, Upton Road – change of use of land for the siting of 14 holiday caravans – *the parish council discussed this application and had no objections*
- g) 21/01311 – Avonside, Upton Road – Minor extension of existing dwelling on site with loft conversion to provide additional annexe accommodation for 3G living – *the parish council discussed this application and had no objections*

11. OPEN SPACES

- a) Millennium Green – The new climbing frame is now in place and has been well received. The clerk reported that this has been paid for, grant monies have been received from WDC and the

VAT element claimed and received. Cllr Marshall suggested we hold another meeting of the working group with a view to addressing some of the 'cosmetic' repairs needed on some of the benches etc, and also a tidy up of overgrowth before the winter months

- b) Main Gate Access – following the travellers invading Abbey Park in Pershore, concerns were raised with regard the access to the Millennium Green. Lengthy discussion has taken place over the summer months with what options would be suitable, to enable access for grass cutting machinery , emergency vehicles and disabled parking. It would appear that the most suitable option would be to drive large wooden posts / stakes into the ground. In the first instance we would need to source suitable stakes and also the equipment to carry out the works. *Defer to next meeting*

12. PROJECTS

- a) Village Hall Car Park – Cllr Spiers has been tidying up the area around the VH car park
- b) Electric Car Charging Points – Cllr Clarke to chase up the quote requested
- c) Repair to Church Wall – This has now been carried and positive feedback has been received from village residents. The VAT element on the final cost has been applied for and received by the parish council
- d) Future Projects – The parish council are looking for new projects within Defford & Besford, now that the church wall has been repaired and the new play equipment installed. Improved Broadband was one suggestion put forward with many local villages already looking at schemes available for 'whole community' benefit. Cllr Marshall offered to research this.

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr Marshall reported that there were still some signs that needed to go up in Defford, this includes some repeater signs. It is hoped that a 'pop up' event will be held by the Safer Neighbourhood Team. A rep. promoting the benefits of Smartwater offered to come to a meeting.

14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS had been circulated to Cllrs

15. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Broadband
- Millenium Green Working Group

16. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – Date for the next meeting – Wednesday 17th November at 7pm