

MINUTES
DEFFORD & BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7pm in Defford village hall

PRESENT: Chairman J Clarke Vice Chairman S Rees Cllr I Spiers Cllr Iain Stephens
Peter Hale - Candidate for Co-option Clerk L Yapp

1. APOLOGIES – were received from Cllrs J Harrington, G Marshall and R Davis (also in capacity as District Cllr), and County Cllr A Hardman

CO-OPTION – An application for co-option had been received from Mr Peter Hale, with an introduction made at the meeting. A proposal made by Cllr Stephens, seconded by Cllr Rees to co-opt Mr Hale to the parish council with all Cllrs in favour. Mr Hale joined council members.

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 – There were no parishioners present

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from meetings dated 17th November and 1st December 2021 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Clarke, seconded Cllr Rees – all in favour

4. REPORTS:

a) **County Cllr Report** – a report from Cllr Hardman was received, below :

- Covid 19 is still a real issue to the County, but at last the numbers are falling fast this week, but we have over 60 cases in the hospital which is over 2 wards full, and this makes a stress into the rest of the hospital functions, but the good news is we only have 3 people in ITC unit. It is interesting to note over 90 % of those in hospital are unvaccinated.
- We are consulting on our budget for next year but In summary the good news is that we have received more grant than expected in the form of a one off Services Grant as well as a higher than expected children's & adults social care grant. This means we can fund all the demand led adults & children's pressures alongside the new economy, highways and infrastructure spend (as planned) but we can also fund another year of our capital programme. These include the following capital programme allocations per annum for two years 2022-24, my view would be that we need to put more cash into flooding, and gully maintained, £1 million is not enough! Please submit a view! It does mean a 3,9% council tax rise though.

b) **District Cllr Report** – A report received from Cllr Davies on the current Boundary Review – the clerk to seek clarification as to whether there are any changes which will affect Defford and Besford.

5. FINANCE

a) Payments for approval / made since the last meeting – *a copy of the full accounts had been forwarded to Cllrs.* Proposed acceptance of accounts made by Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Clarke – all in favour

1265	Lengthsman November	144.00
1266	Cheque Cancelled	
1267	Clerks PAYE	230.40
1268	Donation	80.00
	(includes donation from Church £30)	
SO	Clerks Expenses	15.00
SO	Clerks Salary	307.20
1269	Street Lighting	100.79
1270	Lengthsman December	144.00
1271	Cheque Cancelled	
1272	Street Lighting	79.25

Account balances (less unrepresented cheques):

Current Account: £17811.86

Deposit Account: £4,056.39

b) **Budget / Precept 2022/23** - a draft budget proposal for 22/23 had been circulated to Cllrs in advance of the meeting. The exceptionally high increase last year to finance the then necessary repairs to the church wall had high lighted the fact that there was a need for the parish council to build up reserves gradually. Cllr Rees previously raised the fact that there were cracks appearing in the 'now old' part of the wall identifying the fact that this would also need repair work. A reserve for the church wall was therefore budgeted for. The need for 'traveller preventative' measures at the Millennium Green had also been initially discussed last year, following issues at both Pershore and Eckington, and again, a need for a reserve was identified and budgeted for. Finally, discussion took place on a number of other uses of funds for future 'projects' in both Defford and Besford which includes replacement signage, the Jubilee celebrations and SmartWater. It was agreed that £500 be budgeted towards any Jubilee event in both Defford and Besford. To enable the parish council to deliver these improvements it was agreed that a budget / precept request of £16,300 be requested from Wychavon District Council, an increase of 6.7% (equating to an increase of £2.20 per annum per Band Property). Proposed acceptance Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Clarke – all in favour

6. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS had been circulated to Cllrs

7. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

8. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – Wednesday 16th March 2022, 7pm at Besford