

MINUTES
DEFFORD & BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
<https://defford-besfordparishcouncil.co.uk>

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7.45pm in Defford Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr J Clarke Cllr I Spiers Cllr G Marshall Cllr P Hale
 Clerk L Yapp Two parishioners

ELECTION OF CHAIR / VICE CHAIR:

- Chairman – Nominations were asked for the role of Chairman. Cllr Clarke was nominated, proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour
- Vice Chairman – there were no nominations received at the meeting, although Cllr Rees had advised she would be happy to stand again, proposed Cllr Spiers, seconded Cllr Clarke – all in favour

1. APOLOGIES – were received from Cllrs S Rees, R Davis and A Stephens

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 PARTICIPATION – parishioner in attendance asked if the overgrowth around the bus shelter St Peter's Lane / Ladywood Road could be cleared, any damaged panels replaced and re-stained. The clerk would obtain a quote from the LM / handyman

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from meeting dated 16th March 2022 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Clarke, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour

4. CO-OPTION - No applications had been received, however one parishioner in attendance showed interest in filling one of the co-option vacancies (Besford). Clerk would send an application form for completion.

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 Clarke, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour

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|---------------------------|--------|
| Training | 36.00 |
| Clerks PAYE | 246.40 |
| Payroll Services | 12.00 |
| Pay Adjustment | 74.34 |
| Clerks Salary | 312.52 |
| Office Expenses | 15.00 |
| Subscription | 601.79 |
| ZOOM / SLCC - fifth Share | 66.98 |
| LM Expenses | 70.00 |

Account balances (less unrepresented cheques):

Current Account: £23,398.95

Deposit Account: £4,056.78

- b) **Year End Accounts 2021 / 22** had been circulated to Cllrs for consideration, proposes acceptance Cllr Clarke, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour

The clerk reminded Cllrs that she was still awaiting the Internal Audit to be completed and that the Annual Governance & Accountability Return would need formal approval once file has been returned.

6. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS:

- a) **Footpaths / Rights of Way** – Cllr Marshall reported that WCC are engaging well with him and have been very proactive replacing and repairing missing or broken signage. Maintenance of paths has improved with a reduction of 35% in the number of reports logged onto the WCC reporting hub due to the efforts made by WCC. It was mentioned that some landowners are blocking access to some fields with barriers and electric fencing but it was felt that communication with the landowners concerned should be attempted first before any referral back to WCC.
- b) **Flooding, Croome Road** – WCC are to liaise directly with resident who raised this with the parish council.

Cllr Marshall reported that jetting had now been carried out in Church Lane.

- c) **Traffic Calming** – Cllr Clarke raised concerns regarding the speed of traffic on approach to sharp bend on Ladywood Road. The clerk would make contact with WCC with a request for adequate / improved signage.

Parishioner in attendance questioned whether there was any possibility of getting the speed limit reduced on the A4104 (from 50mph). Cllr Spiers advised that this was something he had been pushing for, for years, unsuccessfully. However, it was suggested that there was a need to get the footways sided out on this stretch of road between the brick bus shelter and the Harpley Road junction. The clerk would raise this with WCC, as well as reporting overgrowth that requires cutting back at the Harpley Road junction.

7. PLANNING:

- a) 21/01908 - 3 x four-bedroom houses - *approved by WDC*
- b) 22/00783 – Railway Inn – *the parish council had commented on this application using ‘delegated powers’, with concerns. Awaiting decision by WDC*
- c) 22/01009 – St Pauls, 6 Besford Court Estate – dormer to East elevation – *no objections*
- d) 22/01020 – The Nook, Croome Road – raised garden outbuilding (retrospective) – *no objections*

8. MILLENNIUM GREEN:

- a) **Barrier** – following on from concerns raised by parishioners with regard the previously approved height restriction barrier, an alternative option has been proposed by residents, however, the overall cost is higher than the original option. It was agreed that a site visit with the gentleman who manages the grass cutting in the first instance would be sensible to establish exactly how much space he requires for his machinery and vehicles.

9. PROJECTS:

- a) Repair to Church Wall – A quote for the remaining section of wall has been received at £8,810 plus VAT - this to be considered when budgeting in the future. There will be a need for this to be done in the next couple of years, although not urgent at the moment, so a need to start building up reserves. We should be mindful that the quote was dated March 2022 and will be subject to price increases by the time we are in a position to carry out the works

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr Marshall reported that 40 households were now signed up to the scheme. A request came from a parishioner in attendance for Woodmancote to be included. Cllr Marshall would arrange this.

11. BROADBAND – Cllr Marshall reported that funding had now been approved for Defford to move forward with the introduction of Ultra Fast Broadband in Defford and Birlingham and it is oped this will be rolled out in the Autumn

12. JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – There is to be a Jubilee party celebration with tables along Church Road, bunting and decorations (which will be put up on the Sunday morning). The Defford Arms will be selling drinks and the church will be open

13. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS had been circulated to Cllrs. A question had been raised by a parishioner with regard any plans for Defford to have a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Clarke advised that as Defford is classed as a Category 4 village there was no real threat of any large-scale development

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

15. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – Wednesday 20th July 2022 at Defford Village Hall at 7pm