

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

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Thursday 23rd June 2022 at 6pm in Defford Village Hall

PRESENT: Chairman J Clarke Vice Chairman S Rees Cllr I Spiers Cllr I Stephens
Cllr P Hale Clerk L Yapp Debra Lamont re Co-Option

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllrs R Davis 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 the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – there were no parishioners in attendance

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from meeting dated 18th May 2022 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Clarke, seconded Cllr Hale – all in favour
4. **CO-OPTION** - Application received from Debra Lamont for the vacancy in Besford Ward had been circulated to Cllrs in advance of the meeting. Ms Lamont introduced herself to Cllrs, and a proposal by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Rees to formally co-opt Ms Lamont to the parish council. There were no objections. The clerk to provide Register of Interests for completion.
5. **FINANCE:**
 - a) AGAR Form 3 – Internal Auditors Report – successfully carried out with no concerns identified
 - b) AGAR Form 3 – Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement – presented to Cllrs for consideration and approval, proposed acceptance Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Hale – all in favour
 - c) AGAR Form 3 – Section 2 – Accounting Statements - presented to Cllrs for consideration and approval, proposed acceptance Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Hale – all in favour

Thanks were paid to the Internal Auditor for completing this on behalf of the parish council, and to the Clerk for her hard work producing the relevant documentation.

- d) Code of Conduct – Updated / revised Code of Conduct (from WDC) had been presented to Cllrs for consideration – there were no objections and a proposal by Cllr Hale to formally adopt, seconded by Cllr Clark – all in favour. The clerk would notify WDC accordingly
6. **PLANNING** – Application Ref: 22/00776 Besford Water Tower, Ladywood Road – conversion and refurbishment from a water tower to form one dwelling with detached subterranean garage access and associated works – lengthy discussion took place with a difference of opinion on the modern design verses

a preference for a more traditional design (4 Cllrs supporting the application and 2 against). Reference was made to SWDP Policy 25 – Landscape Character. A compromise was agreed that, if possible, Tree Preservation Orders be placed on existing trees in an attempt to reduce the impact of the building (as some Cllrs were concerned about the screening). Cllrs were all supportive of the inclusion of sustainable energy sources within the building.

- 7. MILLENIUM GREEN MAIN ACCESS** – the parish council is continuing to work towards a scheme restricting access which will satisfy the local residents and allow access to the playground for maintenance / grass cutting. The parish council is awaiting additional quotes to enable full consideration to be given to ‘value for money’ and a solution that satisfy all. It is hoped that this can be resolved at the meeting on July 20th.
- 8. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY** - Communication re Public Paths Diversion Order 2021 – Footpath DF-503 (Part) – Defford. Communication from WCC had been received advising that a proposed diversion had been received and was being considered inviting comments from the parish council. Whilst the PC had no objections to the diversion, it was recorded that the landowner had closed off the existing footpath access and the proposed access was not yet open. The clerk would bring this to the attention of WCC Footpaths
- 9. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS** – Wednesday 20th July 2022 at Defford Village Hall at 7pm