

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 20th July 2022 at 7pm in Defford Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr S Rees (Acting Chairman) Cllr R Davis Cllr P Hale Cllr D Lamont
 Cllr I Stephens Clerk L Yapp

1. APOLOGIES – were received from Cllrs J Clarke, G Marshall, I Spiers and County Cllr A Hardman

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 – no parishioners were in attendance

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from meeting dated 23rd June 2022 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Stephens, seconded Cllr Lamont – all in favour

4. CO-OPTION - No applications had been received

5. COUNTY / DISTRICT CLLRS REPORTS:

a) County Cllr A Hardman's Report (Full report available from Clerk):

- Covid-19 and variants continue to be a cause for concern
- Highways maintenance continues to be affected by the high cost of oil although it is hoped that reductions in the cost will be implemented before the end of the summer
- 20's Plenty – WCC would only be willing to consider a 20-mph limit in areas of high accident rates, outside schools and areas where high-level road engineering is not required
- Education Tier System – Cllr Hardman continues to work with the Department of Education to change Pershore pyramid from three to two tiers and is also trying for an injection of £4m to Pershore schools although a decision on the funding will not be made until September. This of course will impact on Defford school.

6. 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 Lamont, seconded Cllr Hale – all in favour

1292	Grass cutting	595.00
1293	Insurance	617.81
1294	Website	144.00
SO	Office Expenses	15.00
SO	Clerks Salary	312.50
1295	Jubilee Expenses	34.95
1296	Lengthsman May	168.00
1297	Clerks PAYE Qtr 1	234.40
1298	Internal Audit Expense	20.00
SO	Clerks Salary	312.50
SO	Clerks Expenses	15.00
1299	Street Lighting	177.42
1300	Street Lighting Upgrades	8358.46
1301	Cheque Cancelled	
1302	Grass cutting	640.00

Account balances (less unrepresented cheques):

Current Account: £20,696.68

Deposit Account: £4,056.78

- b) **Street Lighting** - Payment for the upgrades to the street lighting will be covered by the CIL grant. The clerk did raise the point of increased energy costs and asked whether there was any merit in having the lights turned off during the early hours of the morning. It was agreed that this would need to be an agenda item for full discussion at the next meeting in September.

6. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS:

- a) **Footpaths / Rights of Way** – Worcs. County Council have advised that diversion to Path 503c (Upper Street to Bluebell Lane) has now been formalised. Cllr Marshall continues to monitor the paths and rights of way, clearing back himself where possible and reporting more challenging paths to WCC.
- b) **A4101 – Siding Out** some siding out has been carried out in Bakers Hill and it is hoped that this can be extended to the A4101. The parish council to pursue this with Cllr Hardman.
- c) **20's Plenty** – This is a new campaign asking for support for a blanket 20mph speed limit within towns and villages nationally. Cllr Rees 'attended' a recent Zoom briefing and provided some information on the initiative. It was agreed that this would be a positive step in the right direction although it was agreed that this is not something that would happen overnight. Proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Lamont – all in favour.

7. **PLANNING:** The parish council had been made aware of a possible breach of planning approval at Avonside, Defford. This had been referred to WDC Enforcements for them to make their own enquiries.

8. MILLENNIUM GREEN:

- a) **Barrier** – Further quotes had been obtained for two different options of low-level barriers following concerns raised by near neighbours on the previously agreed high level option. The quotes had been shared with Cllrs and discussion took place. It was agreed to accept the quote for the 'hooped' barrier solution at a cost of £2,155 plus VAT plus an additional small cost of £270 to replace the broken gate post. The cost of this will come from the remaining CIL funds (after payment of the street lighting – covered above) enabling the £2,000 held in the budget for the barrier to be used on something else. Proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Stephens – all in favour.

b) Trees - Cllr Rees reported on a recent site visit to MG with the clerk that some of the trees would benefit from a professional opinion with regard management and health & safety. We are awaiting a formal report and quotes for any necessary work

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Nothing to report at this meeting

10. SMARTWATER – Following a presentation by the police at the last parish council meeting, the clerk had calculated a rough estimate for the provision of SW kits for each household in Defford – approx. £1,450 (but this was dependant on the number of households committed to ‘registering’. It was agreed that this should be deferred to the September meeting for further discussion

11. JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – Cllr Rees reported that the event was very successful with a suggestion that there should be something to commemorate the recent Jubilee in both Defford and Besford. This was considered to be a good idea and would be an agenda item for the September meeting.

12. IT/WEBSITE: -

Email Addresses - A point raised by a Cllr as to whether there should be a contact form on the parish council website for direct contact through to the Clerk, and whether or not Cllr email addresses should be made public. It was agreed that this would need to be a discussion with all Cllrs and was deferred to the September meeting.

WCC – Reporting on the Hub - anyone is able to report highway, drainage or public right of way issues (to name just a few) using the WCC ‘Report It’ facility on their website. The parish council is always to do reporting where necessary but would like to encourage residents to take this on too. Cllr Rees had a ‘power point’ demonstration which she would share with Cllrs, and which the clerk would put on the parish council website

13. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS had been circulated to Cllrs.

Cllr Rees had been notified by a village resident / business owner with regard the ‘road closure’ signs on the main road – suggesting that local businesses were not accessible – this not being the case. The parish council would be communicating with WCC to ensure that road closure signage should always advise that businesses were open as usual

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Nothing was raised

15. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – Wednesday 21st September 2022 at Defford Village Hall at 7pm