

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 23rd November 2022 at 7pm in Defford Village Hall

PRESENT: Stand-in Chairman S Rees Cllr D Lamont Cllr P Hale
 Cllr G Marshall Cllr I Spiers County Cllr A Hardman
 Clerk L Yapp 12 parishioners

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllrs J Clarke, R Davis and I 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 – Parishioners in attendance were raising concerns with regard to two planning applications: Points raised:

22/02286 – The Nook, Croome Road, Besford

- Height of the roofline and the impact on neighbouring properties
- Inaccuracies of the report from WCC Highways officer

22/02354/PIP Land Adjacent Hillside, Upper Street

- The site had not been previously included in any previous consultation on the SWDP review
- Concerns on flooding issues in an area that is already susceptible to flooding
- Site is on Grade 2 agricultural land
- No requirement for larger, style properties
- Site is outside the current development boundary

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from meeting dated 5th October 2022 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Lamont – all in favour

4. **CO-OPTION** - No applications had been received

5. **COUNTY / DISTRICT CLLRS REPORTS:**

a) **County Cllr A Hardman Reported:**

- Adult Social Care is still a major concern for funding
- There are currently 988 children under the care of WCC
- Routine highway maintenance may be under threat next year due to financial constraints
- The new 2-tier education system will affect Defford school
- There is still a small amount of siding out that is to be carried out on the A4101
- Any other highway issues / repairs to be reported to Cllr Hardman

- Footpath from steps in Harpley Road requires attention - Cllr Hardman advised that it wasn't constructed by WCC but he would see if it could be scheduled into the budget for the current financial year

Matters raised by Cllrs:

- Bourne Road – Cllr Spiers made reference to the dangerous condition that Bourne Road has been left in following the recent resurfacing. Cllr Hardman suggests it is left a month before being re-inspected by a highways engineer

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 Marshall – all in favour

	1311	Lengthsman September	168.00
SO		Clerks Salary	312.72
SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
	1312	Grass cutting	480.00
	1313	Street Lighting	164.81
	1314	Millennium Green Barrier	2910.00
	1315	Poppy Appeal Donation	80.00
SO		Clerks Salary	312.72
SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
	1316	Clerks PAYE	292.00
	1317	Underpayment salary	225.20
	1318	Cheque Cancelled	
	1319	Lengthsman October	168.00
	1320	Hall Hire	25.00

- b) NALC Clerks Salary Pay Award – to formally approve the recommendations by NALC for £1 per hour (across all salary scales), back dated to 1st April 2022 – approved by Cllrs, proposed Cllr Lamont, seconded Cllr Rees

- c) New Bank account / Online banking – to approve moving from Lloyds Bank to Unity Trust Bank and to progress with on-line banking. This was discussed by Cllrs and considered to be a positive move particularly with regard to on-line banking, proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Hale – all in favour

Account balances (less unpresented cheques):

Current Account: £ 15,074.45

Deposit Account: £4,056.78

6. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS:

- a) **Footpaths / Rights of Way** – Cllr Marshall reported on the following:
- Path no: DF503 (Upper Street) – this has been temporarily closed whilst an assessment is being carried out by WCC Footpaths Officer and WDC Enforcements. The property development may have affected the width of the new path (which should be 3m in width)
 - Footpath Harpley Road to Railway Inn – in hand.
 - Crown Lane – Cllr Spiers to cut back trees on both sides
- b) **Footway Obstructions, Hedges and Trees** – several complaints are being received from parishioners regarding the difficulty in walking some of the pavements due to overgrown hedges and trees. This is particularly problematic for those with pushchairs, mobility scooters or wheelchairs. It has been agreed that a polite request would be sent by the parish council to the property owners / residents, kindly asking if overgrowth could be cut back

7. PLANNING:

- a) W/22/01530/HP 1 Jubilee Barns Woodmancote proposed side extension – *approved by WDC*
- b) 22/01552/LB The Whitehouse, Harpley Road replacement window - *approved by WDC*
- c) W/22/02013/FUL Hillside, Land Adjacent Upper Street – retrospective application. *Refused by WDC*
- d) W/22/02041/HP 34 Besford Court Estate - *awaiting decision by WDC*
- e) W/22/02354/PIP Land Adjacent Hillside, Upper Street - permission in principle for up to 9 dwellings – lengthy discussion took place amongst Cllrs, taking on board the points raised by parishioners during Public Participation. A further point raised was the question of any ‘sustainable’ public transport serving Defford, limited to just a school bus service during term time and even less during school holidays. It was unanimously agreed by the whole council to strongly object to this application, raising the concerns identified with reference to the specific Policies contained within the SWDP.
- f) 22/02286 – The Nook, Croome Road, Besford – removal of existing hipped roof and first floor extension comprising taller pitched gable roof with rear dormer windows with new 2-storey rear extension with swimming pool and bedroom over. Single storey garage extension – again, lengthy discussion took place, and the parish council were unanimous in agreeing to object to this application on the grounds of the new height of the roofline; not in keeping with neighbouring properties and the inaccuracies of the report submitted by WCC highways.
- g) 22/02278 – Laxton House, 2 Bruxtons Orchard, Defford – rear single storey extension and porch (revised application: W/22/00607) – there were no objections to this application
- h) SWDP consultation and Traveller and Travelling Show People consultation - to consider and make comments. Prior to the meeting, Cllrs were given the opportunity to review the revised SWDP document. Concerns were raised with regard to the 2 new sites either side of Defford Motors, Upton Road (CFS0560 for 8 units, and CFS0568 for 11 units). It was noted that the parish council has previously supported the proposed development at the Defford Motors (8 units), but these additional sites would significantly include the number of vehicular on what is already a busy main road. The parish council will be making comment on this consultation and will be posting notices on the village notice boards and website inviting parishioners to do the same

8. PROJECTS –

- Litter / dog waste bin in Besford – to consider a suitable location – *defer to next meeting*

9. MILLENNIUM GREEN:

- a) **Barrier** – now complete
- b) **Trees** - Quotes are awaited.
- c) **Overgrowth** – It was agreed to pay a nominal cost of £50 on top of the grass cutting costs for this to be cleared. All happy
- d) **Anti Social Behaviour** – to include dog fouling, motor bikes using the Green and vehicles parking up. It has been decided that there is a need to lock the gate after 4pm during the winter months, and the situation is to be monitored.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr Marshall reported that there are now 50 households registered with the Defford NW scheme.

11. SMARTWATER – the clerk to look at smaller ‘sign’ package options and to discuss at the next meeting.

12. IT/WEBSITE: -

- **Email Addresses** – it was agreed that Cllrs keep their current parish council email addresses

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- 13. H M QUEEN ELIZABETH COMMEMORATIVE TREE / BENCH** - to identify location for bench in Besford, and the cost for 2 benches *Defer to next meeting*
- 14. VILLAGE HALL HEDGE** – Cllr Spiers advised the hedge had now been cut back
- 15. REMEMBRANCE DAY** – Cllr Rees reported that she laid the wreath on Monday 14th November assisted by a few children from the school.
- 16. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS** had been circulated to Cllrs.
- 17. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Budget / Precept - January
- 18. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS** – Wednesday 18th January 2023 at Defford Village Hall at 7pm