

MINUTES

DEFFORD & BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

<https://defford-besfordparishcouncil.co.uk>

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 7pm in Defford Village Hall

PRESENT: Chairman J Clarke Cllr R Davis (also in capacity as District Cllr) Cllr P Hale
Cllr D Lamont Cllr I Spiers Cllr I Stephens
Cllr S Rees attended 'remotely' via Zoom
County Cllr A Hardman Clerk L Yapp

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllrs Rees (covered above) and G Marshall

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None declared

- Cllrs are reminded of the need to update their register of interests*
- To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature*
- To declare Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature*
- 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 23rd November 2022 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Lamont, seconded Cllr Hale - all in favour.

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

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

- County Cllr Reported:
 - Bourne Road:
 - Ducting had not dug deep enough and further works necessary.
 - Additional points to be excavated to enable cables to be 'dragged through'
 - No works carried out over the bridge.

WCC had met with contractors and works deemed 'unsatisfactory' and fines issued. Reinstatement to be carried out in the first instance before any permits for connection are issued.

Cllr Hardman was fully aware of the poor standard of works and this is in hand with Street Works team. Additionally, Cllr Lamont reported to the parish council of an issue, which she has taken up personally, on the condition of the entrance to her property.

- Education Tier System – Cllr Hardman reported on the change to a 2-tier system, likely to be in 2025. Defford school will need an extension to accommodate this, but WCC have allocated funds to accommodate this.

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 Clarke, seconded Cllr Stephens – all in favour.

1321	Padlock	16.00
1322	Donation - Audio	100.00
1323	Hall Hire	30.14
SO	Clerks Salary	542.92
SO	Clerks Expenses	15.00
1324	Playground Inspection	210.00
1325	Lengthsman November	168.00
1326	Lengthsman December	154.00
1327	Payrol Services	5.00
1328	Street Lighting	132.99
1329	Clerks Paye	292.00
1330	Hall Hire	25.00
1331	IT Assistance	10.00

b) Unity Trust Bank – following formal approval of the move to on-line banking with Unity Trust Bank, Cllrs were asked to send their details to the clerk in order for the new application form to be completed.

c) Budget Requirement / Precept Request 2023 / 24 – the clerk had prepared and circulated to Cllrs a proposed draft budget for 2023/24 for consideration. The clerk had raised awareness to the increase in the running costs for the parish council, i.e. clerks salary, street lighting energy costs and maintenance including grass cutting. It was also noted of the importance to re-build reserves following the re-building of part of the church wall - Cllrs were mindful that the remaining part of the wall would need attention in the near future and that allowance should be made for this. A precept request of £17,000 was agreed, an increase of 8.9%, and a monetary increase of 26p per month per Band D property. Approval to accept the budget was proposed by Cllr Lamont, seconded by Cllr Davis – all Cllrs in favour. Thanks to the clerk were recorded.

Account balances (less unpresented cheques):

Current Account: £16,480.26

Deposit Account: £4,056.78

6. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS:

a) **Footpaths / Rights of Way** – Nothing to report at this meeting.

b) **Any Other Highway Issues:**

- Bourne Road – *already covered under County Cllr's Report above.*
- Flooding, Rebecca Road / Ladywood Road crossroads – Cllr Clarke would take photographs and report to WCC

7. PLANNING:

a) W/22/02354/PIP Land Adjacent Hillside, Upper Street – *awaiting decision by WDC*

b) 22/02286 – The Nook, Croome Road, Besford – *awaiting decision by WDC*

c) 22/02278 – Laxton House, 2 Bruxtons Orchard, Defford – *approved by WDC*

d) 22/02614 - Land and Building at OS 9137 4249 Upton Road – *awaiting decision by WDC*

e) W/22/02706/FUL - Land Adjacent, Hillside, Upper Street, Defford – discussion took place between Cllrs and all were in full agreement to strongly object to this application on the same reasoning for the previous application at the same site. It was agreed that Cllr Rees draft comments and reasons for objections for Cllrs approval before they are submitted to WDC. All Cllrs were in support of this way forward, apart from Cllr Davis who abstained (in his capacity as District Cllr should this application be called to full planning committee)

8. PROJECTS –

- Litter / dog waste bin in Besford – Cllr Clarke suggested near to the church but would speak to the church warden in the first instance. He would also raise the suggestion of a commemorative bench near the church and report back.

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9. MILLENNIUM GREEN:

- a) **Trees** - Cllr Rees reported that trees are attended to on a regular basis as required.
- b) **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Cllr Marshall is monitoring the situation.
- c) **Playground Inspection** – this has been carried and no urgent issues identified.

10. POLICE / SECURITY / SAFETY

- Neighbourhood Watch – nothing to report at this meeting.
- Police – the clerk was asked to seek from the police availability to attend future meetings,

11. H M QUEEN ELIZABETH COMMEMORATIVE BENCH - covered under Agenda Item (8) above

12. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS had been circulated to Cllrs.

- Kings Coronation: Cllr Rees reported that she had been contacted by the Church Warden (Defford) enquiring as to any plans the PC may have re this forthcoming event. Cllrs were asked to think of suggestions.
- Pershore High School Carol Service – Cllr Clarke reported he had been invited to this event but had been unable to attend due to prior commitments.

13. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

14. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – Wednesday March 15th 2023 at Defford Village Hall at 7pm