

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 7pm in Defford Village Hall

PRESENT: Chairman J Clarke Vice Chairman S Rees Cllr P Hale Cllr D Lamont
Cllr G Marshall Cllr I Spiers Cllr I Stephens
Clerk L Yapp 1 parishioner

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from County Cllr A Hardman and District Cllr R Davis
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Hale declared interest as Village Hall Committee member (ongoing)
 - 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 – The parishioner in attendance was invited to participate, but chose to wait until the specific agenda item (Bourne Road) before making comment.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from meeting dated 18th January 2023 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Lamont, seconded Cllr Hale - all in favour.
4. **CO-OPTION** - No applications had been received.
5. **COUNTY / DISTRICT CLLRS REPORTS:** None received.
6. **FINANCE**
 - a) Payments for approval / made since the last meeting – *a copy of the full accounts had been forwarded to Cllrs.*

website hosting	180.00
Shortfall Salary	25.40
Bin Emptying	200.69
Grass cutting	460.00
Hall Hire	20.00
Lengthsman January	168.00
Shortfall Salary	25.80
Clerks Salary	312.72
Clerks Expenses	15.00

Proposed acceptance of payments made by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees – all in favour

Account balances (less unrepresented cheques):

Current Account: £ 11,850.15

Deposit Account: £ 4,056.78

- b) Unity Bank – the clerk reported it would make sense to get the new account set up once we are aware as to whether there will be an election (after 4th April) and include any new Cllrs.

Website – a question was asked as to how many ‘hits’ the website has had – the clerk to investigate.

7. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS:

- a) **Footpaths / Rights of Way** – Cllr Marshall reported:

- Footpath repairs steps from Upper Street have been carried out but reported as being poor workmanship. Photographs to be sent to the Clerk before forwarding to WCC
- WCC have a new ‘layout’ for reporting of highway / footpath and PRow issues.
- Broken footbridge awaits repair.
- Cllr Clarke has reported missing ‘finger post’ markers.

- b) **Any Other Highway Issues:**

- Bourne Road - parishioner in attendance reported: WCC await paperwork to enable pipework and wiring works to commence. The solar farm continues to communicate with WCC and inspections are carried out regularly. It is expected there will be a three-month period where an agreed schedule of works take place. As a business owner, it is hoped that the works will be managed by traffic lights rather than a full road closure. Cllr Spiers advised he would like to attend future site meetings between all involved which was supported by Cllrs.
- Flooding, Rebecca Road / Ladywood Road crossroads – flooding issues have been reported but not yet actioned.

8. PLANNING:

- a) 22/02354/PIP Land Adjacent Hillside, Upper Street - Application withdrawn
- b) 22/02286 – The Nook, Croome Road, Besford – Approved by WDC
- c) 22/02614 - Land and Building at OS 9137 4249 Upton Road – Replacement Barn (Variation of Conditions 2 and 7 – 19/01317) – awaiting decision by WDC
- d) 22/02706/FUL - Land Adjacent, Hillside, Upper Street, Defford – awaiting decision by WDC
- e) 23/00094 - Oakfields, Bourne Road, Defford - awaiting decision by WDC
- f) 23/00242 - Lady Wood Orchard, Ladywood Road, Besford – flat roof to pitched roof conversion, and conversion of existing loft space to create additional bedroom – *there were no objections to this application.*

9. PROJECTS –

- Litter / dog waste bin in Besford – Cllr Clarke considered there was not a dog fouling issue in Besford, and therefore no need for any dog waste bin.
- Commemorative Benches – Discussion took place on the purchase of commemorative benches, one for both Defford and Besford – with the Defford bench being sited at Millennium Green, and the Besford bench to be sited outside the church. Cllr Clarke would take photos of the Besford location so that approval can be obtained from WCC.
In addition, the parish council are aware that the bench in the cemetery was in poor and unsafe condition. This was donated by the parish council back in 1997 to commemorate 100 years of the parish council and it was felt that this should be replaced.
A proposal for the two commemorative benches and a replacement bench for the cemetery was made by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Rees, supported by four Cllrs, with one objection.

10. MILLENNIUM GREEN:

- a) **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Cllr Marshall reported that there had been no reports of late, but would continue to monitor the situation, particularly once we have the lighter nights.
- b) **Playground Inspection** – this has been carried and no urgent issues identified other than condition of some of the benches. There were some missing 'caps on the new climbing frame. The clerk would contact the equipment suppliers asking for replacements.

11. POLICE / SECURITY / SAFETY

- Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Marshall reported that more signage has been put up. Cllr Hale had kindly offered to take on this responsibility from Cllr Marshall moving forward.

12. H M KING CHARLES CORONATION – the clerk reported there was small grant available from WDC. Cllr Rees would put a message on FB asking for any community events in either Defford or Besford to be made known to the parish council and the grant funding would be shared.

13. DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS take place on 4th May. Nomination packs are available from the Clerk. It was considered that a leaflet drop, reminding parishioners of the positive actions achieved by the parish council would raise the profile of the PC and encourage more interaction from the local community, either as a Cllr or attendance at meetings.

14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS had been circulated to Cllrs.

- Broken bench at cemetery – already covered above.

15. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

16. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – Wednesday 17th May to start at 7pm, followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm at Defford Village Hall