

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 17th May 2023 at 6.45pm in Defford Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr: Peter Hale, Debra Lamont, Sue Rees and Iain Stephens, Julian Clarke (previous Chair to Parish Council), Ian Spiers and Steve Baker (Lengthsman).

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from County Cllr A Hardman, District Cllr P Middlebrough, Ron Davis and Gareth Marshall.
2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN / VICE CHAIRMAN:**
 - Chairman: Cllr Rees, proposed Cllr Lamont, seconded Cllr Stephens – all in favour
 - Vice Chairman: Cllr Stephens, proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Lamont – all in favour

It was noted that there is no Cllr representation for Besford Parish (three vacancies), and one vacancy for Defford Parish. The parish council are keen to encourage residents from Besford to come forward. The clerk would reach out to Besford via their email circulation list.

Julian Clarke (previous Chairman, and Besford resident would make enquiries with Trustees of Besford Court as to whether use of Besford Court Hall would be possible for some parish council meetings.

3. **CO-OPTION:** to consider application from Cllr Spiers for co-option. Proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Lamont – all in favour'

All Cllrs signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. **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 – No parishioners in attendance

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from meeting dated 15th March 2023 – Acceptance proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Hale - all in favour. Agenda Item 7 (a) Reference was made to the fact that a broken footbridge had been repaired – this is incorrect, and minutes amended.
6. **COUNTY / DISTRICT CLLRS REPORTS:** A report was received from Cllr Middlebrough and included with the Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting.
7. **FINANCE**
 - a) Payments for approval / made since the last meeting – *a copy of the full accounts had been forwarded to Cllrs.*

Lengthsman February	161.00
Hall Hire	10.00
Subscription	634.26
Hall Hire	20.00
Cheque cancelled	
Clerks Salary U/Payment	51.00
Payroll Services	103.20
Hall Hire	10.00
Street Lighting	138.05
Grass Cutting	480.00
Lengthsman April	192.00

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

- b) Year End Accounts 2022 / 23 – these had been circulated to Cllrs for consideration in advance of the meeting, proposed acceptance Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Lamont – all in favour.

Cllrs were advised by the clerk that there would need to be a short meeting in June to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return once the Internal Audit has been completed.

7. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS:

- a) **Besford – Road Accidents / tractor movements:** the parish council had been made aware of several incidents involving speeding traffic and tractor movements in the vicinity of Ladywood Road / Rebecca Road crossroads. It was agreed generally that there was adequate signage in place and that a visit from WCC would be the next step for any further advice. The clerk would liaise with WCC (copying in Cllr Middlebrough).

8. PLANNING:

- 22/02614 - Land and Building at OS 9137 4249 Upton Road – *approved by WDC*
- 22/02706 - Land Adjacent, Hillside, Upper Street, Defford – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 22/00776 – Besford Water Tower, Ladywood Road – *application refused*
- 23/00094 - Oakfields, Bourne Road, Defford - *approved by WDC*

9. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS had been circulated to Cllrs.

- Speeding / tractor movements, Besford – covered above and to reported back on at next meeting.

10. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Cllr Training, to include Chairman and planning training.
- Church – to report back on recent request from the Church for assistance with maintenance.
- Defford Cemetery – Cllr Hale reported on recent communication re the overgrowth at the Cemetery.
- Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Hale to take over as NW co-ordinator and to include Besford.

11. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7pm at Besford Court Hall.

Further dates – Wednesday: 20th September 2023
15th November 2023
17th January 2024
20th March 2024