

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

Minutes of an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th June 2023 at 7pm in Besford Court Hall

PRESENT: Chairman S Rees, Vice Chairman I Stephens, Cllrs D Lamont and P Hale

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllr I Spiers and Gareth Marshall (co-option)
2. **CO-OPTION** – an application received from Gareth Marshall was considered, proposed acceptance by Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Hale – all in favour.
3. **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

4. FINANCE:

AGAR (Annual Governance & Accountability Return) 2022/23

- a) **Internal Auditors Report** – to consider report from internal auditor – *circulated to Cllrs in advance of the meeting - no issues raised*
- b) **Certificate of Exemption** - circulated to Cllrs for consideration and approval – proposed acceptance Cllr Lamont, seconded, Cllr Stephens – all in favour.
- c) **AGAR Form 2 Section 1** – Annual Governance Statement – *circulated to Cllrs for consideration and approval - proposed acceptance Cllr Lamont, seconded, Cllr Stephens – all in favour*
- d) **AGAR Form 2 Section 2** – Accounting Statements – *circulated to Cllrs for consideration and approval - proposed acceptance Cllr Lamont, seconded, Cllr Stephens – all in favour*
- e) **FOOTBALL NETS:** Following recent communication regarding games in the street, an invitation has been extended to younger parishioners to identify what facilities they are looking for at MG, but in the first instance for the PC to consider and approve the purchase of goal nets and repainting of the goal posts, estimated cost: Nets £40 (plus VAT), Hammerite Paint £20 plus VAT) - this was approved by all Cllrs, proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Lamont. This to be carried out at the earliest opportunity in time for school holidays.

f) **BENCHES:** To consider and approve purchase of 3 benches – 2 x commemorative Coronation and 1 x replacement for Churchyard (Besford location still to be identified) at a cost of £415 plus VAT each - lengthy discussion took place and it was agreed that there were adequate benches (some with picnic tables that were just in need of refurbishment. There was however a need to replace the bench donated by the parish council some years ago (now removed for safety reasons) in the churchyard. Finally, a commemorative bench to be purchased to commemorate the Kings Coronation to be purchased for Besford village, subject to a suitable location being sought and approved by WCC Highways. The proposals were approved by all Cllrs, proposed Cllr Hall, seconded Cllr Rees. An invitation would be made to a local resident to carry out the refurbishment before seeking elsewhere.

5. **PLANNING:** W/23/01143/PIP Land At (OS 9208 4309)Upton Road – to consider and comment – discussion took place and it was considered that the only strong objections were due to highway safety: crossing on the main road, no footway and the safety of children using the school bus. It was agreed that a ‘comment’ should be registered with WDC rather than ‘to support or object’ to the application with the added point that we would expect WDC to ensure that the developers stick strictly to the plans and are not allowed to enter into a situation to ‘build what they want’ and rely on future ‘retrospective’ planning applications to correct. This was agreed by all Cllrs.

6. **OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE DISCUSSION:**

- issues regarding accessibility of PRow to be addressed and to include communication with adjacent landowners to take responsibility and to consider re-allocating a reserve to cover additional FP clearance by the LM if necessary – to include discussion with the LM and Gareth Marshall
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Policies – to start to revisit parish council policies, to include ‘Delegated Powers’ between meetings
- Change of Electoral boundaries

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 19th July at 7pm at Besford Court Hall