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 19th July 2023 at 7pm in Besford Court Hall

PRESENT:

Chair S Rees, Vice Chair I Stephens, and Cllrs: Peter Hale, Debra Lamont, Ian Spiers, and District Cllr P Middlebrough

1. APOLOGIES – were received from Cllr G Marshall and County Cllr A Hardman

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- 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.

- Cllr S Rees Chair of Governors (school)
- Cllr P Hale Chair of Defford Village Hall Committee

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - No parishioners in attendance

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from meeting dated 15th May and 26th June 2023 were approved, proposed Cllr Hale, seconded Cllr Stephens all in favour
- 4. COUNTY / DISTRICT CLLRS REPORTS: A report was received from Cllr Middlebrough and circulated to Cllrs and annexed to these minutes.

5. FINANCE

a) Payments for approval / made since the last meeting – a copy of the full accounts had been forwarded to Cllrs.

	1351	Lengthsman April	192.00
SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
SO		Clerks Salary	312.72
	1352	Insurance	640.41
	1353	Hall Hire	82.00
	1354	Clerks PAYE	248.39
	1355	Lengthsman May	192.00
	1356	Cllr Training	36.00
	1357	Grass Cutting	537.50
	1358	Clerks Expenses	22.50
	1539	Lengthsman June	192.00

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

Account Balances:

Current Account: £18,144.47 Deposit Account: £4,069.27 **Yew Trees at Church** – one quote has been received for works on the two Yew trees. Two further quotes are being sourced.

With regard to the headstones in the closed churchyard and cemetery, it was identified that a survey should be carried out on the headstones. The clerk would look into this and arrange quotes, to be shared with the PCC (with regard to the cemetery stones).

Unity Bank – the new account is being processed and a 'switch' from Lloyds Bank will be carried out by Unity.

7. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS:

- a) Bourne Road scheduled for closure between 21st and 26th August for electricity cable works.
- b) Public Rights of Way: The LM has been spending some time clearing overgrowth on some of the PR's of W although this should be the responsibility of the landowner where possible. WCC are allowing the LM to do some remedial works once approved by WCC Footpaths Officer. It was agreed that there may be a need to allocate some of our reserves to cover his additional time spent, and that this will be factored in when we re-visit the budget in January for the next financial year.
 - Path Harpley Road to Springbank has now been addressed
 - Path Upper Street to Bluebell Lane is open but the signpost is lay on the floor and the access to / from Bluebell Lane needs opening. The Clerk to report this to WCC.
- c) **Hedges** The parish council will continue to contact any resident with an overgrown hedge abutting the pavement kindly requesting them to cut them back to enable a safe walking route.

8. PLANNING:

- a) 22/02614 Land and Building at OS 9137 4249 Upton Road approved by WDC
- b) 22/02706 Land Adjacent, Hillside, Upper Street, Defford awaiting decision by WDC
- c) 23/01224/PIP Shazam, Upper Street, Defford Permission in Principle for the construction of 2 to 8 housing units awaiting decision by WDC. Cllr Rees reported that concerns had been raised by parishioners particularly as the site is prone to flooding. Cllr Middlebrough was asked to request it be considered at full planning committee rather than delegated to a single officer.
- d) 23/01143 land adjacent to Defford Motors awaiting decision by WDC

9. REPORTS:

- Lengthsman Cllr Lamont reported that the LM continues to work diligently concentrating on visibility splays, some footpaths, works within the churchyard and replacing dog fouling signs. Thanks to him were recorded.
- Neighbourhood Watch Cllr Hale has been very proactive raising the profile of the NW scheme in both Defford & Besford with a leaflet drop scheduled for all houses in the two villages. Help to be given by Cllrs to assist with the delivering of the leaflets. Signage is due to be put in place in Besford, Woodmancote and Bourne Road. An event is to be held in October which will hopefully raise the profile of NW
- **10. BENCHES** The replacement bench for the church is to be ordered and the plaque re-instated. With regard to the seat for Besford, any decision re location will be deferred until we have a resident on the parish council representing Besford

2023/13

- **11. TRAINING** Cllr Rees had participated in Chairman training and both Cllrs Rees and Lamont will be undertaking a planning training session.
- **12. MERGING OF DEFFORD WITH BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL** to consider the merging of Besford with Defford (from an Electoral perspective) currently Besford has no representation on the parish council. *Defer to a later meeting.*
- 13. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS had been circulated to Cllrs.
 - Parishioner from Besford contacted the clerk regarding the poor state of the bus stop in Besford, commenting that it is never used and an 'eyesore'. It was questioned whether it would be more practical to have it demolished. The clerk to contact WCC in the first instance.

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Policies to review all polices ongoing
- Speed Limit / VAS Sign A4104 formally consider approval to purchase VAS sign (identified that
 there was previously a 'transferable' unit on the A4104. The post is still in situ but no
 knowledge as to where the sign is. Cllr Middlebrough suggested that a grant could be applied
 for (via the Police and Crime Commissioner) towards the cost for a new sign Clerk to check
 'post' still in situ and approval from WCC that a permanent VAS sign can be installed.
- Village Design Statement Cllrs discussed considering writing a Village Design Statement to support developers and the planning process ensure applications were sympathetic to the locale.
- **15. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS** Wednesday 20th September 2023 7pm at Defford Village Hall

Defford & Besford Parish Council 11th July 2023

As I get into my role as a Wychavon District Councillor the role, I am now getting requests from residents on matters which unsurprisingly are mainly planning issues. Amongst them have been

- Complaints that enforcement not being undertaken.
- · Why is enforcement being undertaken?
- What is the purpose of a Planning Inspectorate hearing and how can you submit material about an appeal?
- Utility contractors not reinstating damage to private property.
- Request to take a planning application to committee.

l attended the Planning Committee 22nd June on which dealt with two small residential barn and one infilling house. This Thursday the Planning Committee, amongst other items has applications for thirty and sixty-two houses in Crowle.

On June 26th I chaired the Member Conduct Committee which brought us up to speed on several cases

The Executive Board approved spending £290,000 to deliver a new water play area at Abbey Park, Pershore

On the 19th of this month the Communities and Funding Advisory Panel are briefing new councillors on community funding opportunities, and I will report back on any hints etc. on applying for support.

Following on from the Community Conversation event in Pershore in May, Police & Crime Commissioner, John Campion has launched a webpage which covers the work being done to address concerns raised by residents.

You can find read the full West Mercia Police report on local policing in Pershore as well as being able to watch a conversation between the Police & Crime Commissioner and Superintendent Rebecca Love, area commander, on your top priorities.

Please visit the webpage for more information https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/pershore/

The next Community Conversation event will take place on Wednesday 15 November at Pershore Town Hall from 6pm to 8pm.

Support for military veterans

The Worcestershire Armed Forces Covenant Strategic partnership has produced a leaflet with important contact details which may be helpful for veterans and their families.

I have included this in my report as the Eckington Wychavon ward has over 5% of the population with links to the forces as discovered from the 2021 Census. This the highest percentage in Wychavon.

IF YOU WANT TO CONTACT ME DON'T HESITATE

PAUL 01905 821 732 Paul.middlebrough@btinternet.com
MIDDLEBROUGH
THE FORGE
Paul.middlebrough@wychavon.net
CHURCH LANE

NORTON WR5 2PS