

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7pm in Defford Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Peter Hale, Debra Lamont, Ian Spiers, and District Cllr P Middlebrough. Plus one parishioner

Cllr Lamont was elected Chairman for this meeting

**1. APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllrs: G Marshall, S Rees and I Stephens 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 P Hale – Chair of Defford Village Hall Committee
- None others declared

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Parishioner in attendance referred to the poor state of the bus stop in Besford and a suggestion that it be removed completely as there is no longer a bus service.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from meeting dated 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were approved, proposed Cllr Lamont, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour

**4. COUNTY / DISTRICT CLLRS REPORTS:** A full report was received from Cllr Middlebrough and circulated to Cllrs but in brief:

- Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2023-2040 which sets out a long-term strategic approach for housing in the county has been endorsed the council. The long-term strategic approach to delivering housing is seen as a crucial part of a thriving, prosperous, sustainable and healthy county. The intended scope of the strategy is, therefore, very broad and identifies how housing can support wider objectives, such as economic growth and environmental sustainability.
- New Changing Places Toilets are to be provided at Pershore High Street, Broadway Activity Park and Lido Park, Droitwich Spa. These toilet facilities offer full access to toileting facilities to those with severe disabilities, including electric hoist, changing table and sink, along with all the other fittings associated with disabled toilets. Funding has been secured from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Development.
- The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review documents are being finalised to submit to the planning inspectorate during September.
- On the political front things have been more dynamic. Bradley Thomas, the Leader of Wychavon Council for the last six years has been selected as the prospective Conservative

candidate for Bromsgrove at coming general election. He has therefore decided step down as leader of the council. He will remain as leader until the council meeting on 18th of October. At the Evesham South ward byelection Peter Knight, retained the seat for the Green Party.

**5. FINANCE**

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

1359		Lengthsman June	192.00
SO		Clerks Salary	312.72
SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
1360		Street Lighting	178.33
1361		Salary U/Payment	76.40
1362		Goal nets	59.99
1363		Bench	498.00
1364		Noticeboard Refurb.	12.00
SO		Clerks Salary	312.72
SO		Clerks Expenses	15.00
Tsfr		ICO Payment	35.00
Tsfr		Hall Hire	25.00
Tsfr		Painting of Goal Posts	160.00
Tsfr		Lengthsman July	192.00
Tsfr		Sundries	60.48
Tsfr		Grass Cutting	480.00

Plus to approve payment of:

Clerks Salary £338.12  
Clerks PAYE £253.60  
Cllr Rees £4.99                      Pegs for goal nets at Millenium Green  
Lengthsman £192.00

To consider share of Lengthsmans Training course Course: Pesticide Lantra Safe Use – approx. £85.00  
(Note: under the terms of the LM contract, weedkilling is not permitted and invoices will not be accepted unless course attended)

All Payments above were approved, proposed Cllr Lamont, seconded Cllr Hale, all in favour

b) Unity Bank now up and running with facility for on-line banking

**6. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS:**

- a) **Bourne Road** – Works still not complete with traffic lights in place and operational but no work seemingly being carried out.
- b) Jubilee Barns – Cllr Lamont reported that a ‘dropped trench’ has not been rectified although this has been reported.  
The clerk would communicate with WCC on both the above points raised.
- c) **Public Rights of Way** : No report received
- d) **VAS Sign, A4101** – The sign on the A4101 is apparently working – to be looked at again, however, was also reported that a second sign near Crown Lane was not. This to be investigated.
- e) A request made for speed checks to be carried out in Woodmancote.

**7. PLANNING:**

- a) 22/02706 – Land Adjacent, Hillside, Upper Street, Defford – awaiting decision by WDC
- b) 23/01224/PIP - Shazam, Upper Street, Defford - awaiting decision by WDC

- c) 23/01315 - Ashgrove, 36 Besford Court Estate - Extension and alterations to existing garage - awaiting decision by WDC
- d) 23/01143 – land adjacent to Defford Motors – awaiting decision by WDC
- e) W/23/01273/HP - Jubilee Barns, Woodmancote - approved by WDC
- f) 22/00781 - Railway Inn, Upton Road, Defford – Amendments to permission to convert building into two dwellings - awaiting decision by WDC
- g) 23/01525/FUL - Crabbe Tree Farm, Besford Road, Wadborough, Besford - Formation of pool and wetland planting area including soil bund - awaiting decision by WDC

A question was put to Cllr Middlebrough as to why builders are allowed to make their own decisions on what to build and then ignore any retrospective planning approval.

#### **8. REPORTS:**

- Lengthsman – Cllr Lamont presented a report and included:
  - ✓ Focus has been ensuring footpaths and road signs are kept clear
  - ✓ Replacing of faded ‘dog fouling’ signs – a polite request for dog walkers to clear up after their dogs and take it home!
- 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 reported that 120 residents has signed up to NW and signage installed in Woodmancote and Besford. The ‘open / drop-in event’ at Defford Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> October (between 5:30 and 7:30pm) is open to everyone and will include a presentation on Smart Water. Cllr Middlebrough suggested that Woodmancote may be a good, initial focus for SW to be introduced. Cllr Hale to investigate.

#### **9. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS** had been circulated to Cllrs.

#### **10. 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.

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS** – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 7pm at Defford Village Hall