

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March in Defford Village Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting

**PRESENT:** Chairman I Stephens, Vice Chairman S Rees and Cllrs: P Hale, D Lamont, L Peake, J Robinson, S Soukup and I Spiers

**1. APOLOGIES** were received from Cllr G Marshall, County Cllr A Hardman and District Cllr P Middlebrough

**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.*

**None declared**

**Public Participation:** *there were no parishioners in attendance*

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – proposed approval Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Soukup – all in favour

**4. FINANCE / GOVERNANCE:**

- a) Approval of receipts and payments to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (made since last meeting)  
Payments for authorisation:

Clerks Expenses	15.00
Clerks Salary	380.08
Website Admin	180.00
Street Lighting	318.18
Lengthsman December	192.00
Street Light shield	142.62
VAS Signs	5014.78
Service Charge	6.00
Clerks Salary	380.08
Clerks Expenses	15.00
Legthsman January	192.00
Service Charge	6.00
HMRC Clerks PAYE	285.00
MG - Repairs	443.46
Clerks Salary	380.08
Clerks Expenses	15.00

**2025/05**

- b) Account Balances:  
Unity Trust Current Account: £4,500.28  
Unity Trust Savings Account: £18,929.29

Approval of accounts proposed Cllr Stephens, seconded Cllr Soukup – all in favour

The clerk reported that a £250 grant had been received from WDC to be spent on village / community events commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day

**5. COUNTY & DISTRICT CLLR REPORTS** – covered in Annual Parish Meeting

**6. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS (to include traffic calming)**

- a) PRow – No report due to Cllr Marshall's absence

**7. PLANNING:**

- a) 21/02561 – Land at (OS 9164 4305) Harpley Road – *Awaiting decision by WDC*  
b) 24/01822 – Crabbe Tree Farm, Besford Road, Wadborough – *awaiting decision by WDC*  
c) 24/02599 – Besford Water Tower – *application withdrawn by applicant*  
d) W/24/02596/FUL Bowbrook House, Besford Bridge - *approved by WDC*  
e) Planning Inspectorate APP/H1840/D/24/3356365: Atalaya, Upper Street, WR8 9BG - *Appeal dismissed*

**8. REPORTS:**

- Lengthsman – Cllr Lamont reported that the LM continues to work diligently and responds to work requests efficiently, and it was agreed his contract is renewed for 2025/26.
- Highways – Cllr Rees met with WCC and the following were noted:
  - New 30mph speed roundel (line markings) locations were agreed
  - Drain under footway and verge (A4104) to be jetted
  - Awaiting posts for new VAS signs to be installed – it is hoped that the existing sign could be used near Defford Church – to investigate if speed can be altered from 40 to 30mph
  - A competition for the school children to design a suitable SLOW poster which we will get made into signs for lamp posts. It was agreed that 2 x £15 book tokens be purchased for the winners.
- Traffic Calming - Cllr Robinson made reference to faded line markings in Besford – the clerk would request these are re-painted.
- Smart Water - Cllr Hale reported that there were only 80 SW kits left and these would be stored in the VH. The SW signage is now in place.
- Wychavon District Council Workshops: Cllrs Rees and Lamont attended a recent event at WDC:
  - Neighbourhood Plan – agreed there was little enthusiasm to pursue this.
  - Rural Transport – to be posted on FB that Pershore Volunteer Centre are available to transport residents, but there is a charge

**9. MILLENNIUM GREEN:**

- Benches – new composite benches would be ordered and installed at the same time as the repairs carried out on the play equipment. Spares have been ordered and await delivery
- Mole problem has been attended to
- New equipment – it was agreed that there was space for a new piece of equipment should funds allow.
- Pitch levelling – it was agreed that the football pitch was in need of levelling off. Cllr Soukup to estimate how much top soil was needed

**10. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS:**

- CALC – a briefing / Paper on the proposed Devolution had been circulated to Cllrs

**11. OTHER MATTERS RAISED:**

- Cllr Hale asked Cllrs to support the VH in their discussions with WDC regarding the acquisition of land adjacent to the VH under planning application ref: 21/02561 – Land at (OS 9164 4305). It was generally felt that as the PC had objected to the planning application, it would be hypocritical to support the VH at this time. It would, however, be something to discuss when the planning application has been decided.
- Cllr Soukup - Resignation – Cllr Soukup had formally stepped down from the parish council. Cllr Stephens thank Cllr Soukup for all he had done for the parish council

**12. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

**13. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at Besford Court Hall and to include the Besford Annual Parish Meeting.