2025/13

MINUTES
DEFFORD & BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

https://defford-besfordparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th September 2025 in Defford Village Hall at 7pm

PRESENT: Chairman I Stephens, Cllrs: D Lamont, L Peake and J Robinson, County Cllr A Hardman and District Cllr P Middleborough

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Cllr S Rees

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: No one in attendance

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from meeting 16th July 2025 – proposed approval Cllr Stephens, seconded Cllr Robinson – all in favour

4. **FINANCE / GOVERANCE:**

   a) Approval of receipts and payments to 10th September 2025 (made since last meeting)
   Payments for authorisation:

Clerks Expenses	15.00		Grass Cutting	567.50
Clerks Salary	379.88		HMRC PAYE	342.58
Lengthsman - June	250.00		Extra Stationery	10.72
Service Charge	6.00		ICO Payment	47.00
Payroll Services	15.00		Street Lighting Electric	216.37
Hall Hire	20.00		Street Lighting Electric	334.10
Clerks Expenses	15.00		New website	598.80
Clerks Salary	440.08		Clerks Expenses	15.00
Lengthsman - July	250.00		Clerks Salary	391.92
Service Charge	6.00			

Receipts:

Lengthsman June	250.00
Lengthsman July	250.00

Account Balances:
Unity Trust Current Account: £755.91
Unity Trust Savings Account: £25,591.12

b) External Auditors Report has been received, circulated to Cllrs and on website
c) Closed Churchyard – Clerk awaits clarification from WDC as to whether Besford Churchyard is 'closed' and under the responsibility of the parish council. Should this be the case a question was raised as to whether any Quinquennial Report for Besford should be shared and considered by the parish council.

5. COUNTY & DISTRICT CLLR REPORTS –

- County Cllr A Hardman reported:
  - Worcs. On Demand bus service was being well received
  - New Special School in Malvern to now go ahead
  - Cabinet Member for Highways is to review all speed limits – Cllr Hardman to go back and see if the speed limit in Woodmancote can be reviewed again, with a proposal for 40mph.
  - To meet with WCC Highways / Drainage regarding flooding at the bridge junction with Bluebell Lane / A4104
- District Council Report – Cllr Middlebrough's report had been shared with Cllrs and annexed to these Minutes.

6. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

a) Public Rights of Way – Nothing to report
b) Woodmancote Traffic Calming – Cllr Lamont voiced concerns regarding the speed of traffic on A4104 going through Woodmancote. Cllr Hardman's comments re speed limit was welcomed.
It was agreed that the speed data from the VAS signs would be put on the website.

7. REPORTS:

a) Lengthsman – Cllr Lamont reported the LM continues to work diligently.

8. WORCESTERSHIRE ON DEMAND BUS SERVICE has been well received, and residents are encouraged to use it. It was felt that having to use a phone app may be difficult for some residents. It was agreed that the parish council hold a 'coffee morning' at the Defford Arms inviting residents who required some help to pop attend. Date to be agreed and publicised on FB

9. MILLENNIUM GREEN – Cllr Robinson reported that she still had the soil to dispose of. Clerk would contact Cllr Spiers to see if he knew of anyone that can help with transporting it.

10. WEBSITE – the new website is now up and running and Cllrs are using their new generic email addresses.

11. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS: These had all been shared with Cllrs.

12. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Expenditure 2025/ 26 – to consider any expenditure needed
- Budget / Precept 2026/27 – to consider items for inclusion in new budget (January 2026)

13. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 19th November at Defford Village Hall

MEETING September 2025

Wychavon District Council Report

Key issue for Residents

Local Government reorganisation

Last week Wychavon, Malvern Hills and Worcester City councils all decided that a South Worcestershire unitary authority was the best option for our residents. This will place district and county services in South Worcestershire under the authority of the elected unitary council.

Wychavon councillors unanimously endorsed this decision, noting that it maintains democratic control at a level closer to local residents in comparison to a county unitary authority.

This is a process imposed on the council by the Government which was not ask for. The next step is to show the implications of creating South Worcestershire, what it will mean for residents the services, council tax, working with communities. A report will be sent to Government by the end of November. Then we await what the Government say probably by spring of next year. Hopefully they will agree but equally they may say a single county unitary is what they want and impose it on Wychavon residents.

Let us see.

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