2026/12

MINUTES

DEFFORD & BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

https://defford-besfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Defford & Besford Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th September 2026 in Defford Village Hall at 7pm.

PRESENT: Chair I Stephens, Cllrs L Peake, R Robinson and I Spiers, County Cllr A Hardman, District Cllr P Middleborough and 1 member of the public

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Vice Chair 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: Following the recent fatal car accident on Bourne Road, Defford the parishioner in attendance was asking for support from the parish council to put pressure on the police and WCC to make the junction off the A4104 safer. It was agreed that a meeting be organised with the police, parish council and WCC to discuss and look at realistic solutions. Furthermore, the clerk would write to the Chief of Police with regard the appropriateness of the road markings and speed limit between the Oak to Defford flyover

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from meetings on 15th July 2026 – approved, proposed Cllr Peake, seconded Cllr Spiers – all in favour

4. **COUNTY & DISTRICT CLLRS REPORTS:**
   - County Cllr Report:
     - Re-instatement of the Woodmancote road sign is in hand
     - District Council elections are back on again for May 2027
   - Report from District Cllr P Middleborough is annexed to these minutes

5. **FINANCE / GOVERNANCE**
   a) Approval of receipts and payments to 10th September 2026 (made since last meeting):

Clerks Salary	391.92		Service Charge	7.00
Clerks Expenses	15.00		Payroll Services	55.35
Grass Cutting	730.00		Website Hosting / Support	360.00
Lengthsman June	450.00		ICO Renewal	47.00
Domain Renewal	36.00		Website Domain Paid in Error - to be refunded	14.40
Street Lighting	221.64		Grass Cutting	365.00
Tree Works	480.00		Lengthsman July	306.25
Payroll Services	40.35		Hall Hire	22.00
Service Charge	7.00		Clerks Expenses	15.00

Clerks Expenses	15.00		Clerks Salary	522.36
Clerks Salary	440.96			

Approval of payments made / to be made, proposed Cllr Spiers, seconded Cllr Rees

2026/13

b) Receipts:

LM - June	450.00
LM May	318.75
VAT Reclaimed	186.97

c) Account Balances:
Unity Trust Current Account: £4289.16
Unity Trust Savings Account: £30,221.00

d) Clerks Salary Increase – to record NALC's recent release of new salary pay scales for clerks sent to Cllrs for information, back dated to 1st April 2026.

e) Clerks Salary Appraisal – to consider and approve a full review of Clerks salary scale by CALC, proposed Cllr Stephens, seconded Cllr Robinson – all in favour

f) External Auditors report received and shared with Cllrs and placed on the website.

6. PLANNING:

- W/26/01734 29 Lower Drive, Besford – the application details arrived too late to be included within the formal agenda but under our Scheme of Delegation this was discussed and there were no objections

7. REPORTS:

- Lengthsman – Cllr Rees reported the LM continues to work diligently. Clerk to ask if he can weed around the church and pathways in the churchyard.
- Headstones / Faculty – Clerk reported that the PC had been trying to obtain a second opinion / quote for the works, unsuccessfully. Clerk to ask the PCC for any possible contacts.
- Millennium Green:
  - Goal Posts – cost for new goals and nets to be covered by grant from District Cllr P Middleborough
  - Fencing, installation of cycle racks and goals (when they arrive), and ground levelling in hand

8. STREET LIGHTING – cost for street lamps to converted to solar powered came in circa £1,800 per column which would not be cost effective. Clerk to advise energy provider that our lights have now been converted to LED's to see if this would have any impact on energy bills for the lamps.

9. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – Defford Parish Council to increase to 7 seats, with Besford reducing to 2 seats – WDC progressing with the governance process.

10. FUTURE PROJECTS to consider possible resurfacing of the village hall car park. Quotes to be sought in the first instance with a decision to be made at a future meeting.

11. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Budget / Precept Request 2027/28
- Village Hall Car Park Resurfacing

12. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 18th November 2026, 7pm at Defford Village Hall

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DEFFORD & BESFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 2026

Wychavon District Councillor Report

WHAT A SUMMER

- scorching dry weather
- a new Prime Minister
- local government reorganisation started
- local government reorganisation paused
- legal action to overturn the designation imposed by government on planning roles on very slowly in the courts
- Wychavon promises come into play, free swimming for over 60's and under16's, free learn-to-swim sessions for all ages
- one hours free carparking

Hope you had a good summer!!

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION.

On 16th July, the Government's decision regarding Local Government Reorganisation in Worcestershire was announced to create North and South Worcestershire Councils.

They are pausing Local Government Reorganisation but the government has been cagey on the details of what is happening.

The review of the process will take place over party recess time so should be completed by October.

There are so many questions in the air,

- will elections to Wychavon take place next year,
- will unitary council elections be postponed,
- is the real agenda to introduce elected mayors and strategic unitary authorities before unitary councils.

Wonder what will know or not know by the time of your next meeting in November.

What a malarky

ONE CERTAINTY

As part of the WE ARE WYCHAVON funding, each councillor now has access to £10,000 to be spent on projects activities etc in their ward which do not qualify for other Wychavon grant streams.

I welcome applications from any group to put forward schemes which I will consider.

I do remind you though, that £10,000 is a lot of money it has go around the four Parish Council areas in my Ward, Besford and Defford, Birlingham, Eckington and Strensham.

I welcome applications for small sum of say £100 just as much as larger schemes, though I cannot promise to give you everything you have asked for.

The process is simple and the link is attached.

Wychavon Ward Budgets - Wychavon District Council

Let's get spending the money on your community

Phone me on (01905821735, is best, leave a message and I will get back to you) or email me to discuss your ideas.

UPDATE

If there is more news on the **Local Government Reorganisation** and **Planning Designation** and I will update you at the meeting.

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