

Defford and Besford Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 15th May 2018 at Besford Estate Community Hall

Present: Councillors Clive Woods (Chair), Julian Clarke, Ian Spires, Nicky Szabranski, Hazel Wakefield, Ron Davis, Patricia Steel & Roger Atter

In Attendance: Clerk & 2 members of the public

1. Apologies received from Cllr Thompson
2. The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2017, approved Proposed by Cllr RD and seconded by Cllr RA
3. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report - Councillor Clive Woods

The Parish Council records its appreciation to Ms June Hiden for the work that she has done during her term as Parish Clerk and wish her well for the future. June had been our Parish Clerk since August 2016 and has been succeeded by Ms. Michelle English.

The Parish precept for the financial period 2018/19 after due consideration by the Parish Council Finance and General Policy Committee recommended an increase of £334 to a total of £9,660 from £9,326 that is 1.95%. On band D property, the council tax will be £21.95 per annum.

Changes have been made to the Parish web-site and further improvements are planned. Higher speed broadband continues to be expanded throughout our Parish.

New Homes Bonus Funds have been accessed to purchase further play equipment for the Millennium Green for installation later this year; and for the resurfacing of the Village Hall car park that is scheduled to take place later this year.

The campaign to raise awareness and reduce dog fouling around the village is making a real impact, and it is proposed to up-grade many of the bins to encourage even greater utilisation.

The Enterprise bus service for the village is rarely used, despite our reminding residents, and continues to be subject to critical review.

Participation in the Wychavon Sports Events needs a Champion, to encourage the youth and younger residents in our villages to take part and become more active, despite publicity on our web site, in the Parish Magazine and on Facebook, so far little interest has been shown, which is very disappointing.

The distribution of the defibrillators around Defford and Besford are now in place excepting for the unit to be located in the red telephone kiosk, when this has been refurbished later in the year. Some training sessions have been held and these will be repeated from time to time. Congratulations to everyone involved in the promoting and fund raising for purchase of these machines.

Street lighting in Defford continues to be unreliable and Prysman (Western Power) have again being approached to rectify the frequent failure of the lighting units.

The Parish Council are reviewing more Aims and Objectives for the new financial year and any suggestions and recommendations will be welcomed.

Finally, a thank you and my appreciation to all of the Councillors who have worked and given so much of their time over the year to improve and develop the facilities and services for our Parish.

Thank you, to the residents for their interest, attendance, comments and support during the past financial year.

4. County Councillor's Annual Report – Cllr Adrian Hardman

Some years seem to pass quicker than others and this has certainly been one of those, Following the County Council elections on the 4th of May I was returned as your member for the next 4 years, and thanks to those who voted for me. I am now Deputy Leader of the County Council, and member with responsibility for Adult Social care, which has been a considerable challenge.

It has been a year of three main themes at County Hall, coping with the financial pressure of the 8th year of budget reductions, the demand pressures in Adult Social Care & the future of Children's Social Care.

This year has been the most challenging year for budget reductions, with the budget reducing by some £32M, and this is starting to have clear effects on the frontline services in the need to reform them. But to quote the Chancellor " There is light at the end of the tunnel", and our budget is starting to rise by some £5M next year mainly due to the Social Care precept section on your Council tax bill. I have in the past talked about the pressure on Adult Social Care for some years now, and will only quote on fact that dementia is forecast to rise by some 40% by 2025. I await Government reform with interest.

Following an OFSTED inspection in May the Children's Social Care was found to be inadequate, and this led to the Minister appointing a commissioner to oversee the service, and this is leading to a change in system since he is determined we set up an arm's length company to run these services, but the numbers of Children in care has continued to rise, as has the budget over spend.

On a more local front your concerns have been focused on 3 main issues; the question of speeding in the village, potholes, and drainage. I am able confirm the Council will be doing some siding out works in the village this year. I have a meeting with a highways officer and we will be curbing the stretch in Church Lane. The signs for Woodmancote are going ahead. I hope that you thought the two snow falls were dealt with effectively, but we will not be returning to the use of snow fencing!. The schools around the hill remain in good health and close to being full, and it is great to see the numbers at Defford rising again, but we don't have a solution to the question of parking on the zig zag lines by the school. I urge you to use the bus service.

I would like to thank the Parish Council and my fellow District Councillor for all their work over the year.

Adrian Hardman.

5. District Councillor's Annual Report – Cllr Ron Davis

In general terms it has been a quiet year for Defford -cum-Besford on the planning front we have managed to avoid unwanted large scale developments.

New Homes Bonus has generated some £6736.00 being distributed with a further £17125.00 to draw down.

Public transport is still a problem for our villages and concerns are still being expressed on the traffic speed.

I have enjoyed working with you all over the past 12 months.

6. Report from West Mercia Police Local Policing Team

The last 12 months has continued to be busy throughout our ever increasing local policing area which extends from Whittington, Upton Snodsbury and Dormston in the north to Bredon and Beckford in the south. With targeted patrols, attendance at village surgeries and numerous parish events, messaging via Twitter and the Community Messaging Service (CMS) the team have continued to be actively involved in the community. The whole team remain committed to tackling all levels of crime throughout the area including rural crime and poaching and providing security advice and support to victims and vulnerable residents.

This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 11/05/2017 and 11/05/2018 the comparison is relating to the corresponding dates in 2016/17.

Overall the police recorded 164 incidents that were reported by members of the public this is compared to 114 incidents reported the previous year.

Of the 164 incidents the Parish had 45 recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to 33 recordable crimes the previous year.

The breakdown of offences is as follows:

2017/18	2016/17
Burglary Residential (includes garages and sheds)	2 11
Burglary Business	2 0
Theft of Vehicle	1 2
Theft from vehicle	0 2
Theft other	2 1

Criminal Damage	4	7
Fraud	0	1
Other Offences	34	9

(Includes mostly concerns for welfare or domestic related incidents and assaults)

This year has seen a huge decrease in residential burglaries in Defford and Besford. The majority from last year were from outbuildings and garages

We have continued with patrols in the area and have issued security advice to residents regarding security marking of property.

The main contributing factor in all of the burglaries throughout the year is that the properties are left without lights during the hours of darkness (evenings). The campaign 'Leave a Light on' is applicable throughout the year and we would strongly advise residents to use a lamp/s on a timer switch to give the impression that someone is present inside the property and review their security in general.

There has been a large increase in 'other offences' incidents. These can include concern for safety, domestic incidents etc and are increasing throughout the West Mercia area as police are dealing more often with vulnerable people. This could be put down to increased social and economic pressures.

Overall the figures still show that Defford, Besford and the surrounding area is a safe place to both live and work, however we all have a responsibility to ensure we maintain this.

On behalf of the team and myself I should like to offer my thanks to the Parish Council for all its help over the last 12 months. I would also like to say thank you to the Parish as a whole for its continued support of the local policing team and for the numerous calls we have received relating to suspicious activity, all we ask is that you continue to do this.

Pershore Rural North and South Local Policing Team

Non-emergency phone number: 101

7. Reports from Village Hall Trust – Tony Kent

The year ending 31st March 2018 showed a small decrease in revenues but continues to produce a healthy surplus of funds despite the year's capital expenditure on maintenance and repairs.

Current Projects

1. Landscaping;
 - a. Nothing can be decided about the drive resurfacing until the developer has confirmed that they will be building the 5 bungalows as approved by Wychavon

Planning.

2. Building;

- a. The blinds in the main hall have been replaced due to broken links and discolouration.
- b. New dado rails have been installed to prevent further damage to the walls.
- c. The Air Source heat pump broke down in March, following a failure of a compressor. The system has now been fixed and is working as normal. Going forward we have arranged for a yearly service to be carried out.

3. Bookings

- a. Having carried research throughout the region we identified that we were the only hall that allowed a free 30 minutes set up and shut down time. To make the management of bookings easier and fairer to all users we have removed the free 30 minute set up and shut down time. This has been accepted and is now working very well.

Proposed Projects

All of the planned projects have been completed.

We are looking to seek new occasional users for parties, celebrations etc. We will be advertising in the Parish magazine and on our website. We are also planning to launch a Facebook site to attract new users.

The last AGM in September 2017 was advertised on the Village Hall's website, in Evesham Journal and Pershore Times, the Parish magazine and leaflet's around the village. The advert asked for Parishioners' to attend if possible and if not to pass on any suggestion for ways to improve the Hall and its Facilities.

12 Parishioners attended and no suggestions for improvements were suggested.

The Trust would welcome any suggestions or ideas from The Parish for ways to improve the Hall and its facilities.

Looking to attract younger people they should look at putting in internet access.

Tony Kent – Chairman

The Parish Council requested to see the annual accounts for the Village Hall

8. Reports from Village Organisations

Defford Millenium Green – annual report to the Parish Council May 2018

Weekly and quarterly play equipment and facilities checks carried out. All passed. Annual check needs to be organised. Am in the process of obtaining quotes.

I am in the process of reviewing our policy and procedures for the management of the Millenium Green and it's facilities.

Vandalism (spray paint) recorded in September. Cleaned up by some of the perpetrators. No repeat or other damage.

Grounds work up to date.

Current access affected by building works, some wear to surface.

Bin needs replacing. For discussion.

New play equipment to be installed within the next few weeks. Date to be confirmed.

Parishioners have requested improvements to football fencing. In process of obtaining quotes. Possible application for New Homes Bonus funds.

The padlock to the gate has been unlocked by persons unknown on 2 occasions. Hopefully, the adjacent building work will be completed soon, removing the need to secure the gate.

Defford in Relief P.C. Representatives for Defford Relief in Need are elected for a four year term. They are Nicky Zbranski, Margaret Mallard and myself. Margaret and I have one more year to go (to 2019) and Nicky has two more years(to 2020).

As chairman I-have had this recorded. Our new chairman elected at the March 2018 A.G.M is Deborah Fox- Debra.fox@haygrove.co.uk

No further elections are required until next year.

It was agreed that annual accounts should be show to the Parish Council

9. Parishioners Open Forum

- Road signs – concern that a number are in poor condition and need to be replaced, there is a budget for new road signs, Clerk will send AH a list of ones
- Signs for the Village Hall in Defford, AH will investigate as money was paid in September
- Pot holes to be reported on line.
- Church Lane will be kurbed , once the builders have completed the lenghtsman can fill these in.
- Manhole cover - resident to send Clerk the reference number
- Developers were supposed to lay in a main drain

- Openreach connected up to the new estate, they dug up the road, concern that they will damage up the memorial. Suggested to have a word with Openreach . Cllr Clerk to talk to BT
- Parishioners would like to see more transparency with regards to finance

Meeting closed at 21.04

Signed:
Councillor Clive Woods, Chairman

Date: