

Defford and Besford Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 24th March 2015

At Defford Village Hall

Present: Cllr Ron Davis, (Chairman) Sonja Lee, Ian Spiers, Jane Thompson, Hazel Wakefield and Clive Woods.

Also present: Linda Blake, Gerry Johnson and Julian Jantke from The Oil Buying Club, Andrew Wilkins of Lone Star Land LLP, Graeme Evans Former Parish Clerk and 8 other members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Council, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Ron Davis should be Chairman for this meeting

Cllr Ron Davis in the chair.

Presentations;

- 1) Gerry Johnson and Julian Jantke gave a presentation on behalf of the Oil Buying Club and explained how local clubs could be formed to gain lower oil buying prices using an online ordering programme. Each club required someone to manage and administrate the scheme. A similar club had been set up in Sedgeberrow and now had about 150 members.
- 2) Andrew Wilkins from Lone Star Lane LLP represented a developer with an interest in SWDP site 25/6 at the top of Church Lane in Defford. He outlined two possible layout plans for a development on this site and explained the work that had taken place so far in relation to the possible development of this site.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Robert Bemand and Patricia Steel.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the following Parish Council meetings to be confirmed and signed

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the 27th January 2015 be accepted and signed as a true record.

4. Oil Purchasing

Further to the presentation from the Oil Buying Club, It was **AGREED** to revisit this item at the next meeting of the Parish Council to allow time to reflect on the information that had been provided.

5. Parish Clerk's Report

- There have been on-going problems with the streetlight in Crown Lane. Following reports that this light was on all day, the contractor made a site visit to correct the problem. Unfortunately due to the period of time that it was burning 24 hours a day, the lamp has now failed and it is not lighting up at all. The contractor has now informed the clerk that they will come out and look at the problem before the end of March.

- County Councillor Adrian Hardman has kindly provided the funding to carry out works to clear and refurbish the footpath from the top of Spring Bank to Harpley Road. These works were carried out by New Farm Grounds Maintenance during March.
- Regarding the matter of the damaged metal barrier on Upper Street; an email was received in early January to say that Worcestershire County Council were aware of this problem and that the barrier was awaiting assessment and repair. This has now been chased again and a response is awaited.
- Following a suggestion at January's Council meeting to hold the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council meeting on the same date, it is not possible to hire the village hall any earlier on the evening of 12th May. Therefore Annual Council will be held on 12th May and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 26th May. Both meetings will commence at 7:45pm.
- All New Homes Bonus Money applications were approved by Wychavon District Council.
- Parish Council elections are being held on 7th May 2015. There 6 seats in Defford Ward and 3 in Besford. Anyone interested in standing can obtain a nomination pack either through the clerk or via Wychavon District Council. The deadline for receipt of nomination papers is 4pm on 9 April.

6. Planning

(a) New Applications

W/15/00256/PP: Church Farm House, St Peters, Besford.

Proposal: Conversion of outbuilding into habitable accommodation ancillary to use of Church Farm House

The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

W/15/00260/PN: Home Farm, St Peters, Besford.

Proposal: Conversion of traditional farm buildings to residential use (3 no. dwellings), creation of new access and installation of bio digester.

The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

W/15/00576/PP: 1 Lower Drive, Besford.

Proposal: Attic conversion to domestic use and single storey side and rear extension for domestic use.

The Parish Council **AGREED** that it had no objection to this application.

(b) Wychavon District Council decisions

W/13/02118/OU: Defford Motors, Upton Road, Defford Pending Consideration

W/14/01881/OU: Land surrounding and including 1 and 2 Avon Bank, Upton Road, Defford Refused

W/14/02020/OU: Land Adjacent, Hillside, Upper Street, Defford Refused

W/14/01441/PN: Crabbe Tree Farm, Besford Road, Besford. Refused

7. Finance: To Approve any payments due

The following invoices for £480.23 were approved for payment: New Farm Grounds Maintenance, Re-issue of cheque for October 2014 Lengthsman Work; Defford Village Hall, Hire of Village Hall for 13th and 27th January 2015; New Farm Grounds Maintenance, Lengthsman Work February 2015 and Linda Blake, Clerk's Expenses June 2014 to March 2015.

8. New Homes Bonus

The Clerk reported that all 3 New Homes Bonus Applications had now been agreed by Wychavon District Council as follows;

Defford and Village Hall Landscaping Project - £3,000

Play Equipment on the Millennium Green - £2,911

Defford Public Notice Board - £825

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would now request that the funds be released to the Parish Council and would then take steps to purchase the new notice board. In view of a number of health and safety and legal implications, a report would be provided to the next meeting of the Parish Council concerning the play equipment project.

9. Display of Railway Memorabilia

Graeme Evans, a former clerk to the Council had brought along to the meeting the collection of Railway Memorabilia and postcards / photographs owned by the Parish Council. This collection included items put together by Ron Howes and following his untimely death, the Parish Council had authorised Mr Evans as Parish Clerk to purchase these items at auction.

The collection includes railway memorabilia, postcards from as early as 1903 and a number of old photographs depicting scenes from the village. It was noted that two items are currently loaned out to the Worcestershire Hive and relate to items from Besford School

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Clerk should write to the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee to ask for permission to permanently display these items in a cabinet within the Village Hall.

It was further **AGREED** that the Parish Council would purchase an appropriate display cabinet when a location for the collection had been finalised. It was suggested that the local school could be involved in providing some form of landscaping background for the train carriages.

10. Correspondence for Information

The clerk outlined correspondence as circulated;

- 1) A notice from Pershore Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team regarding the PACT Village surgeries. These would now be held at 10:30am on every Third Tuesday of each month.
- 2) An email report from Steven Tinkler, Police Community Support Officer regarding crime.
- 3) A letter from Wychavon District Council regarding New Homes Bonus Money.
- 4) Information from Wychavon District Council regarding the forthcoming elections

The Parish Council **NOTED** all the correspondence received.

- It was noted that although there had been no incidents of crime reported within Defford and Besford, there had been incidents relating to the theft of motor vehicles and caravans in Strensham.

10. Councillors reports

a) County Councillor A Hardman

I am sorry not to be with you tonight, just a brief report from me:-

- I was delighted to be able to fund out of my Local Members fund the work to the footway by Spring Lane and I hope that the County Council has paid the money into your bank account.

- We have a small amount of surface dressing work planned for the Parish. Mainly towards the Besford end of things and this will cause of bit of disruption April. As always with these things I am afraid it is very hard to give specific dates because the highways work is very weather dependent.

Please do feel free to get in touch with me either by phone or by email if there are any issues that arise out of your meeting and may I wish you all good fortune in the forthcoming elections.

b) District Councillor R Davis

Councillor Davis reported the following;

- Wychavon have now agreed their budget for 2015/16 and this represented a Council Tax increase of 1.9%.
- The joint chief executive for Wychavon and Malvern Hills is working very well.
- Further integration of senior management posts at the two district councils is currently being progressed and this will result in savings of £35,000 for each Council.
- Wychavon are extending their garden waste recycling scheme by 4,000 bins and hoped to extend their recycling targets to 50%.

Cllr Davis concluded by expressing his thanks for the support he had received over the last four years.

c) Parish Councillors

- Cllr Spiers expressed his concerns over recent crimes that had taken place just over the Parish border in Strensham. Cllr Spiers also reported on the problem of mud on the main Defford to Pershore road caused by lorries from the Bloor Homes site in Pershore. Cllr Davis agreed to follow this up.

12. To confirm date of the next meeting

The date of the next Parish Meetings are as follows

- Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 12th May at Defford Village Hall.
- Annual Parish Meeting on 26th May at Defford Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9:25pm.

Public Questions / Comments

- A parishioner reported the problem with water on the main A4104 flowing from a drain outside of Keppel Gate. This was causing issues and had caused accidents to occur in the colder weather. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would contact both Severn Trent and Highways to report this matter.
- A parishioner reported that the gate to the Millennium Green had deteriorated into a very poor state and that the green in general required some general maintenance. The Parish Council agreed to discuss this item at its next meeting

Signed by the Chairman