

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Bere Ferrers Parish Council held in Council Chamber, Bere Alston on Tuesday
27th November 2018

Present

Cllr. H. Boot-Handford	Chairman of Council
Cllr. D. M. A Chapman	Cllr. R. Maycock
Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. M. Page - Bailey
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. D. Pengelly
Cllr. S. Hanson	Cllr. H. Rogers
Cllr. B. Lamb	
Cllr. R. Leithall	

2075. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Wager due to family business, Cllr. Reed due to holiday.

2076. Fire Officer to speak about Fire Cover for Bere Alston Fire Station.

The Chairman welcomed Station Master Paul Hawker and representatives from the Bere Alston Fire Service.

Station Master Hawker – Baz is your employee and also one of our on call firemen which are very important to the Fire Service. I would like to present you with this Employee's Certificate and invite you all down to see the fire engine and have our photos taken. The Certificate read as follows;

Chief Fire Officer's Recognition of Services to the Community. This Certificate is awarded to Directors and staff of Bere Ferrers Parish Council, Bere Alston in recognition of the ongoing contribution made by Bere Ferrers Parish Council releasing staff to undertake on-call firefighting duties for Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Services at Bere Alston Fire Station.

Bere Ferrers Parish Council have released staff from their business to respond and attend emergency calls, thereby helping the community at a time of need. This ongoing commitment and contribution for over 12 years is greatly appreciated by Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service. (G. Askew Chief Fire Officer)

2077. Chairman's Report.

Cllr. Boot-Handford informed the members that during November she had had the pleasure of presenting Colin & Carol Shaw with a card & bouquet to congratulate them on their Golden Wedding. She also attended West Devon's Civic Service at North Tawton which was very uplifting and also made her very pleased that she didn't have to adorn some of the costumes which other officers obviously had as part of their position.

The Vice-Chair and I had an informal meeting with the auditor to discuss how Council should move forward and what we need to concentrate our efforts on. He was very helpful.

Earlier today I attended the Peer Review meeting at West Devon which was not well attended but where those who were there were invited to feed back to the Investigators how they felt West Devon is performing. The most useful fact to arise, as far as our Chair was concerned, was that the Precept rate is not capped at all for Parish & Town Councils and that some Councils are raising theirs by double figures in order to plan ahead in case capping is introduced in the future.

2078. Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken on these items.

Cllr. Pengelly reported that the gritter did not grit the road down to Quay View School; Cllr. Pengelly spoke to the gritting team who said they would not grit it due to ice on the road. Cllr. Pengelly contacted County and had the following reply.

I have spoken with the gritting team and this route was not gritted on the 20th of November due a high risk of ice. When a high risk is reported this route is not completed due to the danger to the gritter on

1. the bend by the railway bridge
Cllr. Maycock stated that Schools, bus routes and the station are supposed to be gritted, do they wish the Snow Wardens to grit the road for the gritter. Clerk to write to County voicing our concern.
2. Cllr. Hanson met a G.W.R. Inspector on her walk down by Wottens Farm; he stated that they are planning to replace part of the track next year between Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers. This is likely to cause disruption.
3. The Clerk reported that Jean Sharman died on Saturday.
4. The Clerk stated that someone on Facebook has posted that Denham Bridge is due to be shut on the 6th and 7th December for jetting. Clerk to confirm this.

2079. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Plans meeting held on the 30th October and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Page-Bailey.

Cllr. Lamb proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Page-Bailey.

SO RESOLVED

2080. To approve the minutes of Full Council held on 30th October as a true record and taken as read.

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

Matters Arising

Minute 1954 (3) – The Clerk read the following letter from Bill Horner Devon County Archaeologist;
I am sorry for the delay in getting back to you about any progress regarding repairs to the historic milestone at Quarry Cross. There has been a change in Highways officers since last year’s discussions but I have contacted my Highways colleagues and chased them today. I have also visited (on 7th November) all of the stones at Quarry Cross and Tavistock Cross and have photographed their current condition. I will let you know what response I get to my latest efforts.
I am also checking with Historic England as I understand that the stones may have been put forward for statutory protection as Listed Buildings of Architectural/Historic Importance.

Minute 1965 – Cllr. Rogers –The next step is to get a reaction from the West Of England representative for Britain in Bloom, she is all a fire and wants to come and visit us, I will be arranging a meeting for her to give us options. I need to try to get people together; meetings have been arranged for Thursday the 6th and Tuesday the 11th at Hope Cottage afternoon meetings. I have spoken with the Headmistress at Bere Alston School she wants to include all the children, she is really for this.

Minute 2023 Cllr. Hanson pointed out a typing mistake she feels “continuous” should be “contentious”.

Minute 2025 Cllr. Dennis reported that Adam Smith has put a new vandal proof light on the porch, he will put up a temporary spot light for Victorian Evening, he will then look into putting a bracket with a removable flood light on it. Mr. Smith will test how effective this is on Saturday at Victorian Evening.

Minute 2029- Cllr. Hanson asked if the 390 houses planned for Callington Road will mean the release of funds for the rail link to Bere Alston. Cllr. Lamb the 106 does not become operative until there are 400 houses.

Minute 2030 Cllr. Hanson – the word “incentive” should read “initiative”.

Minute 2032 Cllr. Dennis – I seconded the proposal for adoption but was not at the meeting. Cllr. Boot-

Handford thought it should have been Cllr. Page-Bailey.

SO RESOLVED.

2081. To approve the minutes of the Special Full Council meeting held on the 6th November and taken as read.

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

SO RESOLVED

2082. To approve and adopt the minutes of Open Spaces held on the 6th November and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Dennis proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

Matters Arising

Minute 2042 – Cllr. Hanson asked what was happening about the return spring on the gate at Sarah Park as the person the Clerk asked to do this is ill. The Clerk stated that they would be back to doing small jobs in the New Year.

Cllr. Dennis proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

SO RESOLVED

2083. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces Precept meeting held on the 13th November and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Dennis proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

Matters arising.

Minute 2045 Title should read “recommended” not “set” the precept.

Minute 2035 Cllr. Hanson recommended to Full Council a precept of £2238 for Recreation, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

Minute 2045 Cllr. Hanson recommended to Full Council a precept of £560 for Cemetery, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

Cllr. Dennis proposed adoption of the minutes with the changes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

SO RESOLVED

2084. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Precept meeting held on the 13th November and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Page-Bailey proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Dennis

Matters arising

Minute 2046 Cllr. Leithall recommended a preliminary precept of £55,242 not including committees to Full Council, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

Cllr. Boot-Handford recommended to Full Council a precept of £2,900 for the toilets, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

Cllr. Page-Bailey proposed adoption of the minutes with the corrections, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

2085. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Plans meeting held on the 20th November and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

Matters arising.

Minute 2054- The Clerk read the following letter with regards the proposal for yellow lines; Could you

please let me know exactly where you are requesting the extra SLOW markings. DCC's current policy is that a SLOW marking must always be associated with an upright warning sign to gain driver respect, so if there is no sign currently in place or there is no suitable location for a new one it is unlikely the SLOW markings will be able to go in. We would like to know an accurate location before we could assess whether it was a requirement or not.

Cllr. Lamb proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

SO RESOLVED

2086. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on the 20th November and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Page-Bailey proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

Matters arising.

Cllr. Lamb it appears that I was not in attendance although I had input on minute 1999(3). Cllr. Lamb's name will be added to attendees.

Minute 1999(3) The Clerk reported that the hedge has been cut down.

Minute 2000(1949) Cllr. Dennis has had a word with the CCTV company they are keen to come out and meet us to discuss our requirements. Cllr. Dennis will set up a meeting with all three parties.

Minute 2011 (2) The Tommy figures – Cllr. Lamb has asked Bere Ferrers Church Hall management if they would like to display a figure and has arranged that it be presented on Saturday.
The Clerk has written to Mrs. Hill and has had confirmation that she has received and read the email but no reply to the question.

Minute 2065 Community Composting- The Clerk has had a reply from Mr. Meek stating that he is still awaiting a reply from the legal department. The Clerk phoned Mr. Meek who promised to chase up the legal department but stated he was not prepared to talk about this until the legal team have come back to him.

Cllr. Lamb suggested that a question be put to the leader of the Super Links meeting next week. The Assistant Clerk presented her report on Community Composting which she is doing as a piece of course work for her SILCA exam.

As the Assistant Clerk needs her work signed off it was agreed to refer this to Finance & General Purposes for a decision.

Minute 2068 Footpath in front of the Social Club – Cllr. Pengelly has tried to get a costing for the bollard but with no success at the moment.

Minute 2073 (3) 1 Less Worry have asked that we do a direct debit for their payment, this needs two signatures.

Cllr. Page-Bailey proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

SO RESOLVED

2087. Acceptance of two Amendments to Standing Orders as follows:

- 1) The proposal is to amend Paragraph 9b in Standing Orders from 7 clear days to 4 clear days.
Proposed by Cllr. Lamb, seconded by Cllr. Boot-Handford. and the following three councillors Cllr. Page-Bailey, Cllr. Maycock and Cllr. Crozier.
Discussions took place Cllr. Dennis asked that it be 4 working days, it was agreed that it stipulates clear days.
A vote was called for: 9 for the amendment, 1 against and 1 abstention, amendment carried.
- 2) The proposal is to amend Standing Order 19i and at the end of 19j we add; In the case of the same Councillor filling two positions, Council will appoint a third member to sit on this committee,
Proposed by Cllr. Hanson, seconded by Cllr. Dennis and the following three Councillors Cllr.

Boot-Handford, Cllr. Page-Bailey and Cllr. Reed.

A vote was called, all present were in favour of this amendment.

2088. Acceptance of three Policies as follows; Disciplinary Process, Bullying & Harassment & Capability Process.

Cllr. Boot-Handford brought forward the above policies as they had gone to South West Councils for checking. It was generally agreed that Council accept these policies.

Discussions took place regards the wording in the Bullying and Harassment Policy it was generally agreed Council accepted these policies.

Cllr. Boot-Handford stated that if anyone was not happy then as long as 5 people signed to re-discuss this that is the only way it could be re-looked at again for 6 months.

2089. Internal Audit report to be carried out by Cllr. Maycock and Cllr. Page-Bailey.

Cllr. Maycock reported that they followed 3 invoices and the relevant 3 cheques and all were correct.

2090 Report from Cllr. Lamb on West Devon Borough Council

Cllr. Lamb reminded the Southern Link members that there is a Super Links meeting next week.

West Devon Borough Council are now in the final stages of the waste contract, potentially bringing savings to our budget.

Cllr. Musgrave reported on the long protracted problems at Bere Ferrers with neighbourhood criminal Activities. As a result of concerns in the village we invited the villagers to a Community Safety meeting. 70 attended, it has been decided to start up the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to help reassure people.

2091 Format of December 18th reception for Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. Boot-Handford stated that Granville Starkey asked her to check, "Are we happy for him to write an epilogue on the Neighbourhood Plans website, basically stating there will be no update on the website, any enquiries to be forwarded to the Council. Plan parts 1 and 2 to be posted on Councils website and agree that monies remaining have to be used on policies with the plan. It was proposed that the fund held by the Parish Council be used for a donation to Hope Cottage for all their kindness in allowing the use of the rooms.

December 18th Neighbourhood Plan members to join us for a celebration there are about 7/8 of the group plus 4 partners, an official invite to be sent to them for a 7.30pm start.

Cllr. Boot-Handford wanted to know how formal do they wish the occasion to be. Discussions took place regards an appropriate recognition to all those on the committee who helped.

2092 Correspondence.

1 Mr. Hayler – The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Hayler with regards to the asbestos roof at the Cemetery Compound, asking whether it was safe to go into his workshop, also that the police should inform the Person who fell through the roof about the asbestos. The Clerk understood that the police have informed the family, but the Clerk is to get written confirmation of this.

The Clerk has been awaiting a reply from the company as to which type of asbestos it is.

Discussions took place and it was agreed that if Mr. Hayler felt it a risk then he should be advised to wear a face mask to enter his workshop.

Clerk to phone the company in the morning.

2. P.C. S.O. Greenwood Crime stats for November

Here are the crime stats for November:-

1 x threat to destroy property

1 x use threatening words or behaviour

1 x vehicle interference

- 2 x harassment without violence – domestic related
- 1 x theft from motor vehicle
- 3 x criminal damage – all related to the same incident (domestic related)
- 1 x common assault (domestic related)
- 1 x use of threatening words or behaviour
- 1 x assault – family related
- 1 x dog not under proper control
- 1 x theft

Even though the list looks long, most of the crimes are linked with ongoing issues in the area.

3. The Clerk asked for the following cheques to be paid.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| a) F.J. Yeo Ltd Replacement cheque for payment lost in the post | £382.80 |
| b) Cash- Petty cash and postage. | £50.00 |

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed payment, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

4. Diana Mitchell Bere Ferrers Villagers Group.

The main topic was the future of the cycle track. We have been unable to get funding to restore it, and would like to flatten it and reseed it with grass. Because there is excess soil there, forming the humps, it isn't possible to return it to the contour of the field without removing the excess soil (which would be expensive). It was agreed that the best solution is to make a flat area with gentle slopes around the edge, easy for the ride-on mower to access. We have asked Ron Ball to look into doing this for us, and to give us a quotation. He has asked if there would be any objection to using herbicide on the area, before reseeding it.

We agreed that we would consider what to do with this flat area, once it has been dealt with. Some have suggested that it be a new picnic area because the bottom of the field gets so wet and boggy. Whatever is decided, it will have to be cheap and easy to maintain.

These are the other topics raised:

The fence at the back of the car park has collapsed.

The bank of the football pitch has not been cut this year, even though the hedge next to it has been. In previous years this was cut at the same time as the hedge.

One of the swings near the barn has been removed, presumably by the Parish Council so that the damaged seat can be replaced.

The hole in the Barn roof still hasn't been repaired, and there is damage to tiles on the river side edge of the roof caused by hedgerow trees rubbing against it.

There was concern expressed about the matter of disintegrating boats on Bere Ferrers Quay, especially two inflatable rubber dinghies, apparently abandoned and falling to bits and therefore potentially polluting the river with plastic. We don't know who owns them or whose responsibility it is to remove them.

There was also concern expressed about the erosion of the graded area behind the river wall on the quay where so much of the surface has been washed away that there are holes appearing, and pieces of membrane being revealed.

We would be grateful if you would raise these matters with the Open Spaces Committee.

Cllr. Lamb has contacted Diana about the boats and the Quay Wall.

Signed this 11th day of December 2018.

Chairman.....