

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Plans Committee held in the Council Chamber, Bere Alston on Tuesday 8th January 2019.

<u>Present</u>	Cllr. G. R. Reed	Chairman
	Cllr. Boot-Handford	Chairman of Council
	Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. Page-Bailey
	Cllr. B. Lamb	Cllr. E. K. Wager
	Cllr. R. Maycock	

3027. Meeting with a representative of Mr. Redmond Peel Airband Community Internet Ltd, to discuss their proposed site for re-submitted Application 2927/18/PAT for the proposed antenna.

Cllr. Reed introduced Richard Blackman and Simon Palmer who are here to tell us about the proposals for Airband in the parish.

Richard Blackman proceeded to explain the current drawings.

Cllr. Page-Bailey asked where the poles are to be sited and how many in the vicinity.

Mr. Blackman – there is another pole at Battens Farm we have already carried out the tree surgery and the pole will be up in the next one and a half months, he was asked where are the other poles going to be. We have 200 sites over Dartmoor and Exmoor. How many are there in this parish? We have permission to put a pole between this one and Battens. Our work is carried out in phases; the next phase may change to fibre optics so we cannot tell you where they are going to be. Because of the allocation of this pole we have changed it to a wooden pole and reduced the height from 15 mtrs to 14 mtrs. With reference to other users on the pole this is doubtful as it has been changed to wood.

When planning phase two, fibre optics was not in the budget - it had to be microwave, and this has to be line of site. We have been asked to target 20 thousand post codes offering 30 Mb/s download.

Cllr. Page-Bailey asked if this is the tallest pole in the parish.

Mr. Blackman stated that the pole at Battens is 15mtrs and this one is 14mtrs.

Discussions then took place about the siting and where some of those present could be connected, this site does not lend itself to fibre optics.

A member of the public asked if they allow other users to use their poles.

Mr. Blackman – a wooden pole would not lend itself to mobile usage.

A member of the public asked how much unobstructed space would there be for horse riders to still use the path?

Mr. Palmer – explained where the pole, cabinet and fence will go, it will not affect the pathway at all.

The AONB comment on the last application was brought up by a member of the public.

This should not end up like a Christmas tree with other facilities using it; this is visible in an AONB and the most prominent site in the Parish.

Cllr. Boot-Handford - to take advantage of modern technology we have to put up with some things, we may not want to but have to be able to receive these facilities.

Cllr. Reed thanked Richard Blackmoor and Simon Palmer for attending and explaining the application.

Cllr. Reed then called for a vote on accepting this application. 6 were for and 1 abstention - Carried.

3028. Matters arising from the minutes of the 20th November.

Matters Arising

Minute 2095 Cllr. Crozier- with regards the antenna they have reduced its height to 14 mtrs and will be erecting a wooden pole also there is less likely hood of other users as it is a wooden pole.

3029. To deal with Planning Applications for comment. Interested parties are invited to comment on applications they have an interest in before a decision is made, at the discretion of the Chairman.

3308/18/FUL Mr. Peter Pearce
Retrospective application for roofing over yard used for storage of bins and boat at Galfride

62 Broad Park Road, Bere Alston PL20 7DU

Case Officer Ben Dancer

Comments- Council supports this application and it will tidy up the area.

3996/18/FUL Mr. Adam Smith

Erection of agricultural barn at Woodland View, Bere Alston. PL20 7BL

Case Officer Clare Stewart

Comments- Council supports this application

4144/18/TPO Mr. Roger Rowe

T1: Norway Maple- Remove and replant with 3x1.5m juvenile native broad leaf trees. Due to excessive shading, overhanging property and lean towards public footpath and road at 18

Pentillie Road, Bere Alston PL20 7BB

Case Officer Lee Marshall.

Comments- Council supports this application and it will make it a lot lighter for the occupants.

3030. To take note of Planning Applications dealt with by the Borough Council

3182/18/HHO Mr. & Mrs. C. Tanner

Householder application for extension to provide domestic garage and workshop, with home office/studio above, including garden room, vehicular access and driveway. At The Station Masters House, Drummond Way, Bere Ferrers PL20 7LT.

Grant of Conditional Approval.

3234/18/FUL Mr. Ian Schuttkacer E. Schuttkacer & Sons Ltd.

Extension to farm building at Battens Farm, Bere Alston PL20 7JB.

Grant of Conditional Approval.

3235/18/FUL Mr. Ian Schuttkacer E. Schuttkacer & Sons Ltd.

Construction of new slurry pit at Battens Farm, Bere Alston PL20 7JB.

Grant of Conditional Approval.

3667/18/HHO Mr. & Mrs. R. Dawe.

Householder application for extension to dwelling at 34 Sherrell Park, Bere Alston PL20 7AZ.

Grant of Conditional Approval.

3031. Enforcement Cases taken in part two.

Cllr. Reed proposed committee go into part two and invoke Standing Order P3, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

Discussions took place.

Cllr. Crozier proposed come out of part two, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Enforcement Officer with regards the first two items on the list.

3032. Report on Joint Traffic Group Meeting.

THE SPEED TASK GROUP

- DCC is developing policies for lower speed limits on single track roads and other appropriate rural roads as the result of the high level of accidents on these highways. They are also considering policies which might justify lower speed limits outside schools. I expect a consultation document

to go out before Easter but we might want to write with any comments at this stage, as often it is easier to influence before the draft than afterwards.

- This part of the meeting was chaired by Cllr. Jackie Hook and I was impressed by her determination to have some action taken.
- We also looked at speed enforcement problems but felt that non enforcement was not a justification to impose lower limits as a large number of motorists would comply and this itself imposes a control.
- I mentioned the need for some measures to be taken to reduce accidents on the Denham Bridge Road – noted.

Cllr. Lamb felt we should write supporting the new policy to reduce accidents particularly on the Denham Bridge Road

3033. Report on Highway Winter Servicing.

- Snow Warden Scheme appears to be working well – special emphasis on shopping pavements as DCC do not cover these – important to get grit orders in. (I suggest we have a contingency stock in case they decide to charge in future.)
- Do you have a Snow Plan, important to liaise with Local Highways Officer.
- Cost of lorry gritting for one night varies from £5,000 to £10,700 dependent on area
- Parishes have no legal responsibility to grit, however volunteers should be insured against personal injury and loss
- Third party insurance claims covered by DCC
- New grit bins only on new estates but will consider moving existing bins if Parish believe in more suitable location
- The Chair did not want to discuss the recent non -gritting of the lower school road due to icy conditions. However, I had a meaningful discussion with Chris Cranston, Operations Manager, Devon Highways who was aware of the particular problem and was in contact with Tom Lee, Local Highways Officer. (If a vehicle could not proceed in these circumstances then the driver is required to sign the road ‘Ice’.) The following day I received this note from Tom Lee and it appears to be a satisfactory course of action in these circumstances:

‘I have looked into this further and the policy is that this arrangement has been in place since we optimised the gritting routes in 2010. Quite simply if the risk rating for the gritter driver is low or moderate this section should be treated. Where the risk rating is red this will not happen due to the risk at the bridge. We are going to organise to put a grit bin out near to the bend and the plan would be to contact the school when a red risk rating occurs letting them know the road won’t be gritted, they can then use the grit bin if needed. This will be dependent on the flow of information passed back from the gritter driver to our HOCC team so we cannot guarantee a message will get sent every time. We will also be putting up permanent ice signs on either side of the road to warn drivers of the potential risk of ice. Hopefully this should help mitigate further problems in the future.’

3034. Response to Highway Officer on Slow signs etc. on Denham Bridge Road.

Could you 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 need to know an accurate location before we could assess whether it was a requirement or not. Discussions took place and suggestions were a sign at the beginning and end of Denham with possible wording “Slow narrow winding roads you need to use passing places”.

Also slow signs on bends above and below Trendle. After further discussions it was agreed that a request for a slow sign to be erected on the start and end of the triple bend above Trendle down to Trendle Lane.

3035. Report from Road Wardens

Cllr. Lamb brought up a request from a parishioner who has blocked drains at Bere Ferrers on the road side by the Quay, would the Road Warden team go and have a look to see if they can clear them.

The Clerk read the following letter from Devon County Highways;

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3036. Correspondence.

1. West Devon Planning-The Clerk read the following letter

Important information about planning consultations from West Devon Borough Council

From April 1st 2019 all Town and Parish Councils in West Devon will be advised about planning consultations from West Devon Borough Council by email. Town and Parish Councils will no longer receive a paper copy of planning applications, plans and associated documents but will be sent a link to view and comment on each application online.

Receiving and reviewing planning information electronically may present challenges for some Parish and Town Councils but the experience of councils already working in this way shows that even the remotest communities can successfully work electronically. If you believe that a lack of broadband in your area will prevent this working successfully then please read through our list of 'Barriers and Possible Solutions' below. We are here to provide help and support throughout the process to ensure that this change is made as smoothly as possible.

Benefits of Electronic Working for Town and Parish Council

- No need to store files in your homes or collect and deliver them from each other
- Save time emailing links to applications around to councillors and residents rather than handling the paper files
- Ensures the most up to date documents are used. The paper files could be out of date as soon as they are printed, whereas the documents on the West Devon Borough Council planning pages have the most up to date information about all current applications, including contributions from other interested parties.
- Quicker for consultation and re-consultation
- Will enable easier compliance with the Data Protection Act by not keeping paper copies of applications, including applicant's personal information, in councillors / clerks homes
- Opportunity for everyone to view the drawings and plans online before the meeting and be better prepared
- Compatible with other business, council departments, local authorities where digital is the default
- Improves transparency of the Parish / Town council meetings, planning processes, contributions and decisions

Benefits of Electronic Working for WDBC

- Saving of printing and postage costs
- Release of resources to focus on timely and efficient delivery of the service

- Reduced environmental impact

Barriers and Possible Solutions

Barriers to working electronically	Possible solutions
Do not have broadband connections in the places where the meetings are held	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out agenda for meetings in good time to allow members time to review at home • Publicise agenda as widely as possible, using noticeboards and social media. • If parish own premises, and broadband is available, look to install • If don't own, collaborate with owner to share cost and install broadband • Could move meetings to venue that has broadband • Could download documents prior to meeting and work offline • Could purchase a mobile accessible dongle so that internet can be accessed during the meetings as / when required
Cost of purchasing PC/laptop, screen, projector and broadband connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be some funding available to assist with the cost of equipment if required. E.g. https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england#section-2 • Parish & town councils could collaborate to jointly purchase equipment in bulk • Neighbouring parishes could share equipment, hold meetings on different days
On-going cost of maintaining the equipment and broadband rental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could hire out the equipment • Could share the facilities and equipment with neighbouring parish
Some parish clerks and councillors lack the IT skills to process the information into a parish meeting format / download the documents / know what is the best way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use our guidance notes to assist you • Could request help from any of the parishes who have already moved to electronic consultation • Could request training from any IT literate local residents • Ask for help from Development Management team, we can provide advice and training if necessary • Could use YouTube tutorials for information and training
Some parish councillors don't have access to broadband at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could use the parish equipment • Could use the public library/WDBC Council offices • Could use neighbours' / friends' / other councillors' computer
Broadband speed can be slow in some parishes, some locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could set up parish meetings to work off-line • Allow plenty of time for downloading documents • Consider only downloading some of the documents (not all)
May want a paper copy of the plans on site visits Note - parishes will continue to receive paper plans for major applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If someone has a tablet device, could take that on site • Could do site visits paperless but review plans online beforehand • Could use Google Earth/Streetview instead of doing site visit • Print paper copy of key plans yourselves (on A4 paper for information)
Having to set up the equipment for the meetings at the venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should only take 5 mins to set up • Use YouTube tutorial & Google for instructions

How to view and comment on applications electronically

Please view our attached step by step guidance showing you how to view and make comments on applications electronically. Do not wait until March, we would recommend that you start working in the new way as soon as possible.

Disposal of planning documentation on file

Documentation containing personal data should not be kept longer than is needed and old paper records should be safely disposed of in accordance with your records retention policy. If you have any specific concerns or questions regarding this then please check with NALC and / or the ICO.

In order to give you time to prepare for the change, we will continue to post paper copies until **31st March 2019**, however if you are ready to go paperless before this date please do get in contact and let us know so we are not posting plans unnecessarily.

Please note that this change will not apply to major applications which will continue to be printed and posted as they are now.

If you have any questions or feedback then please contact the Development Management Team on DM@swdevon.gov.uk using 'Paperless consultation' in the subject field.

The Committee recommend to F. & G.P. that because of the way Planning applications will be emailed to Council, Council purchase a projector and the necessary equipment to view the applications.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.29pm.

Signed this 29th day of January 2019

Chairman