

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Bere Ferrers Parish Council held in Council Chamber, Bere Alston on Tuesday
30th April 2019

Present

Cllr. H. Boot-Handford	Chairman of Council
Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. D. Pengelly
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. H. Rogers
Cllr. S. Hanson	Cllr. G. R. Reed
Cllr. B. Lamb	Cllr. E. K. Wager
Cllr. R. Maycock	

3237. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Leithall due to business, Cllr. Page-Bailey due to illness and Cllr. D. Chapman.

Cllr. Boot-Handford asked if Council accepts these apologies, nearly all agreed.

3238. Chairman's Report.

This is by way of my valedictory as this is the last Council meeting at which I will be chair throughout the evening. I've been working with Council for 14 years, three as Chair and now I look forward to finding out what the next turn in my path will bring.

What I'm about to say is not to invite sympathetic disagreement or through false humility but because I would like to leave Council with a clear conscience.

This year has been the most challenging that I have experienced in my time as a member of Council and I would like to apologise to any that feel I have not led Council well through aspects of our business.

I would also like to thank everyone who has offered me advice and support and for the understanding and forbearance I have experienced as I have floundered through the year.

I am aware that I do not possess management skills, never having worked in business, nor do I have the aptitude to negotiate on a professional level. Both of these qualities would have helped during this year and so I would also like to offer some advice to those members of Council who will be taking up office as Chairs and Vice-Chairs next week from the experiences I have had recently. Take advantage of any and every aspect of training that comes your way because Councillors are expected to perform a professional job with no necessity to bring the correct skills with them. When challenges present themselves it will be too late to realise that you are under-skilled.

To balance this navel gazing, I would like to say that I have found working with Council stimulating and an absolute privilege. One of my strengths is administrative work, and I am proud of the contribution that I have made to the overwhelming amount of paperwork in which Council wallows, although there may be those amongst you who feel differently. The dedication that I have witnessed from many colleagues over the years went far and beyond the call of duty and is mostly under appreciated by the public that we serve.

I would also like to thank Mary and Cheryl for their support and hard work which keeps the business of Council running smoothly, for the most part! I would now like to pay tribute to our other retiring Councillor. Doris has served Council for 34 years and has been a stalwart as chair of the Footpaths Committee. On behalf of all of us I'd like to present Doris with this picture to say "Happy Retirement" and "Thank You."

3239. Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken on these items.

1. Cllr. Pengelly – has had a report that where the piece of wood edging is missing there is a nail sticking out. Clerk reported that the missing edging was to be replaced by the Workman.
2. Cllr. Rogers – reported that Britain in Bloom has a float in the Carnival procession. We now have an excellent display promised right down to the Station, displays every 100yds all the way. There are 40 people actively involved now putting it together, such as the Scouts, local Businesses, Youth 2 Youth, the Gardening Club and the School.

3240. To approve the minutes of the Full Council held on the 26th March as a true record and taken as read.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 3140 Cllr. Lamb wished to have the minutes corrected as follows; `West Devon Borough Council has had a special audit regarding the hotel decision.

Minute 3185 The Clerk has had the following email from Devon County Highways

“Thank you for your time this afternoon to discuss the email you sent to Councillor Hughes last Friday.

As discussed there should have been advance signing and notice of the resurfacing works in Fore St undertaken at the end of March.

In addition, we discussed the drainage clearance work undertaken about 8 weeks ago at Denham Bridge road which was also closed without warning.

Please accept my apologies that no advance notice was given in either case. These matters will be investigated further to establish what has happened.”

Minute 3156 Cllr. Lamb proposed that since the order has been placed and a substantial discount negotiated, payment be made immediately after delivery, seconded by Cllr. Reed; all were in favour.

Minute 3148. The Clerk has been in contact with Ricoh to investigate networking the photo copier in as a printer for the plans.

Minute 3193. Cllr. Lamb reported that there will be Southern Links training for new Councillors in June.

SO RESOLVED

3241. To approve & adopt the minutes of the Plans meeting held on the 2nd April and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Reed proposed approval of the minutes of the Plans meeting, seconded by Cllr. Wager

Matters Arising.

Minute 3200 - with regards to the grant for further equipment towards the Road Warden Scheme, the money has been spent. Refer this to F. & G.P.

Cllr. Reed proposed adoption of the Plans minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

SO RESOLVED.

3242. Five Councillors have asked that the following motion be placed on the agenda. 'In accordance with Standing Order 7(a) that the following decision made by Open Spaces Committee on Tuesday 12th March be rescinded. A parishioner has asked permission to dig a nature pond at his allotment.' The effect of this motion is that permission to dig the pond will be refused.

Cllr. Lamb - when this request came before Open Spaces, the Allotment Holders Association had not been consulted. The Bere Ferrers Allotment Association members are against having a pond for a number of reasons, including

- Allotments are believed to be for growing of fruit and vegetables, not for wildlife.
- Water is known to attract rats.
- There is concern about how the pond would be maintained
- There is concern that a pond such as this would increase the likelihood of weeds establishing and spreading to other plots.
- Any follow on plot holder would have the problem of having to fill in the pond.

Cllr. Lamb's request to rescind this decision now needs to be voted on. A vote was called 9 for rescinding the minute and 1 abstention. Motion Carried.

3243. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on the 16th April and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Wager proposed approval of the Open Spaces minutes, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.
Matters Arising

Minute 3204 -Cllr. Crozier reported that he, Cllr. Boot-Handford and Cllr. Leithall met up with B.A.U.F.C. to discuss the lease. We were amenable in supporting the lease for the Pavilion on similar terms as the ones they hold.

The Football Club will require a letter of intent from Council for the Football Association. There will be financial implications long term.

Minute 3206. Cllr. Pengelly reported that Rhino had offered the rubber chip free of charge. He asked them to confirm that they would still supply it free of charge, and they replied that they would, but Council would have to pay the delivery charge at £250 per load.

Cllr. Lamb was aware of Cllr. Pengelly's concern about the swing being locked from use, and reiterated his concern about the TAP grant timing.

Council gave authority to Cllr. Lamb, Cllr. Wager and Cllr. Crozier to define the work required at Sarah Park and report back to Council. Cllr. Hanson proposed that Cllr. Crozier become Chairman of the sub-committee for Sarah Park drainage scheme, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

Minute 3208. Cllr. Dennis stated that he was not able to attend the meeting but the intent of the meeting was to give Clive Pascoe the grave digger better access with his truck into the Cemetery. Now that the workman does not need a track up to the workshop, Jeremy Maddock to meet up with Clive Pascoe to base the plans on a turning circle into the Cemetery linked into the extension. This will save money in the long run by not having to widen the drive from the workman's compound which means there will be more graves in this area.

Cllr. Wager proposed adoption of the Open Spaces minutes, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

SO RESOLVED

3244. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on the 23rd April and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

The Clerk brought to the attention of Council that in minute 3219, Cllr. Crozier had proposed going into part two and also he had seconded Cllr. Boot-Handford's proposal, but Cllr. Crozier does not sit on this committee.

Cllr. Lamb agreed to have his name added in place of Cllr. Crozier's.

Cllr. Dennis proposed approval of the minutes of Finance & General Purposes with the above correction, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

Matters Arising.

Minute 3219 Cllr. Lamb pointed out that the minutes of the sub-committee have been left out of the minutes.

Cllr. Lamb pointed out that the sub-committee minutes had appointed Councillors to carry out the Staff

Appraisals, but this was contrary to Standing Orders; it should be The Clerk assisted by a Councillor.

Cllr. Lamb proposed that this be returned to Finance & General Purposes next month for re-discussion, and the minutes of the sub-committee be recorded in the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

Minute 3233. Cllr. Dennis was asked if there was any further up-date on the Beregen situation. He stated that for the next couple of months the finances were satisfactory, but as to the longer term there are urgent negotiations via email as Mr. Paul Gentle is away on business.

The Trustees are getting together in May to develop a package to bring to Council

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed approval of the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes, seconded by Cllr. Reed

SO RESOLVED.

3245. To approve and adopt the verbal minutes of the Planning meeting held on the 30th April.

Cllr. Lamb asked the Clerk to read the minutes of the Plans meeting.

Application for a licence for Tamar Valley Farm to sell drink over the internet. The licence to run from 09.00 -21.00.

Comments. The Council has no problems with the licence and would encourage local business, but are concerned about heavy lorry traffic and the lateness of the licence. Council supported this application

Cllr. Lamb asked for approval of the verbal minutes, seconded by Cllr. Wager.

Cllr. Lamb asked for adoption of the verbal minutes, seconded by Cllr. Wager.

SO RESOLVED.

3246. Internal Audit to be carried out by Cllr. Reed and Cllr. Boot-Handford.

Cllr. Reed followed an invoice trail B. Both Cllr. Reed and Cllr. Boot-Handford reported all satisfactory.

3247. Report by Cllr. Lamb on the Tamar Valley Line Meeting

Journey figures of 179,874 for 2018 were very disappointing with a 5.8% drop on previous year. The biggest drops were in February, early April and late August. Part of this was due to weather disruption causing trains to be cancelled.

The Partnership are mounting a major marketing campaign over the next few months to encourage more patronage in various places and sections of society, from Primary Schools to University Fresher's.

GWR are phasing out single carriage (153's) from this region and all future trains will consist of two carriages. On peak trains there had been horrendous crowding situations in the single units.

Discussions about bus services to and from Plymouth Station were wide ranging, particularly about the service Drakes Circus to Tavistock, which means crossing the dual carriageway by the bridge, not an easy task with shopping or luggage and terrible in bad weather. I know that for persons with physical disability that the only choice is taxi to cross the road! (Costs £4.10).

Members were disgusted that the above is unlikely to improve with the expenditure of millions on the newly rebuilt station. Various protests being raised.

Hoped that there will be a late train on the Firework Competition nights, again the question was raised about a bus connection to and from the Station.

Plans going ahead for Tamar Valley AONB celebrating 25 years 2019 and Mayflower 2020 Festival.

The Gunnislake-Okehampton 187 Sunday service may run again this year.

There will be a Sunday service on the Exeter-Okehampton line.

Heralds of Spring project took children by train from Bere Alston School to Bere Ferrers during the daffodil season; Clive Charlton and Frances Howard were the guides, along with Rebecca Cantrell from Devon & Cornwall Partnership.

3248. Report from Cllr. Lamb on West Devon Borough Council

Cllr. Lamb- It is appropriate that my thanks go to this Council and Clerk for the support for my years in West Devon, and the best of luck to the three members of Council who will be standing for West Devon.

Cllr. Boot-Handford thanked Cllr. Lamb on behalf of this Council.

3249. Correspondence.

a) The Clerk asked for the following accounts to be paid;

1. Chairman's allowance	£30.87
2. Chubb Fire & Security Ltd- Call out for Parish Hall	£327.60
3. Lloyds Bank – Rhino Basket swing.	£3600.00
4. Post Office Ltd – BT Broadband.	£130.44
5. C. Malham – Travel expenses for CILCA course Bere Alston/ Yeovil & back.	£88.47

Cllr. Dennis proposed payment of the accounts, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed this 28th day of May 2019

Chairman.....