

## Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Bere Ferrers Parish Council held in Council Chamber, Bere Alston on Tuesday  
25<sup>th</sup> June 2019

### Present

Cllr. B. Lamb	Chairman of Council
Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. M. Page-Bailey
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. H. Peace
Cllr. M. Flicker	Cllr. D. Pengelly
Cllr. S. Hanson	Cllr. E.K. Wager
Cllr. R. Leithall	
Cllr. R. Maycock	

### 92. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Reed due to holiday.

### 93. Chairman's Report.

Item 10 on the agenda is the election of a new Finance & General Purposes Committee. I must apologise for the cause of this occurrence. The facts are that under our Financial Regulations for this Committee, the Vice-Chair of the Council and the Chair of Open Spaces are ex-officio members, so only four other members should have been elected. We received advice from DALC and the District's Monitoring Officer that we should re-run the election, and that is the recommendation from the F & G P at paragraph 9 to this Council. If this is adopted then a new election will take place under agenda item 10.

The Village is blooming! Wherever we go we are met by flowers, not only on the main streets but on the estates as well. All I see is people not only planting in their gardens but cleaning gutters and pavements etc. This is a wonderful achievement by Helena whose vision is making this village really exceptional and we still have three weeks to go. I ask that all of you implore any reluctant ones not to miss the boat! Helena thank you!

At short notice I attended the Annual Meeting of the Youth Football Club and presented some of the trophies. I was amazed to see a full Bowling Club with not only parents, but grandparents as well supporting their children. There is already a network of coaches and trainers working with each team. Tremendous zest and enthusiasm, and I believe this Council should continue to give them every support. I also attended the special meeting of Bere Gen and Cllr. Dennis will give a report.

The bus shelter at Bedford Street junction with Pilgrim Drive was erected in record time and is being well used.

A group of us are probably half way through what has turned out to be a large task with the rebuilding of the Sarah Park Playground. Atrocious weather, unexpected clay conditions, and a lot more bark chip than expected, required that we move off site over 50 tons of material. At one stage last week I don't think there were any spare tractors, diggers, Bo Cats etc. available in the District - they were all marshalled into Sarah Park under Transport Director Crozier! New drainage and soakaways are now in and the final surface is now being graded and compressed prior to stone and then rubber chippings being put down. We are also renovating the equipment and BARP have presented us with two new swings.

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

1. Cllr. Maycock – asked the Chairman if we could have a formal introduction to the new Councillor.  
Cllr. Peace formally introduced herself to those members of Council not present last month.
2. Cllr. Hanson – asked Cllr. Maycock if he had any information from the Road Warden Training Course when he took it.  
Cllr. Maycock felt this was the worst idea Devon County Highways had come up with around Devon, it really is a case of go our own way and do what we wish.

**95. To approve the minutes of the Full Council held on the 28th May as a true record and taken as read.**

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

Matters Arising

Minute 71 (38) The Clerk produced two quotes for the replacement gates at the lower entrance of the Recreation Field on The Down.

1. Richard Cole quoted £1,000 + vat of £200 = £1,200.
2. Steve Hingston £700 with no vat.

Discussions took place; Cllr. Wager proposed that Mr. Hingston be asked to undertake this work, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

The Assistant Clerk asked to bring forward about the Finance & General Purposes meeting where there should have been an explanation with regards to the five items left out of the end of year finance figures. Cllr. Lamb informed the Assistant Clerk that this meeting was not the place to bring this forward.

**SO RESOLVED**

**96 To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 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 76. (1) Cllr. Wager - why were the brackets for the hanging baskets outside the toilets taken down. It is understood that the gentleman asked to have them returned.

The Clerk has been in touch with Cllr. Rogers as the workman is off sick and will not be back for at least a week.

Minute 81. Youth 2 Youth shelter- The Clerk reported that the company will be starting work on erecting it on Friday. It was suggested at a site meeting that the laurel hedge be cut back, the only problem being that the workman is on sick leave. Cllr. Crozier offered to look at it.

Minute 85. With regards to the screw sticking out on the edging board at the Down Play Park, Cllr. Pengelly reported that there are still screws sticking out.

Cllr. Wager noted that an item was taken in part two but not noted in these minutes.

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

**SO RESOLVED.**

**97. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Plans meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> June and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Crozier proposed approval of the Plans minutes, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

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

**SO RESOLVED.**

**98. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on the 18th June and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Maycock proposed approval of the minutes of Finance & General Purposes, seconded by Cllr. Page-Bailey.

Cllr. Maycock proposed adoption of the minutes of Finance & General Purposes, seconded by Cllr. Page-Bailey.

**SO RESOLVED.**

**99. To elect a new Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

Cllr. Lamb apologized for the error and pointed out that there is an inconsistency between Standing Orders (para 4b) and Financial Regulations (para 19.1). He and the Clerk had sought clarification on the action that should be taken from Catherine Bowen (the Monitoring Officer) and the DALC, which is why this election has been called.

Council will now elect four members for F. & G. P.

The Chairman then handed over to the Clerk who asked Councillors to put their names on the slips of paper and indicate whether they wished to stand for election to the F. & G.P. committee.

The Clerk left the Chamber to count the slips, on returning she announced that 6 members had put forward. Cllr. Leithall withdrew his name.

The Clerk read out the names of those members standing and asked Council to vote for 4 members by secret ballot.

After counting the votes the Clerk returned to announce the following members will make up the F. & G.P. Committee:

Cllr. Crozier, Cllr. Dennis, Cllr. Hanson, Cllr. Maycock, Cllr. Pengelly, and Cllr. Wager.

**100. Report from Cllr. Crozier on West Devon Borough Council**

Cllr. Crozier - There are 15 new councillors in West Devon Borough Council, they will under-go an intensive training program over the next nine weeks. There is new laptop and IT with lots of teething problems.

Borough Council recognizes climate change and is joining with other District Councils in Devon to fall in behind Devon County Council.

Increasing recycling rate is one key initiative that can easily be implemented.

Planning - the planning team have been asked why more new houses have not got basic green systems installed at the beginning.

The controversial investment property had yielded £288K in the first year; this is equivalent to 6-7% on the council tax.

There was an under-spend of £89K at the end of the year.

**101. Internal Audit to be carried out by Cllr. Lamb and Cllr. Dennis.**

Cllr. Dennis - Code A has been used for this audit. He explained that they have followed a cheque from the printed off account sheets to clearance and all is in order.

**102. The following resolution has been put forward by Cllr. Lamb, seconded by Cllr. Crozier, In accordance with paragraph 19c of Standing Orders it is proposed that Council shall resolve that Staff Performance Reviews shall take place in the Autumn with the addition that the Clerk may be assisted by either the Chairman or Vice Chairman.**

Discussions took place on the wording as Annual Review and Staff Performance Review were not the same. Cllr. Leithall proposed that the resolution be amended to read Annual Appraisal. Cllr. Maycock was asked if he was in agreement. He concurred.

A vote was taken on the amended resolution, 10 for and 2 abstentions.

### **103 To receive the Internal Audit Report, to complete the Annual Governance Statements for Audit.**

The Clerk circulated the audit paper work by email. It was agreed to accept the Internal Audit Report from the auditor. Council then went on to fill in the AGAR statements and duly sign them.

Cllr. Crozier proposed acceptance of the statements, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

A vote was taken on acceptance; there were 9 for and 3 abstentions. Motion carried.

### **104. Report from Beregen on their financial position.**

Cllr. Dennis summarised the situation - the Trustees wish to continue with the Council's help. Cllr. Dennis asked if Council would give grants. It was explained that this year's precept has already been fixed. They hope to try for a grant next year. In the meantime the important thing is to let the playschool room; there is a perspective person interested in opening a nursery.

Cllr. Maycock - Rev. Law gave a predicted situation six months ago on the basis of predicted revenue, what is Beregen's situation now?

Cllr. Dennis - There has been a slump in hall lettings we are getting short notice lettings. This does not include the room downstairs.

Cllr. Hanson - is it accepted that the general rental fees are about right?

Cllr. Dennis - rates are affordable at the present time, the Primary school has put up its rates for the school hall and we are now getting people coming up to hire the hall. We have a block booking for Friday nights from 3-9 which we did not have six months ago.

### **105. Inspection of resources and policies.**

Cllr. Lamb - over the last three months incidents have been noted concerning the cemetery and the bus shelter in Station Road. It appears that we are not checking all our assets, so we need to highlight all assets and put them on a list for regular checking.

Policies have taken up a lot of time in committee over the last year; perhaps we should look into a way of delegating this. Chairman to look into this. Action by the Chairman of Council.

### **106. Do all Parish Councillors wish to have a Council email address?**

Cllr. Dennis has been able to obtain 15 BFPC.org.uk addresses from our domain website for your Council work. Does anyone wish to take this up?

Discussions took place.

Cllr. Maycock felt that to reject this would be very foolhardy as it seems it is a requirement of GDPR. Councillors need to think this over, make a decision, and contact Cllr. Dennis.

### **107. Correspondence.**

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

1. Post Office Ltd. EDF - Toilets BA/BF.	£64.12
2. Jewson Ltd - Materials for Sarah Pk. + paint for toilets & table legs	£366.28
3. B. Lamb – Reimbursement for materials for Sarah Park.	£34.14
4. Eco Chippings - Rubber chip Sarah Park.	£7,434.00

Cllr. Wager proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

(b) Mr. Phil Archer- Trustee, Treasurer and Council representative on the Sir John Maynard Trust.

From January 2018 to May 2019 the Trust has provided funding for computers, laptops, a musical wall and tuition, also a pantomime. A grant was awarded to Bryn Bourton an ex pupil who is attending a World Wide Scouting Jamboree in America. These projects have cost the Trust £17,227.31p. Income in the same period was £8,558.27p, ongoing finances are in good shape.

(c) Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service. - Service Delivery Operating Model Proposal. I am contacting you following the announcement of proposed changes to Service Delivery within Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. There are six proposed options for changing the way we operate our fire service that will be presented to the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority for consideration on 28<sup>th</sup> June. The Authority will decide on this date which of these options should form part of the public consultation. We will be holding public drop-in exhibitions in the localities that are affected by the proposals through July and August. In addition to the public events, we would like to offer the opportunity for our staff to attend one of your Parish Council meetings to discuss the proposed options. Cllr. Peace felt we should welcome them to attend a Public Meeting in the Parish Hall.

(d) Rev. Nick Law - Shelter agreement. The way I read the agreement Y2Y will not actively use the shelter outside those times, however it is a public area and Y2Y cannot supervise its use; so we could agree with the wording so long as the wider implications are acknowledged. Y2Y Annual General meeting next Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Cllr. Lamb would like to pay tribute to Cllr. Page-Bailey for all the hours he has put in on the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019

Chairman.....