

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chamber Bere Alston on Tuesday 16th July 2019

Present

Cllr. E. K. Wager	Chairman
Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. R. Leithall
Cllr. S. Hanson	Cllr. D. Pengelly

In Attendance. Cllr. Rogers.

130. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Lamb and Cllr. Flicker due to holidays.

131. Matters arising from the minutes of the 11th June.

Matters arising.

Minute 77. Flattening the Cycle track at Bere Ferrers Recreation Field. The Clerk has received the following letter from Diana Mitchell – “I need to catch up with Ron Ball about the cleared area as he has been doing the work for us. It may be that we need to get volunteers to clear the large stones. I should imagine it’s been far too dry to seed the area and he might be waiting for rain.

Several people have asked me whether we could seed the area with wild flower mix. What does the Parish Council think about that? I think that wild flower areas have to be cut possibly only once or twice a year”.

Discussions were held and it was agreed that perhaps a bed of wild flowers be planted in the centre and grass seed the rest.

Minute 78. The Clerk has spoken with DALC about the drawing up of the lease for the Pavilion, but they cannot offer that service.

Replacement of the fence around the football pitch. The Clerk reported that the football club have replaced the fence but have brought it out by a foot on either side. The Clerk read the following letter from a Parishioner:

- a) I note with dismay that the fence has been replaced around the football pitch. It was a pleasure to walk in the park without that eyesore. Surely it would have been better to install a temporary barrier similar to the barrier that the juniors use which can be removed and replaced as required.

The original wooden fence allowed access to the area via gaps either side of each goal and dugout, each corner of the field and two gates for vehicle access. The gates were usually broken and impossible to use by older people. The cross spars were spaced so that it was possible to access the field with a squeeze between them.

The new fence only allows access at the two gates and either side of the goals. One corner has been left open adjacent to the hedge. This makes access to this area of our park very difficult for anyone let alone the older people. Considering the very limited use and the very few people from our village who use the football facility this seems a very unreasonable action to take.

In the interest of peace and harmony would the council please ask the football club to reinstate the fence as it was, for the benefit of the majority of park users. Dog owners will find it very difficult to clean up after their dogs.

- b) I would like to bring to the Councils attention again that there is a quantity of broken asbestos sheets and general rubbish at the back of the pavilion.
- c) We now have an unsightly grass compost heap next to the hut as this has been treated with herbicide it should be disposed of correctly.

Please bear in mind that the vast majority of Park users have nothing to do with the Football Club and are angry about the fence.

Cllr. Wager agreed that there is a mess behind the hut.
Discussions took place about the football club extending the pitch without permission, the Chairman is not happy with what they have done.

Minute 81. Y2Y The agreement for the shelter. The Clerk read the following email from Vicki Lloyd:

“I’m happy with most of the agreement, however I’m not sure about ‘Y2Y’ only using the shelter between 8am and 11pm? Therefore I’d suggest it is taken out of the agreement as it is not possible to police.”

The Clerk also had the following email from the Rev. Nick Law:

“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.

Discussions took place, it was felt that all concerned were happy with the lease; all that was now needed was to sign the document.

Minute 84. Lawn Flight tractor – The Clerk understands that the repairs to the tractor are not finished as yet.

Cllr. Pengelly asked that committee to go into part two as he had a question he wished clarified.

Cllr. Hanson proposed committee go into part two, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

Discussions were held.

Cllr. Leithall proposed that committee come out of part two, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

132. Financial Statements.

The financial statements were emailed to all committee members. Discussions took place.

The Clerk explained that at the end of the 2018/9 financial year there was some precept money not spent. To retain this, committee needs to earmark the sums for specific jobs.

The Cemetery spreadsheet has a sum of £6228.68 unspent, and the Recreation spreadsheet shows a sum of £4311.90 unspent.

Cllr. Dennis proposed that the £6,228.68 for Cemetery be added to the Earmarked Reserves for the Cemetery Road Infrastructure, and the £4311 for Recreation be added to Earmarked Reserves for Play Park Equipment, seconded by Cllr. Hanson, all present were in agreement.

133. Report from BARP.

Cllr. Pengelly - BARP has just donated £500 towards the new basket swings for Sarah Park.

The Clerk read the following email from Rhino: “Our team attended site at Sarah Park on Friday and replaced the swing leg. Having seen the leg at the workshop I fully appreciate the need to replace it.

The two cradle seats were also replaced at The Down.

Having inspected these, our opinion is as originally considered. These seats have been twisted to a point where the weld has broken on a number of the eyebolts; this requires a considerable amount of force.

Rhino Play Limited fits dozens of these swings every year and has never had an issue like this before. It is therefore unlikely that 2 seats in the same location are likely to have the same manufacturing fault of this kind.

If this was to happen again at The Downs we would not replace the seats again”.

Cllr. Pengelly reported that he has inspected the swings and one of the discs has broken again. Discussions took place. Cllr. Leithall agreed to take pictures of the broken weld and seek some advice.

134. To discuss a suggestion from Cllr. Rogers regarding the Parish Hall Play area.

Cllr. Rogers stated that she would like to give a brief summary of how the judging went on Friday with Britain in Bloom.

The suggestion was that next time bigger pots be used as they would not dry out so quickly. We were restricted with pots we could carry, we need more strong arm men next year. The judges praised Cllr. Rogers for the community involvement they had never seen this kind of thing before. In the Y2Y area, consideration should be given to making it into an area for everyone. For example, we could put in another bench and a low maintenance garden - something to engage the young people with. Cllr. Rogers hopes to go for grants for next year.

Cllr. Crozier – On behalf of the Chairman and the rest of the Council we would like to congratulate you and your team for all the hard work you have put in to make the village look so nice.

Cllr. Rogers. – Mr. Brian Engalfield will hopefully be organising it next year.

135. To be brought up to date with the work on Sarah Park Drainage.

Cllr. Crozier – we have managed to obtain 31 tons of stone from Hanson UK free of charge.

We started off with myself, Cllr. Lamb, Cllr. Pengelly and the workman, with Cllr. Wager helping to clear the site with help from volunteers. We hope to finish off the stone tomorrow, lay the teram and then the rubber chippings, with an official opening on Wednesday the 17th July.

Cllr. Hanson wished to record this Council’s appreciation for what Cllr. Lamb, Cllr. Crozier and the team have done.

136. Update on road infrastructure Cemetery, also possible inspection of Cemetery drawings and elect an Advisory Committee.

Cllr. Dennis is on holiday defer to next meeting.

137. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish recreation and play parks.

Cllr. Leithall – at the Recreation Field The Down, we need to lift the gate latch pin to fasten. There are two nails poking through the ground stake. The concrete foundation is exposed below the black toadstool. The roundabout turns more freely than when installed. Toddler swings have been renewed.

138. Monthly Inspection of Allotments Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers

Cllr. Wager – asked Cllr. Hanson how she got on with her inspection. She stated that although about two thirds of the plots were looking good, the rest were very neglected.

Cllr. Wager - Eddy Penny’s is still bad and 2 plots down are in a bad state.

139. Correspondence.

- 1.** The Clerk received the following letter from a parishioner; “I am writing to complain about the amount of parents that have taken to driving into and across the Recreational Field to pick up

kids from football practice, it is dangerous for the small children and anybody with small dogs. One parent went across and reached third gear in his pick up the other evening. This is too dangerous and there is no need for it.”

The Clerk has spoken with Steve Hingston who is putting the new gate on; he will be starting as soon as possible. It was suggested that if he could not start right away could he put a post in the middle of the entrance to stop the vehicles driving in.

140. Proposals for next meeting.

1. Sarah Park finalisation of the work.
2. Sarah Park basket swing.
3. To inspect the updated Plans for the Cemetery,

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.34pm

Signed this 30th day of July 2019.

Chairman.....