

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Plans Committee held in the Council Chamber, Bere Alston on Tuesday 30th July 2019.

<u>Present</u>	Cllr. P. Crozier Cllr. R. Maycock Cllr. H. Peace	Vice Chairman Cllr. E.K. Wager
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159. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Lamb due to holidays, and Cllr. Page-Bailey.

160. 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.

2073/19/FUL Mr. & Mrs. Preston

**Extension to existing ancillary accommodation over detached workshop building
And change of use for occasional holiday letting purposes at Trespassers Way, road
Over Tuckermarsh Bridge. Bere Alston**

Case Officer Oliver Gibbins

Comments. Council support this application.

2005/19/HHO Whittles

**Householder application for demolition and rebuilding of kitchen at 4 Bedford Villas
Broad Park Road, Bere Alston. PL20 7DR.**

Case Officer Jenny Draper

Comments. Council supports this application.

2083/19/FUL S. Duke – Devon Grown.

**Construction of two single storey one – bedroom holiday let chalets (resubmission of
1123/19/FUL) at Hewton Nursery, Riverview, Hewton, Bere Alston. PL20 7BW.**

Case Officer Rosalie Metcalf.

Comments. Support

3864/19/FUL Mr. V. Gardner

**Conversion of barn dwelling – amended plans to previous approval at Newhouse Farm
House, Bere Alston. PL20 7ED.**

Case Officer Rosalie Metcalf.

Comments. Council Support.

161. Update on West Devon Borough Council on the way they notify the Parish of Plans.

This item was presented at Southern Links

162. Report from Road Warden.

This is ongoing.

163. Correspondence.

1. Mr. V. Gardner.

We do board dogs here in small numbers during peak holiday periods and have a licence to do so. Our kennels are secure and are inspected annually and we have an extensive exercise area. We don't need to advertise and rely completely on repeat business so we can hardly be doing a bad job. We also breed Clumber Spaniels and have a licence for this also. There are four or five of our dogs in the parish and their owners are very pleased with them. We breed no other breed of dog although we have bred a couple of litters of Border Collie in the past for farm use. Natalie is a trained and practicing senior veterinary nurse and lives on the premises. Clumbers are a rare breed and we have been successful in breeding out some of the faults that have occurred because of inbreeding and the limited gene pool. We have 320 sheep also and use sheep dogs. Natalie runs in sheepdog trials (and has won a few) and her partner, Frank Richards, has this year qualified to represent England. So we do have quite a few dogs. However, we have no puppies or pregnant Clumber bitches at present and are not expecting to have any this summer as the Clumber stud dog is now too old and his replacement is too young to be bred from. So it would be a little bit of a stretch of the imagination to call this a puppy farm. Not only do we not have any puppies but we do not buy puppies in for resale and when and if we do have our own puppies for sale we deal with one breed and the dog and bitch can be seen. I have three dogs I use for shooting. One is retired and another is quite old. We are half a mile from the nearest house and a mile from the next nearest house and have never had any complaints in over 20 years so this does seem rather strange. Anyone who would like to see our boarding kennels, or see a sheep dog working some sheep or who would like to learn a little more about the Clumber Spaniel is most welcome to give us a ring.

Puppy farms as depicted in television documentaries are usually illegal establishments that are unlicensed, frequently handling illegally imported dogs from Eastern European countries in large numbers. They don't tend to vaccinate dogs or use microchips to identify them and will buy, sell and sometimes steal anything on four legs.

We are very careful that everything is done as it should be. For example, the last young Clumber we bought cost £1,000. We studied the pedigree very carefully to ensure it wasn't too closely related to our stock, made sure the parents had no faults and collected it from Scotland. The parents had been hip scored etc.

While it is all very well people being concerned about animals, I think you would have to have to be barking mad to suggest that we run a "puppy farm," which begs the question what is the real agenda? Some people complain because other people keep horses, others complain about cyclists and having done the job I seem to recall some people complain about parish councillors. People are entitled to their point of view, of course, but there is not much you can do for them! At the end of the day a massive number of people love to keep a dog and they find them of great therapeutic value. If we can play some small part in securing the survival of the Clumber Spaniel as a useful working dog and family pet then we consider we will have done what we can for the breed.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.26pm.

Signed this 30th day of July 2019

Chairman