

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Bere Ferrers Parish Council held in Council Chambers, Bere Alston on Tuesday 24th September 2019.

Present

Cllr. B. Lamb Chairman of Council
Cllr. P. Crozier Cllr. D. Pengelly
Cllr. M. Flicker Cllr. H. Rogers
Cllr. H. Peace Cllr. E.K. Wager

Cllr. Lamb welcomed members of the public and also introduced Mr. Steve Hingston who is Council's new workman.

222. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Leithall, Cllr. Dennis, Cllr. Reed due to holidays and Cllr. Maycock due to business.
Cllr. Page-Bailey was absent.

223. Declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

224. Chairman's Report.

- The unexpected resignations of the Handyman, Assistant Clerk and Toilet Cleaner has thrown an increased burden of work upon the Clerk & F & GP have dealt appropriately with her increased hours.
- During the Clerk's fortnight leave, Agency Staff were mobilised and kept the office open.
- Most of our time has been spent upon drawing up new contracts and job descriptions in accordance with S.W. Regions our H.R. Advisors.
- Very pleased to confirm the appointment of Steve Hingston as the new Works & Grounds Person. The Assistant Parish Clerks post is advertised with a closing date of 4 October. We have not yet advertised the Toilet Cleaner's post but they are being covered by another member of staff.
- Southern Link Meeting – crime very little change in last 12 months but two Officers assaulted in Tavistock previous evening. Details of Operation "Snap" where car owners are encouraged to pass pictures of dangerous driving to the Police. As an aside the Police received 13,000 calls in one week in August; with the 11 million visitors possibly having something to do with this.
- At Southern Links, WDBC Officers publicised the grants for provision of facilities in residences for people with disabilities. There are also grants for fuel poverty and renewal of heating equipment, subject to mean testing. It was also confirmed that they had made the decision about the withdrawal of the R.S.G. in spite of the fact that it is out for consultation!!! (£3,672 is our share.) They were unable to put forward any improvements to the new planning distribution system.

Finally we have to consider the regulation of use of the Recreational Field and this is on the Agenda

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

Cllr. Wager is concerned that a caravan has been positioned at Down Farm and the field has been renamed. Cllr. Wager asked if permission should have been sought. Mr. Hingston gave more details about the situation and said that the field has been renamed Harling Farm.
This will be referred to the enforcement officer at West Devon.

226. To approve the minutes of Plans held on 30th July as a true record and taken as read.

Cllr. Crozier proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Peace.

Cllr. Lamb brought Council up to date with the current state of affairs with regards to Denham Bridge Road and explained that Geoffrey Cox had offered to look into this. Council agreed to this.

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

SO RESOLVED

227. To approve the minutes of Full Council held on 30th July as a true record and taken as read.

Cllr. Crozier proposed the approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Wager. Cllr. Crozier explained that that WDBC is asking for Council's views on their proposal to withdraw Council Tax Support Grant for 2020-21. Cllr. Lamb asked for Council's views and whether WDBC should be appraised of them. He explained that Council had been expected to take on more and more responsibilities and that with the withdrawal of the Support Grant Council would have to ask for an extra £3672. Discussions took place. Council will be sending a letter of complaint to WDBC.

SO RESOLVED

228. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Special Finance & General Purposes meeting held on 27th August and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Pengelly proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.
Matters Arising

Minute 178a - The Clerk reported that she had received an email from South Hams/WDBC saying that they are intending to remove public call boxes. She explained that we had rejected their proposal due to the poor reception in the area. This reply was on its way to B.T. Cllr. Lamb asked the Clerk to write to WDBC to clarify the position re the box at Bere Ferrers.

Cllr. Pengelly proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

SO RESOLVED

229.To approve the minutes of the Special Full Council held on 27th August as a true record and taken as read.

Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Pearce.

SO RESOLVED

230.To approve and adopt the minutes of the Plans meeting held on the 3rd September and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Cllr. Crozier proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Flicker.

SO RESOLVED

231.To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on the 10th September and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Wager proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Flicker.
Matters Arising

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

SO RESOLVED

232.To approve & adopt the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on the 17th September and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Pengelly proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.
Matters Arising

Minute 211 - 142(e) Cllr. Pengelly was unhappy with the reply about the lack of bins. He wondered if the money saved from not being in the dog warden scheme had been used well. This matter will be referred to the next F & GP meeting.

Minute 214 - The Clerk is still in the process of completing the bank statement reconciliation.

Minute 215 - Query about the Asst. Clerk's holiday entitlement is ongoing.

Cllr. Pengelly proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

SO RESOLVED

233.Internal Audit.

Cllr. Crozier had conducted the audit and was satisfied.

234. Report by Cllr. Crozier on West Devon Borough Council.

August is a slack month but now WDBC is back to business.

The reception desks at Okehampton and Kilworthy Park could be closed later in the year. Cllr. Crozier is against this move and has asked for costings to be shown to him.

235. Report from Cllr. Crozier on Tavistock Rail Line.

Money being spent on the Dawlish line and Okehampton to Exeter line means that the Tavistock to Bere Alston line is unlikely to be funded.

A suggestion to install an electric tram style line is being discussed but it's very early days. Council found this proposal very exciting and questions and discussions ensued.

Cllr. Wager asked for clarification on what had happened to the money that was meant to be coming from the Callington Road development.

Cllr. Crozier explained that there were issues with the development.

He also said that WDBC was also concerned that the money for the railway line was not available.

Cllr. Crozier said that there were long term plans from Devon County to straighten out parts of the A386 to ease what was likely to be greater volume of traffic due to new buildings.

236. Report from Cllr. Lamb on Tamar Valley Line Cancellations.

Cllr. Lamb told Council that there have been 95 cancellations on the Bere Alston line since 23rd January. He had been in touch with GWR about this. Cllr. Peace reported how bad the replacement taxi service had been. Council will send a letter of complaint to GWR.

237. Report on the problems still occurring at the Recreation Field The Down.

The Clerk read out a letter from Will Westlake explaining that the football field fencing would be done as soon as the contractor returns from holiday. He had been approached by a member of the public who had been abusive. Cllr. Lamb reported that dog owners had been seen opening both gates to the football field and leaving them open. Stones had also been seen by the night landing light. Cllr. Lamb had spoken to somebody from WDBC who was concerned about dog faeces being left on the ground and the risks they pose. She will ask the localities officer to check the area and she also offered to come over and has powers to fine those responsible.

Cllr. Lamb highlighted Council's responsibilities towards members of our Parish. He asked for a Task Force to be set up from Council to investigate a way forward between the Football Club and dog owners. This was discussed at length. Cllr. Crozier offered to undertake forming the Task and Finish Group. Cllr. Flicker offered to be part of the group as did Cllr. Lamb. Cllr. Peace offered to help out when she was able to do so.

238. Correspondence.

1. The Clerk asked for permission to pay the following cheques,
Staff Wages for September 7828/7829/78301,380.24
Mr. B. Hayler – Travel Expenses up to and including 1st Sept. 40.50
Tindall Press – Advert in Tavistock Times 180.18
Elford Maddock – Proposed works at the Cemetery 100.00

Cllr. Lamb proposed payment; seconded by Cllr. Pearce.

2. **West Devon Homes News Release; No One's at Home**

It's Empty Homes Week between Monday 23 to Sunday 29 September and West Devon Borough Council is calling on residents to help to reduce the number of long-term empty homes in the Borough. Empty homes can be a magnet for crime and vandalism and the Council wants to bring vitally needed homes back into use. They are asking residents to report homes in their area that they know have been left unoccupied for a long period of time.

The Council currently has 30 homes which have been empty for over two years. Of those homes 26 are having to pay 150% Council Tax. There are also 193 houses which have been empty from between one month up to two years, with 40 properties uninhabitable due to structural work.

There are many reasons why a house can become empty, from the death or illness of a relative, homes being repossessed by the bank or due to maintenance or value issues. This is where the Council can help.

3. **West Devon Borough Council Recycling – the Power is in Your Hands**

West Devon Borough Council is proud to be supporting Recycling Week. This year the annual recycle campaign is putting the power in your hands. Each year the council supports the National Recycling Campaign, promoted by WRAP – The Waste and Resources Action Programme. Only this year their timing could not be more perfect, because West Devon Borough Council and its partner FCC Environment are about to launch their new and enhanced recycling service, which will let residents recycle a lot more materials from their home. **Cllr Caroline Mott, West Devon Borough Council's Lead Member for Environment, said:** "One of the slogans for this year's Recycle week is "Take recycling into your own hands" and we are indeed putting the power into our resident's hands this year by enabling them to recycle more materials at the kerbside than ever before. WRAP are using this annual campaign to tell people that if we all do something by recycling more, collectively we are all doing something really big for our environment. "Later this week we will be making announcements about our new scheme, and launching our own campaign to raise awareness.

Although the new scheme will not start until December, residents need to know about it now, so that they look out for information which is being posted to them."

All residents will receive a new white bag, two new stickers for their recycling boxes and a leaflet explaining which material goes in which container. The sticker and leaflets will be sent in the post at the end of October. The new white bags will be sent out separately.

4. **West Devon Borough Council.** Draft Consultation Response BT Phone box removal. Bere Alston.

Notification under section 49(4) of the Communications Act 2003

DRAFT decision by **West Devon District Council** in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Part 2 of the Schedule to a Direction published by Ofcom on 14 March 2006 ('the Direction').

1. **West Devon District Council** in accordance with section 49(4) of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'), hereby make the following draft decision in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Part 2 of the Direction.

2. The draft decision is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.

3. The effect of, and **West Devon District Council** reasons for making, the draft decision is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.
4. **West Devon District Council** considers that the draft decision complies with the requirements of sections 45 to 50 of the Act, as appropriate and relevant to the proposal.
5. In making the draft decision, **West Devon District Council** has considered and acted in accordance with the six community requirements in section 4 of the Act.
6. Representations may be made to **West Devon District Council** about the draft decision by **midnight on Sunday 20th October 2019**.
7. A copy of this Notification has been sent to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 50(1) (b) of the Act.
8. The Schedule to this Notification shall form part of this Notification.

5. Bere Villagers Association. Diana Mitchell – I was somewhat dismayed when Ron Ball told me that

his bill for flattening the cycle track will have to include VAT. Do you think the Parish Council would be prepared to settle this bill, with the Villagers reimbursing the Council the money?

Cllr. Lamb proposed that Bere Villagers ask Mr. Ball to reissue the account to Bere Ferrers Parish Council, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

239. Questions from any member of the public present at the discretion of the Chairman.

There were no questions.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members and members of the public for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.31pm

Signed this 29th October 2019.

Chairman.....