

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chamber Bere Alston on Tuesday 12th November 2019.

Present:

Cllr. E.K. Wager	Chairman
Cllr. B. Lamb	Chair of Council
Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. Pengelly
Cllr. M. Flicker	Cllr. A. Spry
Cllr. R. Leithall	

292. To meet with representatives of Bere Alston Allotment Association.

Cllr. Wager welcomed Mr. Peter Small and Mr. Martin Lambert-Gormyn from the Bere Alston Allotment Association. The group wish to ask the following questions of the Council –

1) Do the Parish Council recognise BAAA are they prepared to support our aims?
Yes we do recognise the group and Council are prepared to support you.

2) What are the restrictions on controlled bonfires?

There is a ruling in that there are to be no bonfires, but the Council Workman will arrange for 1/2 bonfires a year. Cllr. Wager – Parish Council will decide on the day and month.

Discussions took place about burning diseased crops. Mr. Smith asked if the group could approach the neighbours with regards to using incinerators. If the neighbours agree, Cllr. Wager stated Council would run a 6 month trial period.

4) Can the main path be levelled/graded to remove the central ridge?

There are 2 ways to go about this, get Harold to scrape down the middle, or could we use waste from the Cemetery. Cllr. Wager noted we do not have a waste removal certificate, but if the Association wanted to barrow some down Council would have no objection.

6) Several people and organisations have asked about keeping bees somewhere on the site?

Discussions took place with regards to how many hives. Cllr. Wager felt they could be placed on the bottom left hand site of the lower piece of field. The group need to come back to Council with regards to how many hives.

7) Can the Council confirm the timeframe or warning procedure given to unused or untidy pitches?

There is a monthly inspection carried out, from which any problems are dealt with by a letter giving 14 days to do something about it, then at the next inspection if nothing done, they are notified again and given notice.

Cllr. Wager felt that if the Association gets going then perhaps they can inform the Clerk or Cllr. Wager of the plot number for action to be taken.

8) Could all sites have a suitable numbered peg or post to assist with identification?

Cllr. Wager stated that they were all numbered at one time. Mr. Lambert-Gorwyn will try and encourage site owners to number their own plot.

9) Is there a procedure for dealing with pest control on site, i.e. rates, badgers and foxes?

Cllr. Wager – keeping chickens anywhere will encourage rats and being in the country badgers and foxes are everywhere.

10) If the bottom of the field is considered too wet for further expansion could consideration be given to the creation of a wetland or bog garden?

Cllr. Wager – there are plans to extend down the left hand side.

Asbestos – Mr. Smith asked what was happening about this. Cllr. Wager thought it was going to be transferred to the bottom of the field, but the workman felt it would be too wet for the contractors to get down. Cllr. Wager suggested it be placed temporarily on Plot 1.

Mr. Lambert-Gormyn and Mr. Smith thanked the Committee for answering their questions. Cllr. Wager thanked them for attending.

293. Matters arising from the minutes of the 12th October. **Minute 245 referred back. Allotment Charges.**

Minute 245

Cllr. Wager brought forward the issue of increasing the Allotment charges; as they were increased last year and set in 2018. The next increase should be in 2021.

Discussions then took place with regards to increasing the annual Pavilion, shower and pitch charge. It was agreed to inquire of other Councils how much they charge. Cllr. Wager felt it was time we started to put money aside for the future of the Pavilion.

Minute 263.

The Clerk read a letter from a parishioner who has heard rumours that dogs could be banned from the Recreation Field on The Down. The Clerk replied that the Task and Finish Group are looking into the ongoing situation and will be reporting back to Council. There are no changes at the moment.

294. Financial Statements.

The Clerk presented the financial statement for September. Discussion took place. Cllr. Leithall stated this is work in progress.

295. To set a preliminary precept for 2020/21

Cllr. Wager asked that this be deferred to 10th December.

296. Update on road infrastructure Cemetery also possible inspection of Cemetery drawings.

Cllr. Lamb – this is a massive budget for this Council. We are waiting for the final Specifications, then we can get them out and get a costing back in.

Cllr. Lamb will be asking for a mentor on this project. The drawing was distributed. Mr. Maddock is getting an estimate for wrought iron gates for the entrance, planned from the Bere Ferrers road. Will there be an upgraded gate from the Cemetery into the Dog Exercise Field? This has not been looked at yet.

297. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish Recreation and play parks

Cllr. Leithall has not been able to carry this out.

298. Monthly inspection of Allotments Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers

The Clerk informed committee that during the gales the allotment gate was blown outwards onto the road. The workman removed it.

Discussions took place on what size and kind of gate should be put back. Cllr. Crozier proposed that the gate be set back 16` with post and rail fencing, seconded by Cllr. Lamb. Cllr. Wager stated that the allotments were a much of a muchness.

Cllr Wager is disgusted at the state of the Bere Ferrers Car Park fencing and the field grass has not been cut.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed this 26th day of November 2019.

Chairman.....