

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chamber Bere Alston on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Cllr. R. Maycock and Cllr. G. Reed.

**361. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Spry due to illness.

**362. Notification of items for Information.**

- 1) Cllr. Crozier – I have failed to pick up the dog notices from West Devon.
- 2) Cllr. Pengelly – between Bere Alston and mile level there were 18 cats eyes dislodged, they were only put in last Friday. Cllr. Reed informed Committee that he has sent an email to Devon County Highways.
- 3) Cllr. Lamb reported on person's wedging the gates open on the football area at The Down, causing damage. Cllr. Lamb has also been informed about a person driving into the car park at The Down, opening the door of the vehicle and letting 7 dogs onto the Recreation Field at 7.30 in the morning.  
Cllr. Flicker inspected the Bere Ferrers field; there were six loads of dog fowling. This is disgusting.
- 4) The Clerk reported that while Mrs. Poulton has been covering for the Workman emptying the bins, someone has been pheasant shooting, stopping at the car park on The Down and cleaning them, leaving the innards etc. in a bag by the bins. The fox has been coming in and strewing them everywhere. The Workman spoke with Mr. Westlake and this had happened again over the weekend and they were all over the football pitch. Discussions took place.
- 5) The football club has removed all the rubbish from the rear of the pavilion.

**363. Matters arising from the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.**

Matters Arising

Minute 330 - The Clerk pointed out an error in the minutes, the wrong figure has been put in for the Cemetery precept, and this will be corrected as an agenda item at this meeting.

Minute 331 – Safety Inspection, the work detailed in the minutes has been done.

**364. Item referred from Full Council. Litter bin at Pilgrim Drive car park.**

Cllr. Pengelly was approached by a parishioner about a litter bin at Pilgrim Drive where the recycling bins are. Cllr. Crozier spoke with West Devon, who stated if we want a bin, we must supply

ourselves. Cllr Pengelly – this is a large area with a seat, a litter bin is needed here. It was agreed to seek costs bearing in mind that at the moment it costs £1 per bin, per week and is rising to £2 and eventually £3.

### **365. Report from BARP.**

Cllr. Pengelly reported that they will be having a meeting in the next two weeks to see where we go from here.

### **366. Update on road infrastructure Cemetery.**

Cllr. Lamb explained that the design approval is given by this Committee. The setting up of the tenders is to be handled by Finance and General Purposes.

Cllr. Lamb then went on to finances; he stated there is £3,000 left from the Sarah Park works which should be transferred to the Cemetery Road fund. Cllr. Lamb is seeking funding; he has made an application to Cllr. Sanders for £5,000 from the Locality Fund. Looked into the National Lottery, but you have to involve the community for this.

Discussions took place with regards to the necessity of the road. Cllr. Leithall proposed that £12,500 be used for matched funding, seconded by Cllr. Flicker. A vote was taken 2 for, 4 against motion failed.

After further discussions Cllr. Leithall proposed that this Committee recommend that £15,500 of Council's money be spent on this project, seconded by Cllr. Flicker. A vote was taken 5 for, 1 abstention. Motion carried. Cllr. Leithall proposed that the balance of the money be match funded, seconded by Cllr. Flicker. A vote was taken 5 for, 1 against, motion carried.

### **367. Financial Statements**

The Clerk circulated the financial statements; Cllr. Pengelly proposed acceptance of the statements, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

### **368. To confirm the Cemetery and Recreation precept.**

Discussions were held, the Clerk asked that the income be decreased on comparing both account sheets there is a difference of £1,340 on the new accounting system. The Clerk to do a breakdown of the income on the new account sheets. Cllr. Crozier proposed that the precept be set at £1,700.00 and the Recreation budget be set at £2,838.00, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

### **369. Routine Safety inspection reports for the Parish Recreation and play areas.**

The Down - there is a minor hazard on the toddler swing, there is a metal dish bent out and sharp. Sarah Park seems fine. The Clerk reported new chains and seats will be arriving by the end of the week. Cllr. Lamb produced pictures of the two gates on the football pitch being wedged open, he asked that a letter be sent out showing our concern over the goings on and asking dog owners to together and help with this situation, otherwise we will take further action.

### **370. Monthly inspection of Allotment Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers.**

The Clerk read a letter from an allotment holder.

My name is Jon Ascot and my wife and I currently have the allotment in Bere Alston, 13 Outer. You will know that over the last few years the ground outside of the plot has become very difficult to gain access to via vehicle. At present, the mud is almost at a point where it prevents any access, even with our 4x4's!

This has not historically been an issue, with only a couple of vehicles needing access to the end plots. However, the situation has been exacerbated by the weather and the extensive use of this part of the allotments

by the local council, who have used it to prepare a bon fire with the clearance of combustible and natural materials from local council housing.

Although we do not mind this in any way, it has meant that access to our allotment has been impeded and certainly the ground in front of it has been significantly damaged and eroded. In addition, cars wishing to turn around have had to do this over the grass areas in front of the other plots, especially when cars have parked on the harder, stony areas and more recently, this has caused some damage. Further to this has been the volume of mud that our vehicle collects when we deliver items to our plot and access it on a daily basis, which is then subsequently deposited outside our home, on Pentillie View. Although on initial examination, this could be described as 'cosmetic', this is now causing an issue with drainage as the rain washes the deposited mud into the nearby drains and has blocked them.

With these issues continuing into a season of further poor weather, I would like to propose that stones are laid to create a track and turning circle, adequate for all vehicles (including the council's own) to safely access and turn their vehicles. This would extend the current 'track' and alleviate the problems identified above. I know from talking to other allotment owners that this situation has caused some upset and frustration; with the new gate and proposed water access, this track extension would certainly have a significantly positive impact.

Letter to Mr. Ascot explaining that when the new road is built in the Cemetery the material removed will be used to build up the Allotment road.

### 371. Correspondence.

1) Mr. Ascot – letter concerning pavements on the Pentillie Court.

I write to you to ask for any guidance you can give on the curb stones in the Pentillie Crescent which are becoming loose and both a trip hazard and a hazard for vehicles.

It is clear that over the last 10/11 years the fixings have eroded and now these stones have become loose and removable! I am concerned in regards to the health and safety of those walking along the pathways and looking to cross at these points; from a Health and Safety Executive perspective, this is an easily remedied problem, that would avoid considerable and far more costly litigation.

Clerk to inform Mr. Ascot that we have no jurisdiction over roads and pavements.

Cllr. Wager we have a rotator which is no longer used, we should put it up for sale at £150 ono. Advertise it on notice boards and Facebook.

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

Signed this 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Chairman.....