

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Footpaths and Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th January 2023.

Present

Cllr. P Dennis	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Crozier	Chairman of Council
Cllr. V. Grose	Cllr. S Russell
Cllr. C. Shaw	

In Attendance : Cllr. Lamb

394. Apologies

Cllr. King sent her apology. The Council accepted her apology.

395. Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

396. Items of Interest at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken on these items.

Cllr. Grose updated the Committee on the Annual Parish Paths Partnership Autumn Workshop she attended on 14th October:

- The Devon Highways budget has been halved over the last 12 years and accounts for less than 5% of the total Council's budget.
- Public Rights of Way are looking to replace styles with self-locking gates.
- Boardwalks are going to be supported by metal runners.
- The Lost Paths scheme runs till 1st January 2026.
- Wish to make more paths more accessible to those less mobile.

397. Matters arising from the minutes from the 4th October 2022

Matters Arising

Minute 212

An alternative free QR code has been obtained to place on the back of the Footpath Guides. Cllr. Dennis to assist the Clerk in getting the coded printed on stickers and added to the guide.

Minute 214

The Clerk to report the issue of the smell coming from the Bere Ferrers sewer works to South West Water.

398. Elect a Vice-Chair of the Committee

Cllr. Crozier proposed Cllr. Grose be elected the Vice-Chair. Seconded by Cllr. Russell. A vote was taken. All were in favour.

399. Submission of the Bere Ferrers Parish Paths Partnership survey and expenses

The deadline to submit the survey, the year's expenditures and 2023 annual grant form is Monday 13th February 2023.

Discussions took place on which Committee members will report on which footpaths and following this meeting, the Clerk will email the Committee the Footpath allocation list and information on how to complete the survey.

Cllr. Dennis proposed requesting £1000 grant from Devon County Council. Seconded by Cllr. C. Shaw.

400. Issues with Footpath 2 and 6

Footpath 2 – The dispute on which piece of land the footpath should run through is being dealt with by Devon County Council and is now with their legal department.

Footpath 6 – Having walked the path, the Public Rights of Way Officer is concerned about the safety aspect of the path and where the rails have been lost there is a steep drop off and Devon County Council will now either install a new fence, or ask the landowner to install.

401. Active travel in Devon

The Council has received an email from the Active Travel & Digital Connectivity lead at West Devon Borough Council who are looking to commission a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) across the Borough and wish to include our area. It was discussed that Cllr. Grose and the Clerk to liaise on this scheme and obtain further information.

402. Electric car charging points in the Parish

It was discussed and agreed that electric car charging points should fall under the Footpaths & Environment Committee, not Plans & Highways Committee.

Cllr. Crozier updated the Committee that West Devon Borough Council are conducting a survey of where car charging points can be installed in the area. Further information to be given at a later date.

403. Dog Litter posters

It was discussed and agreed that all dog litter posters required updating. The Clerk to obtain new posters from West Devon Borough Council.

404. Update on cleaning of the benches.

As no action has been taken on this item, the Committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

405. Environment Issues

No issues were raised.

406. Correspondence

An email from the Chair of the Gulworthy Parish Council:

Gulworthy Parish Council declared its support for the Devon Climate and Biodiversity emergency on 7th September 2020. Since this time, we have made limited progress in taking a Parish Climate and Biodiversity Plan forward, apart from a valuable meeting with our agricultural community a year ago to understand their progress.

As a small parish (in terms of people) we have concluded that we could make better progress if we cooperate and collaborate with neighbouring parishes. With this in mind we are extending our hand initially to your parishes (Calstock, Bere Ferrers, Sydenham Damerel and Buckland Monachorum). We also have a significant part of our Parishes as part of the Tamar Valley AONB and/or the Cornwall and West Devon World Heritage Site as common factors.

We would be delighted if you were able to respond and let us know if you might have interest in getting back to us and/or having a conversation together and/or sharing this invitation with other parishioners who may have an interest. It is our view that actions in the area of climate and biodiversity should be supported and encouraged by the Parish Council but led by interested parties in the form of a Climate and Biodiversity Action Group (or similar).

We look forward to hearing from you, including any progress you may have already made in this area.

After discussions, the Committee agreed to bring this to the next Council meeting on Tuesday 31st January 2022, for further discussion with all Councillors.

407. Items for agenda for next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next Footpaths & Environment meeting in March 2023.

- 1 Update on Benches.
- 2 Update on the Bere Ferrers Parish Paths Partnership Work survey submission and annual grant application.

408. Questions from the public present at the meeting at the discretion of the Chair

A member of the public wished to know how to report pot holes. The Clerk stated the best way was to log the issue via the Devon Highways website.

There being no further business the Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.47 pm.

Signed this date 31st January 2023

Signed by the Chair: