

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 21st March 2023.

Present:

Cllr. R. Leithall	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Crozier	Chair of the Council
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. B. Lamb

546. Apologies

Cllrs. Pengelly and Maycock sent their apologies. The Council accepted their apologies.

547. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Crozier declared a pecuniary interest in the item, Approve donation to Platinum Jubilee Committee.

Cllr. Dennis declared an interest in the item, Update on the meeting with Beregen.

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

Cllr. Dennis:

- PCSO Greenwood is due to hold a clinic for residents this Friday 24th March 2023 in the Council Chambers from 7 pm.
- In order to complete the application, the Land Registry require the original copy of the Bere Alston Recreational Field. The Clerk to look for the original deeds in the Council Office.
- With regards to the Parish Hall application, Cllr. Lamb stated he had located a copy of the Doctor Surgery deeds which details the Council's right to have four parking spaces in the Doctor's car park.

549. Matters arising from the meeting held on the 21st February 2023

The minutes were adopted and approved at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2023.

Matters Arising

Minute 488 (426)

The Clerk is looking into alternative coin machines to install in the Pavilion and will contact a local Electrician for their advice.

Minute 494

A 'do not park sign' has been put up on the Parish Hall Emergency Exit doors. The Workman to also paint yellow lines outside the exit.

Minute 498

The Workman has completed his rodent management course and he and Cllr. Crozier are to meet to start putting a pest control management plan together for the Bere Alston allotments.

550. To accept the March 2023 accounts for payment

With regards to the purchase of sand bags from Tinhay, Cllr. Lamb stated that sand bags could be obtained free of charge from West Devon Borough Council. The Clerk to arrange for the sand bags to be returned request bags from the Borough Council.

Cllr. Leithall proposed, subject to the discussed amendment, payment of the accounts, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

551. To accept the F & G.P Detailed Receipt and Payment Report ending 28th February 2023

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

552. To accept the reconciled bank statement ending 28th February 2023

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the reconciled bank statement, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

553. Review Standing Orders for 2023-24

Amendments have been made to the Standing Orders, including section 15, b, iv (b) 'The Clerk may also send out electronically with the agenda all accompanying papers and accounts to those Members who have accepted electronic transmission. Otherwise, such papers will be available for collection at the Council Offices during normal working hours.'

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the Standing Orders. Seconded by Cllr. Crozier. The document to be added to the Council meeting agenda on 28th March 2023, for approval and adoption.

554. Accept quote to install external lighting around Parish Hall

After seeking advice from a local Electrician on the quotes received, Cllr. Lamb proposed acceptance of a quote from M.J. Pearce Electrical Contractors to install external lighting, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

555. HR – update on Council staffs' annual leave for the remainder of the financial year and proposed holiday for 2023-24

The Clerk updated the Committee on the Council staff's annual leave for the remainder of the financial and also discussed the staff's proposed Annual leave for 2023-24.

556. Update on the meeting with Beregen. To discuss the portion of building insurance to be paid by Beregen, refuse collection, gas and water charges

The Committee were given an update on the meeting held recently with Beregen. After discussions, Cllr. Crozier proposed the Council should not charge onto the Beregen their share of the insurance related to the Parish Hall and Beregen not charge the Council for their share of the gas and water charges. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

After discussions, Cllr. Crozier proposed the Council pay 50% of the refuse collection of the Parish Hall to Beregen. Seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

It was confirmed at the meeting, that the Council would not be charged for use of the Council Chambers room, but would be charged for use of the Parish Hall.

The Clerk to update the agreement.

557. Motion to West Devon Borough Council, requesting a piece of land they own on Pilgrim Drive be used for additional parking spaces

Cllr. Crozier proposed that the Council approach West Devon Borough Council to start discussions with them, to release the piece of land on Pilgrim Drive to create more parking spaces. Seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

558. Approve payment for 2023-24 green waste charge

After discussions, Cllr. Leithall proposed the Council pay the green waste charge for 2023-24, but look into composting the waste for the following financial year. Seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

559. Discussion on jobs required around the Parish and the associated costs

Following a site meeting with the Workman and members of the Council, the list of jobs required were discussed with the Committee. The Clerk to cost up the jobs required and present at the Council meeting on Tuesday 28th March.

560. Approve a donation to the Platinum Jubilee Committee

Cllr. Crozier had a pecuniary interest in the item and left the meeting.

Cllr. Crozier, as the Chair of the Platinum Jubilee Committee, has requested in writing a further donation from the Council of £359.80 to cover the account's deficit.

Cllr. Leithall proposed the Council donate £359.80 to cover the deficit of the account. Seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

Cllr. Crozier rejoined the meeting.

561. Review and approve Reserve Policy

The Clerk and Cllr. Lamb met to review and update parts of the policy. Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the updated policy, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

562. Discussion on proposed changes to the dormant charity held by the Parish Council

The Council's charity, Pleasure Ground is currently dormant and Cllr. Lamb feels the charity should be rejuvenated in order to help build a new Pavilion, i.e., funds obtained for the project could be deposited in the account. At present the charity is part of the Council's accounts, but thinks it should be separate.

Cllr. Lamb proposed the Council give a mandate to pursue a slight change of the charity and make it fit for purpose. Seconded by Leithall. All in favour.

563. Donation for a projector for Bere Ferrers St Andrews Church Hall

This item is now not relevant and the request has been withdrawn.

564. Southern Links Training

The Council are still holding funds in an earmarked reserve for the Southern Links Committee. Cllr. Lamb suggested contacting all Chairs of the Southern Links Committee, the Tavistock Town Council and West Devon stating funds are still available for training purposes and action from the Committee is now required.

565. Correspondence

1. An email from a resident regarding some building materials have been dumped by the garages.

After discussions, the Clerk was asked to ask the Workman to see if any of this waste is on Council land.

566. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. The Asset Register for 2023-24
2. Financial Report for 2023-24

567. Questions from the public, at the discretion of the Chair

One member of the public had some questions regarding the item, update on meeting with Beregen and the Councils' dormant charity. The Committee answered their questions to their satisfaction.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Dated 28th March 2023