

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Bere Ferrers Church Hall on Tuesday 30th May 2023

Present

Cllr. P Crozier	Chair of Council
Cllr. D. King	Cllr. V. Grose
Cllr. R. Leithall	Cllr J Maciejowska
Cllr. R. Maycock	Cllr. Pengelly
Cllr. C. Shaw	

In Attendance: Cllr. A. Blackman

43. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Dennis, Lamb and Wager. The Council accepted their apologies.

Apologies were also received from Cllr. Philip Sanders, Devon County Councillor and Cllr. Isabel Saxby, West Devon Borough Councillor.

44. Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interest made.

45. Notifications of items of interest as the discretion of the chair. No action can be taken on these items.

Cllr. Pengelly confirmed the Carnival Committee will be holding their Dog Show and Car Boot Sale on 10th June 2023 on the Bere Alston recreational field. The Committee are willing to give a donation to the Council of the funds raised on the day.

46. Chair's Report

During recent work conducted around the Parish, soil was accidentally dumped by the Council onto new saplings in the Bere Alston allotment site and a number will not survive. On behalf of the Council, Cllr. Crozier apologised for the error. Sadly this is not the time of year to replace those lost, so the Council will be addressing the problem at the next Open Spaces meeting on 13th June 2023 and consider what needs to be done to rectified the situation.

47. To receive reports from the District Councillors

Following the recent Borough Council elections, Cllr. Angela Blackman confirmed that Cllr. Mandy Ewing had been elected as the new Council Leader and Cllr. Mark Renders as the Deputy Leader. Cllr. Lynn Daniel is the new Mayor of West Devon and Cllr. Debo Sellis, the Deputy Mayor.

The local Food Bank, currently located in the Bere Alston Primary School, continues to grow and is very well used. The bank is now focusing on reducing food waste and the need now to accommodate the elderly population of the Parish.

Issues with Great Western Rail still continue.

48. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr. P. Sanders sent his apologies for not attending the meeting.

49. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on 30th April 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 632

The wet pour has been installed in the Sarah Park playground.

Minute 639 (609)

The sign, advising residents work is to be carried out on the Memorial Garden in the cemetery, has come down and work has commenced.

Minute 639 (613)

The rat bait boxes have been lifted in the Bere Alston allotments, but the situation will continue to be monitored closely.

Minute 640 (620 (564))

The Southern Link meeting was held on 24th May 2023. A sub committee was formed. They will take over the training fund currently held by this Council to organise training courses. Cllr. Crozier stated that it is important, even for those who had been on the Council for a while, to undertake training.

Minute 640 (625)

All charges for use of the recreational field and carpark are to be discussed at the Open Space meeting on 13th June 2023.

Cllr. Shaw proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. King.

SO, RESOLVED

50. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Plans & Highways meeting held on 2nd May 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Maycock proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Maciejowska.

Matters Arising

Minute 648

The Clerk has received a reply from Cllr. Sanders and the CEO of Devon Highways stating the work has commenced from the Ostocks to the Gravity Head junction road.

Cllr. Maycock proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

SO, RESOLVED

51. To approve and adopt the minutes from the F & G.P meeting held on 23rd May 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 27

Cars are still parking in front of the emergency exit of the Parish Hall. It was noted that when the doors were open, the sign could not be seen. The Workman to be asked to move the sign to the side of the building. The issue of parking in the car park to be monitored and discussed further at the next Full Council meeting.

Minute 28 (625)

The Clerk to check that the Workman is continuing to take a weekly electric meter reading at the Pavilion.

Minute 30 & 31

The April financial report and reconciled bank statement will be presented at the F & G.P meeting on 20th June 2023.

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

SO RESOLVED

52. Report on the problem with the Bere Alston allotment wildlife section

This item was covered under the Chair's Report and will be discussed further at the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 13th June 2023.

53. Recommendation from the F & G.P Committee regarding charges for commercial use of the recreational fields

Cllr. Crozier stated a charging policy for the use of the recreational field had been placed since 2017, but has not been enforced for a number of years and agreed that the Council now need to go back and review the charges.

Ms. J. Russell addressed the Council and discussed that she was granted permission to use the field for her exercise classes by the Council in March 2022. The classes are run for non-profit; she offers a pay as you go scheme, which most people take advantage of due to their low income, therefore cannot afford the current £13 per session fee and cannot afford to run the classes outside the village. The field is only used in good weather, therefore is not used all year round. Ms. Russell stated she was prepared to pay a fee, but there needs to be a difference put in place between profitable and non-profitable businesses. Her business promotes mental health and fitness for the community and would like the Parish to work along her and endorse it.

Discussion took place between Cllr. Crozier and Ms. Russell and members of the public.

Cllr. Crozier confirmed that no decision on the charge will be made tonight, but confirmed that the classes can continue on the field. Cllr. Crozier stated that no charge was mentioned when permission was given last year, as the Council wished to first see the classes succeed, which they have and there has to be a small change to use a Council asset. Whatever charge is levied against this business will not break it.

Questions were asked if other businesses will be charged? Cllr. Crozier confirmed that was a discussion between the Council and other organisations.

Cllr. Blackman stated that she supported Ms. Russell and her scheme.

Cllr. Maycock stated the Council needs to reflect on the running costs of the field and the cost to maintain it. The Council did not want to stop the classes, but an amicable decision was required.

Cllr. King stated that the Council fully support what Ms. Russell is doing, but the Council now need to find a way forward, as this is a business and makes it different to charitable organisations, therefore please allow the Council time to formulate a new policy. What is not going to happen is the Council make the charges so high, that nobody can use the recreational field.

Cllr. Leithall agreed with Cllr. King and proposed the motion to ask the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 13th June, to look at this particular issue and find a way forward. Seconded by Cllr. King. All in favour.

54. Atlas Tower Group's request to build a single mobile mast in Bere Alston

Following a talk from Mr. Rae, CEO of Atlas Tower Group at the Council meeting held on 25th April 2023, the Councillors discussed further the four proposed locations for the mobile tower.

It was agreed that the Clerk to ask Mr. Rae to conduct a site visit of all four proposed locations to assess their suitability and also to provide the Council with a location of a site tower they have installed, in order for Councillors to conduct a site visit.

55. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

56. Questions from any members of the public present, at the discretion of the Chairman.

The member of the public in attendance, did not ask any further questions.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.02 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Signed this date 27th June 2023