

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Footpaths and Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 6th June 2023.

Present

Cllr. V. Grose	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. D. King
Cllr. C. Shaw	

In Attendance : Cllr. Lamb

71. Apologies

Cllrs. Crozier and Maciejowska sent their apologies. The Committee accepted their apologies.

72. Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

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

Cllr. King brought up the issue of overgrown verges. The Clerk confirmed that these needs can be reported to Devon County Council, Report a Problem page on their website.

74. Matters arising from the minutes from the 7th March 2023

Matters Arising

Minute 534

The sign for Footpath 89 keeps falling down, but has been put up again.

Minutes 535 (397)

The new QR code sticker have been put on the back of the new Footpath Guides.

Minute 536

The Clerk confirmed the Council had been awarded, by Devon County Council Public Rights of Way, £690 for maintenance work on the certain Footpaths looked after by the Council.

Minute 538

New Dog litter posters have been put up around the Parish.

Minute 541

The Clerk to contacted Devon Highways to ask when Denham Bridge Road will be closed for maintenance work, in order a proposed litter pick can be carried out.

The issue of dog mess left around the area was discussed. The Clerk to contact the Forest Commission asking if something could be done, for example installing a dog litter bin.

Minute 542

The issue of cars double parking along the road during Gawton Gravity events was discussed at the Plans & Highways 6th June meeting. After discussions, the Clerk was asked to contact the Gulworthy Parish Council expressing our Parish's concerns and could it be reported to the organisers and Devon Highways.

75. Update on the meeting with Ros Davies, Public Right of Way – Parish Paths Liaison Officer

Cllr. Grose updated the Committee on the meeting held with the Ms. Ros Davies, Public Right of Way, Parish Paths Liaison Officer and the Clerk.

Highlights of the meeting included:

Footpath 36 – there have been reports of concerns regarding the condition of the bridge/tunnel. Ms Davies to investigate.

River erosion along certain footpaths needs to be monitored and Cllr. Grose suggested photos be taken every year to assess how much the path is being eroded.

Footpath 83 – Discussions took place on the issue that walkers are not aware there will be cows and calves in the field. Could a sign be put up to alert people? The Clerk to discuss further with Ms. Davies. It was also suggested that a small cow sign be added

next to any Footpaths which may contain livestock, in the next reprint of the footpath guide. The Clerk to add information on the website giving advice on what people should do if they are surrounded by livestock.

Footpath 11 – it was noted that a crop is growing in the field and the path runs through the middle of the field, but it was hoped that walkers would walk around the crop.

Cllr. Grose suggested levels of difficulty for all paths, be added to the Footpath Guide. Cllr. King suggested she run each footpath and record the gradient on her smart phone. This information could then be added to the guide.

76. Review of the Detailed Receipts & Payments Report for 2022-23 and earmarked reserves

The Clerk confirmed that all revenue from the sale of the Footpath Guides is put in an earmarked reserve for a future reprint. Currently the guides are sold at Weir Quay Boatyard and the Bere Ferrers Post Office. Cllr. Grose to ask whether the Pub in Bere Ferrers will also sell the guides.

After reviewing the Committee accepted the report.

76. Environment Issues

With regards to the Dog Show taking place on the Bere Alston Recreational field on 10th June, Cllr. Dennis requested the Clerk contact the Carnival Committee asking that they ensure the field is cleared up after the event.

77. Update on Lost Footpaths scheme in England

The Government guideline for the Lost Footpath scheme has been extended to 2031. Cllr. Grose asked whether some of the unclassified roads in the Parish, could be changed to a public footpath? Cllr. Lamb mentioned 20 or 30 footpaths in the area had been closed in the past and will investigate where these paths are.

It was agreed, that the Committee will walk the unclassified roads and discuss at the next Committee meeting.

78. Review of Footpaths & Environment Committee's Terms of Reference

After discussions, the Committee agreed to an amendment for point 8. 'The Committee will regularly check their balance sheet and ensure that the precept money and any grant funds are accounted for'.

79. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

80. Items for agenda for next meeting

1. Unclassified roads
2. Map of the Lost Paths

The next Committee will be on 6th September 2023.

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

There being no further business the Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.53 pm.

Signed this date 27th June 2023

Signed by the Chair: