

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 11th July 2023

Present:

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| Cllr. D Pengelly | Chair of the Committee |
| Cllr. P. Crozier | Chair of the Council |
| Cllr. V. Grose | Cllr. Leithall |
| Cllr. C. Shaw | Cllr. E. Wager |

In Attendance: Cllrs. B. Lamb, Archer and Patterson

151. Apologies

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

152. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

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

Cllr. Grose along with Cllr. Lamb, attended the launch of the Tamara Coast To Coast Way at Bere Ferrers on 11th July. Three of the Coastal routes, which go through the Bere Peninsula, are listed in the Council's Footpath Guide. From March 2024, there will be a pedestrian electric ferry, operating from Calstock to Ferry Farm, Bere Alston.

154. Matters Arising from the minutes from the meeting held on 13th June 2023

The minutes were adopted and approved at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 27th June 2023.

Matters Arising

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| <u>Minute 84</u> | The Clerk to report the issue of ash dieback on their land to the Mount Edgecumbe estate. |
| <u>Minute 85 (606 (538))</u> | The Clerk has heard, via a Tavistock Time journalist, the Pizza Van will not be trading in the Bere Alston carpark again, as they say the car park surface is unsuitable. |
| <u>Minute 85 (612)</u> | The missing bolt on the play equipment in the Bere Ferrers play park, has been replaced. |
| <u>Minute 86</u> | The 2022-23 finance report showed the Football Club had paid £40 less of their annual fee. The Clerk confirmed the correct amount had been paid by the Club and the annual budget amount had been incorrectly inputted in the financial software. |
| <u>Minute 87</u> | Cllr. Wager questioned why the proposed charges for the recreational fields and car parks, agreed at this meeting, had been amended. It was discussed that the recommended charges proposed by the Open Spaces Committee were discussed at a F & G.P meeting held on 20 th June 2023 and amended charges were recommended and approved. These amended charges were approved at the Full Council meeting held on 27 th June 2023 and the resolution can not be changed by the Council for 6 months. |
| <u>Minute 92</u> | The Bere Alston in Bloom Judging day is 12 th July 2023. |
| <u>Minute 93</u> | The damage to the wildlife section at the Bere Alston allotment site will be reviewed in the autumn and any damaged saplings will be replaced by the Council. |

Cllr. Pengelly approved the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

155. Improvements to Bere Alston playparks

Cllr. Pengelly has successfully secured a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery for improvements to the two Bere Alston playparks and there is a potential further £5,000 donation from a local charity.

After inspection, there is not enough room to install a zip wire or roundabout in Sarah Park, therefore the suggestion is a traversing wall. One quote has been obtained and a further two quotes is also required.

There was also a discussion on installing a fence inside the hedge between the park and the doctor's surgery, due to safety concerns. The Workman has blocked up any holes in the hedge. After discussions, the suggestion was to review in the winter, to see whether a fence would be required.

A question was asked whether, if there was any money left over, could it be spent to replace the rubber bond in the playpark? Cllr. Pengelly confirmed the funds are ring fenced for improvements only and there is a maintenance budget for the playparks.

For the Down playpark, the suggestion is to install outdoor gym equipment. After discussions, to was agreed to defer to the next Meeting and discuss further where best to place the outdoor gym equipment. Cllr. Pengelly to also obtain two further quotes.

Cllr. Lamb wished to thank Cllr. Pengelly for securing such a large grant from the National Lottery.

Cllr. Crozier stated that the Youth2Youth wish to meet with the Council soon, to discuss improvements to the area around the Parish Hall.

156. No mow areas in the Parish

The Clerk had been contacted by some members of the public, wishing to know if the Parish had a list/map of the no mow areas in the Parish. It was discussed that the Parish do not, in that areas of land owned by the Parish, notably the two recreational fields and cemetery public access is required and are therefore mowed regularly for functional reasons. It was noted that not all areas in the area are owned by the Parish.

The issue of West Devon Borough Council not cutting the grass at the Holy Trinity churchyard was discussed. The Clerk was asked to highlight the issue with the Bere Ferrers Borough Councillors.

157. Cutting back of the hedges at the Down

The task to reduce the height of the hedges in the park, in order to reduce anti-social behaviour, was agreed to be done last year, but it cannot be done at this time of year. The hedges are due to be trimmed in September, so it was agreed a site visit was required, after this had been completed, to access if the hedge required more reduction.

158. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish Recreation and Play areas

Some edging strips have been kicked off at the Down playpark and will be replaced by the Workman, as and when needed.

One of the bars on the bench at the Bere Ferrers playing field has come away. The Workman to be asked to have a look and repair.

159. General improvements required at the Bere Alston allotment site

Cllr. Crozier stated he is in favour of extending the road down to the bottom of the site, to allow those with plots on the bottom left, better access to their plots.

Discussions took place on the section of the allotment field which has been designated as a wildlife area. Questions were asked who would maintain this area and how can the Council stop people dumping rubbish there. It was agreed a management plan was required. Cllr. Wager stated that permission to plant trees should not have been given and the area should instead be cleared and maintained for future allotment plots. It was agreed to organize a site visit, before the next Open Spaces meeting in September 2023, between members of the Committee and the Allotment Association, to discuss general improvements and a management plan.

160. Inspection of Allotments Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers

It was noted that a couple of recent vacated plots had not been cleared properly, and a lot of rubbish had been left for the new tenant to deal with. It is stated in the agreement when an allotment is given up the tenant must clear it of any rubbish and

failure to do so will result in the Council invoicing the outgoing tenant for the removal of any item(s). It was suggested that going forward a Councillor member, or the Clerk, to meet with an outgoing tenant, to confirm the plot is in a good state to be handed back to the Council.

Cllr. Crozier also asked the Clerk to inform all allotment holders that if they have ragwort on their plot to remove as soon as possible.

It was noted that there were a couple of Bere Ferrers plots which appear not to have been worked on recently. The Clerk to conduct a site visit.

161. High Cross Cemetery

The Clerk has received a request from two members of the public who wish to pre-purchase burial plots in an area not yet designated for burial. The current policy of the Council is to only allow burial in the current designated areas only and that previous requests like this had been declined in the past, therefore it would be problematic to allow this.

Cllr. Wager proposed that this request not be permitted at this time, seconded by Cllr. Grose. All in favour.

162. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. Improvements to Bere Alston Playparks
2. Review of hedges at the Down.
3. General improvements required at the Bere Alston allotment site, after a site visit.

163. Correspondence

1. An email from a member of the Bere Alston in Bloom, regarding a small water feature that has been placed in the mosaic garden. A concern from another member of the public has been raised regarding child safety.

After inspection, the Committee members stated the water feature should be removed after the Bere Alston in Bloom Judging day.

2. An email from a member of the public regarding 'The issues of dog mess not being cleared around the edge of the fenced pitch, on the gravel area close to the link path to Woolacombe Road and in the middle of the field to the left of the goal post.'

It was noted that this was an ongoing problem and the Clerk was asked to inform the Locality Officer.

164. Questions from the public present, at the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Dated this date 25th July 2023