

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Footpaths and Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 7th November 2023.

Present

Cllr. V. Grose	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Crozier	Chair of the Council
Cllr. J. Maciejowska	Cllr. M. Patterson

In Attendance : Cllr. Lamb

347. Apologies

Cllrs. Dennis, King and Shaw sent their apologies. The Committee accepted their apologies.

348. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Maciejowska declared an interest in the Climate and Ecology Bill.

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

Cllr. Grose:

1. On Thursday 23rd November, Mr. William Derwell will be giving a talk on the Tamara Coast to Coast Way, at the Bere Ferrers Social Club. There will also be an opportunity to buy the guide book.
2. An article in the Farmer's Weekly, stated that Cornwall Council are looking into providing alternative footpaths routes, if there are cattle in the field. The Clerk was asked to ask Devon County Council, if there was plans to introduce this scheme in Devon.

350. Matters arising from the minutes from the 5th September 2023

Matters Arising

Minute 222 (75) The Devon Public rights of Way Warden will visit and review concerns about the condition of the bridge/tunnel on Footpath 36.

Minute 224 A report on the proposed diversion of Bere Ferrers Footpath No. 2 will be made to the Public Rights of Way Committee meeting on Thursday 23rd November 2023 starting at 2.15pm. A report is being taken to Committee, as an objection has been received from an adjacent landowner. The meeting will take place at County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter and may be broadcast live on the internet by a webcast from the Devon County Council website.

Minute 225 All fallen trees on footpaths have been reported to the Public Rights of Way Warden.

Minute 226 The Clerk to request an update from the Borough Councillors with regards to the plan to install electric car charging points in Pilgrim Drive.

Minute 227 The Committee agreed to defer creating a sub-committee to look at unclassified roads, until next year.

351. Discuss the budget for 2024-25

The draft Footpaths & Environment budget was sent out to all Committee members prior to the meeting. The Clerk went through the budget and after discussions, Cllr. Grose proposed approving the budget, seconded by Cllr. Patterson. The budget will now be reviewed by the F & G.P Committee and final approval will be at the December's Council meeting.

352. Discuss Zero Hour's request for Bere Ferrers Parish Council support for the Climate and Ecology Bill

The Zero Hour Team are requesting the Council join the 168 Parish and Town Councils across the UK, who have already signed up to support the Climate and Ecology Bill. If the Council is supportive, they are asking that after the motion is passed, the Council issues a press release that it has done so and write to request our MP, to also publicly support the Bill. The Climate and Ecology Bill, if made law, would ensure the following:

- The threat facing nature is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis in a joined-up approach.
- The Paris Agreement is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement - 1.5°C.
- The UK takes full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume)-
- The government deliver a climate and nature assembly that is representative of the UK population, working directly with the Government and Parliament to ensure that all voices are heard and that no one is left behind.

After discussions, Cllr Maciejowska proposed the Council support the Bill and support the four above motions. Seconded by Cllr. Grose. This motion will now be discussed at the next Council meeting, for final approval.

353. Information posters on footpaths

Discussions took place on farmers notifying walkers of cattle in field. Cllr. Crozier to investigate whether posters can be obtained from the Farmers Union and distributed to local farmers to display.

354. Update from Committee members on the footpaths' annual audit

The footpath audit is in progress for completion for mid-February 2024.

355. Feedback from meeting held with Landrulph Parish Council

Landrulph Parish Council have a Climate Sub-Committee and their main focus is discussions with local farmers on how climate change is affecting their work. Should this Council form such a Committee? After discussions, Cllr. Crozier to ask if a couple of local farmers could attend the next meeting to discuss these issues.

356. West Devon Active Travel Update

The Council has already registered their interest in the scheme and are awaiting the result of the audit that has been concluded and to be released in March 2024.

357. Environmental Issues

There were no environment issues to report.

358. Correspondence

1. An email from a Parisher:
'I note from previous meeting minutes that there is consideration by the Parish Council to submit/assemble claims for some rights of way in the parish that may otherwise be lost by the upcoming 2031 deadline. As I'm sure you are aware, the Ramblers' lost ways map is not conclusive of all ways, and I wish to propose a route not featured on their map to be considered: Silver Street in Bere Ferrers village (runs from war memorial to quay).'

After discussions, it was agreed to pursue this request further and put on the agenda for the next meeting.

2. An email from a resident regarding the legal department of the Ramblers' Association taking on the case of Footpath 2. They requested to know the Council's earliest record of the route.

The case of the Footpath 2, had been discussed earlier in the meeting and the Clerk will look to see if she can find the earliest record the Council have of this footpath and also discuss further with Devon County Council.

359. Items for agenda for next meeting

1. Review of completed annual Footpath Audit report.
2. Sub-Committee for Lost Paths & unclassified roads
3. Update following meeting with Public Rights of Way Warden.
4. Silver Street, Bere Ferrers footpath.

The next Committee will be on 6th February 2024.

360. 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 9.12 pm.

Signed by the Chair:

Signed this date 26th November 2023.