

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Council Chambers, Bere Alston on Tuesday 27th February 2024.

Present

Cllr. P. Crozier	Chair of the Council
Cllr. P. Archer	Cllr. B. Lamb
Cllr. R. Leithall	Cllr. D. King
Cllr. J. Maciejowska	Cllr. R. Maycock
Cllr. M. Patterson	Cllr. Shaw
Cllr. E. Wager	

568. Apologies

Apologies was received from Cllrs. Dennis, Grose and Pengelly. Apologies were also received from Cllr. A. Blackman and I. Saxby. The Council accepted their apologies.

569. Declaration of Interests

None were given.

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

Cllr. King requested that Parish Councillors not be copied in on emails, if it was not necessary.

571. Chair's Report

A meeting was held on Friday 23rd February between Cllr. Crozier, Cllr. Lamb, Cllr I Saxby with two members representing the Co-Op, to discuss how to approach the West Devon Borough Council Committee Meeting scheduled for 27th February 2024. The West Devon Planning Officer had submitted a negative report in regards to the application and planned to refuse. At the meeting, the West Devon Councillors voted 5 to 3 against rejecting the application. However the Planning Officer had made no preparation for a rejection and after a muddled discourse, the application has been deferred to the next meeting, although this may change as this is an unprecedented situation.

It can also be reported that the request for a reduction of the speed limit on the approach to Bere Alston, has been conceded by Devon Highways. It is still to be passed by the HATCOC Committee and could also affect the Burrington homes planning application. The Parish Council have to thank Geoffrey Cox MP for his intervention. He had asked the Head of Highways, the Cabinet Member and the Highways Officers involved, to a site meeting with him. The meeting has not taken place, but can be revived if necessary.

The Five Acres planning application for a three bedroomed home was recommended refusal at the West Devon Committee meeting. This was lost unanimously with the Panel agreeing with the planner's report.

572. To receive reports from the District Councillors

The West Devon Borough Councillors had sent their apologies for not attending the meeting.

573. To receive a report from the County Councillor

The County Councillor was not present at the meeting.

574. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on 30th January 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Archer.

Matters Arising

Minute 492 Work to repair Denham Bridge continues and it will be reopened as soon as possible.

Minutes 493 The Clerk read out an update from Keir, following their attendance at the meeting held on 30th January 2024 to discuss the works required to update the Sewers:
Regarding the village / town internal traffic routes, Kier have looked at alternatives but feel original proposals are more favourable but will hold consultation throughout scope delivery at all times with the parish council
With recent hedge & tree works undertaken under South West Water notices, less internal delivery traffic will be prevalent as we will get more direct deliveries to the north side as opposed to south side first then internally transfer to north
Further vegetation clearances planned for 4th March with watching ecological brief present
Keir will continue to update the Council with any progress/updates.

Minute 504 Update on the Public Consultation Event held on 17th February 2024 – in spite of the poor weather, the turn out had been good, with the majority in favour of a new Pavilion being built. So far there are been approx. 60 completed responses forms and 69 forms completed online. The Sports Development Committee to hold a short meeting after the Council meeting.

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

SO, RESOLVED

575. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Plans & Highways meeting held on 6th February 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 511 Four roads have been highlighted by Stagecoach as being the pinch points for buses being unable to pass, due to parked cars. A letter has been delivered to local residents, highlighted on the noticeboard on the buses, social media and the Bere Link newsletter.

Cllr. Archer proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Maciejowska.

SO, RESOLVED

576. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Footpaths & Environment meeting held on 6th February 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 526 The Clerk to submit the Council's annual P3 survey, expenditure form for 2023-24 and grant request for 2024-25. The deadline for submission is 15th March 2023.

Cllr. Maciejowska proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Patterson.

SO, RESOLVED

577. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Plans & Highways meeting held on 13th February 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

No matters arising

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

SO, RESOLVED

578. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Open Spaces meeting held on 13th February 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 542 (462) There is still no update from West Devon Borough Council on the transfer of land on Pilgrim Drive to the Council for additional car parking.

Minute 542 It was agreed that more research and discussion was required on whether to charge those with poultry on allotment an additional surcharge.

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

SO, RESOLVED

579. To approve and adopt the minutes from the F & G.P meeting held on 20th February 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Leithall proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Lamb.

Matters Arising

Minute 554 A few residents had highlighted the issue of poo bag being left on hedges/at the end of the road near Station Road in Bere Alston. After visiting the area, both Cllrs. Leithall and Grose could not see an issue, but will continue to monitor the situation.

Minute 554 The Clerk has written again to the Lighting Team at Devon County Council to chase up the Council's enquiry whether extension arms can be placed on the existing lights.

Minute 555 (473) Following the proposal that a weekly meter reading be taken and an invoice for the electricity used be sent quarterly to the Bere Alston Football Club, the Clerk confirmed she had yet to have a conversation with the Manager of the Football Club, but will do so shortly.

Minute 555 (483) Cllr. Crozier has inspected the roof of the Bere Ferrers bus shelter and it would appear that the lead has been removed by a person unknown. The Clerk to report to the police.

Minute 555 (483) Cllr. Lamb has contacted Devon County Council and they have agreed to fund a replacement bus shelter at Station Road/Drakes Park.

Minute 564

It had been agreed at the meeting to defer whether it was necessary to install an external phone line in the Council office's lift, as the new legislation will be released in April 2024. Cllr. Lamb stated he had spoken to Ideal Lift Platforms, who undertake the annual maintenance of the Council's lift and they stated the new legislation would not apply, as it is a platform lift. An annual risk assessment is though required.

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

SO, RESOLVED

580. Approve Standing Orders for 2024-25

Minor amendments were approved at the F & G.P meeting held on 20th February 2024. Cllr. Lamb proposed adoption of the Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr. King.

581. Traffic and pedestrian disruption by Voneus Broadband works in the village

Cllr. Shaw stated that several residents had complained to him about traffic issues caused by the work currently being carried out by Voneus Broadband. Some of their vehicles had blocked properties driveways and after parking on grass verges, had left them in a bad state. The signage should also indicate better what roads were closed to drivers and pedestrians. The Clerk was asked to contact them and request that they park more considerate. It was noted though that the work had been completed quickly and sometimes in difficult weather conditions.

582. Correspondence

1. The Clerk requested payment approval of £20 for Cllrs. Crozier and Lamb to attend a Planning Workshop run by CPRE Devon, on 8th March 2024.

Cllr. Shaw approved payment, second by Cllr. Maciejowska.

583. Questions from any members of the public present, at the discretion of the Chair.

One member of the public brought up two issues:

1. The erosion of the Triangle at Collytown due to car parking on it. Could signs be put up to stop vehicles parking there? It was agreed to add this the Plans & Highways agenda on 5th March for further discussions.
2. An issue of a caravan/lorries/wooden huts in the woods. West Devon to send them a form for it to be registered as an enforcement case.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Signed this date 26th March 2024