Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes committee, held in the Council Chamber

Bere Alston on Tuesday 10th October 2017.

 Present

 Cllr. H. Boot-Handford Chairman

 Cllr. R. Leithall Chairman of Council

 Cllr. P. Dennis Cllr. R. Maycock

 Cllr. B. Lamb Cllr. M. Page-Bailey

**In Attendance.**

Cllr. D. Pengelly and Cllr. E.K. Wager.

**1393. Notice of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No decisions can be**

 **made on these matters.**

1. Cllr. Leithall – brought to the attention of this committee an email received from Graham

 Starkey, reporting that his wife had slipped over on one of the two manhole

 covers in the tunnel leading from Pilgrim Drive steps down to Fore Street,

 luckily she was not injured. Clerk to investigate.

1. Cllr. Lamb – Mr. Peden is enquiring when the hedges are to be cut. The Clerk informed Cllr.

 Lamb that the contractor is due on Thursday morning.

 3) Cllr. Wager – The Cemetery is looking better but the seat in the Lynch Gate on the left hand

 side is covered in bird mess, could it be cleaned off.

 Also the leaves outside the toilets and Parish Hall Bere Alston need picking up.

 4) Cllr. Dennis – reported a large pot hole outside the Co-op in the road edge where people

 tend to walk; it is very bad for elderly people. Cllr. Lamb suggested Cllr.

 Dennis report it on Devon County Highways website, they are usually repaired

 in 2-3 days.

**1394.** **To set a preliminary Precept for Finance and General Purposes for 2018-19.**

 a) Cllr. Boot-Handford drew committee’s attention to Financial Regs. item 3 section 1. Each

 committee shall review its three year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments,

 item 2 paragraph 4 section 3 unspent provisions in the revenue carried forward for

 completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

 Cllr. Boot-Handford did not think it would be complicated to set targets for three year’s bearing

 in mind capital expenditure and any projects.

b) The committee went on to look at the budget –

* Salaries – the Clerk informed committee that it is possible NALC will put the pay rise up to 2%. Committee decided to raise the salaries by 2%. The Clerks, Asst. Clerk, Workman and the toilet operative that closes the toilets will have a 2% rise on their actual pay.
* It was agreed to leave the £202 under Work Pension Scheme, but if in the future it is necessary this can be void to another category.
* Looking at utilities Cllr. Boot-Handford asked when these were last reviewed and how long our contract had to run with EDF, Clerk to investigate.
* There were discussions regarding the Chairman's allowance, as the Chairman has not spent last year’s allowance yet. If the Chairman does not spend all his allowance for the last two years this to be put back into general reserves.
* It was agreed not to put money in for adverts as we have a website and Facebook page which we can advertise on.
* Dog Warden Scheme – after discussion Cllr. Lamb proposed a recommendation to Full Council that we discontinue with this scheme, seconded by Cllr. Maycock. Clerk to enquire if we have a contract with West Devon.

As Committee does not have other Committee’s budget’s this precept is work in progress, committee then went on to look at the Toilet Budget –

* It was again agreed that the toilet operatives actual wages be increased by 2%
* Discussions took place as to whether the deep clean for the toilets be budgeted for 2018/9. It was felt that if the toilets were being cleaned for 1 hour per day they should not need a deep clean. Cllr. Boot-Handford felt that as we have budgeted for a clean this year it should go ahead. Clerk to arrange as soon as possible.

Cllr. Boot-Handford informed committee that due to Cllr. Munn leaving this left a vacant space on F&GP, the question should be put at Full Council, is there any Councillor who would like to sit on F&GP.

There being no further business the chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed this 31st day of October 2017.

Chairman………………...