# BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chamber Bere Alston on Tuesday 11th July 2017.

Present

Cllr. P. Dennis Chairman

Cllr. R. Leithall Chairman of Council

Cllr. S. Hanson Cllr. M. Page-Bailey

Cllr. R. Maycock Cllr. D. Pengelly

**In Attendance.**  Cllr. E. Wager. Cllr. Chapman

**1269. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Boot-Handford due to holiday.

Cllr. Dennis proposed to bring forward item 17. To discuss the suggestion by a neighbouring parishioner to change the usage of the play park by the Parish Hall.

Cllr. Dennis welcomed Rev. Nick Law Youth 2 Youth and the gentleman whose wife owns the garages. Cllr. Dennis asked the neighbour if she would update the situation, she reiterated the problem of the noise from 6 till sometimes 12.30 at night and every weekend, the language is very loud, and of course we have the boy racers. The Rev. Law stated that the police can issue a section 59, where if they are picked up a second time they would lose their car, Rev. Law also stated that the Youth Club has been going since 1999 in this spot as it is the area that groups of youths congregate.

There is no point in trying to move them on as this is the area they congregate. Cllr. Wager stated

that he has lived in this village for 73 years and it was the area to meet up and always has been.

Discussions continued about finding a way to stop the youths meeting in this area. Cllr. Leithall asked the person if there has been any results from the noise equipment placed in her home. They picked it up on Thursday and they have not had any report back.

Rev. Law felt the problem should not be moved, we should try and find a way to cure it.

Council to write to Inspector Mark Sloman, as this is out of Council’s jurisdiction. Await a reply

from the Police. The gentleman whose wife owns the garages stated there is a problem in this area, we have already offered to put up CCTV. The Clerk explained that he needed to talk with Beregen on this matter.

**1270. Matters arising from the minutes of the 11th June and taken as read, to deal**

**with matters arising.**

Matters Arising.

Minute 1217 – Shared mower – Cllr. Leithall and Cllr. Maycock met with Horrabridge Parish

Council and duly signed an agreement giving this Council full ownership of the mower and trailer.

Minute 1226 – New gate at Play Park The Down.

A letter was sent to Mr. Lyndsay explaining the issues Council has with the gate, Mr

Lindsay has corrected the bolt and counter sunk it into the post, furthermore the

poorly fitted rails to the gate are end of life and need replacing when post and rails

are done. The gate purchased is a tantalised 5-bar gate.

After careful consideration I have decided, as gesture of goodwill, not to charge yourselves for the work carried out to date, and if you so wish you may continue to use the current gate or purchase and have fitted the gate you now decide you want.

Cllr. Leithall feels the gate is fit for purpose as long as our workman is asked to chamfer off the edges and any large splinter areas.

**1271. Financial Statements.**

The Clerk circulated the financial statements for Recreation and Cemetery by email to the Committee.

Recreation – Cllr. Hanson asked about the grass cutting contract as it seems we do not have a lot left in the account. The Clerk explained that she has taken the shared mower bill which we pay 50% of with Horrabridge out of this heading; she stated it could come out of monies set aside for equipment repair. Cllr. Page-Bailey proposed that the sum of £538.43 be taken out of set aside for equipment repair, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

Cllr. Hanson proposed acceptance of Recreation Finance Sheet, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

Cemetery – Cllr. Hanson proposed acceptance of Cemetery Finance Sheet, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

**1272**. **Report from BARP.**

Cllr. Pengelly – we are looking at the next phase.

**1273. To make a decision on the type of surface to be used for the play area The Down and**

**order, as committee has delegated powers to get on with this work.**

Cllr. Hanson reported on the meeting with BARP, they wish to see the new equipment surfaced with rubber mulch and the rest of the area with wood shavings.

Discussions took place. Cllr. Pengelly gave the following report from BARP –

* If we go back a few months I reported to Council that BARP were having difficulties finding a satisfactory surface for the play park. Council offered to help financially, and Cllr Hanson was asked to research suitable material and costings. Sarah reported her findings to Council but still no agreement was found. It was suggested that Cllr Hanson, Cllr Boot Handford, met with Barp to try to reach an agreement. After a long meeting, little progress was made, although we did agree on three possible options. Sarah and Hilary left the meeting and BARP committed to reaching a decision before the meeting end. After much discussion it was unanimously agreed that we were not prepared to put our name to any of the options. It was then unanimously agreed that BARP would withdraw from the resurfacing project and ask the Council to decide which option they prefer, and Council to take responsibility for resurfacing. The following email was sent to Hilary. With hindsight it should have also been sent to the Council.
* Dear Hilary As you know, our preferred option would have been to aim for a bonded rubber mulch across the whole park.

However, because we are conscious of the time constraints and uncertainty around future funding bids - we feel that at this point we need to leave all decisions and responsibility for surfacing to the council.  We understand that you need to make a decision and don't want to hold you back from doing that.

We will focus our efforts on improving the existing play equipment in the short term. We will liaise with our current funders (Tesco & Coop) to check they're happy for us to spend the current allocation of funding entirely on new / refurbished equipment for the park, and hope to have this in place as soon as possible. We are committed to continuing to fundraise to improve both parks in the coming years and months.  Not sure that this is the response you were expecting, but I hope it's acceptable to the council.

After further discussions Cllr. Hanson proposed that the new equipment [i.e. the ship and the swing] be rubber mulched, undyed rubber chip to be used on the rest of the park with a view to rubber mulching the new equipment areas as and when. The rubber chip must be proven to be fire retarded, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

A vote was taken 4 for the motion 1 against 1 abstention. Motion carried.

**1274. Proposal for the Eaon Wager Trophy.**

Cllr. Maycock and Cllr. Page-Bailey inspected the allotments and chose old section right hand side 6(o). Mr. Haw to be the winner of the Eaon Wager Trophy.

**1275. Quotes for reinstating entrance at The Down Recreation Field.**

The Clerk contacted West Country Utilities who were unable to quote for the work, Mr. Ian Lindsay did not reply, also Cann Brothers who did not reply.

Phil Jarman Aggregates are the only company able to undertake the work, there quote is as follows:-

We estimate that the works to the Recreation Field will take two days to complete. Machinery will come on site to dig out and prepare the area, scrape out, level, size and base up. The membrane teram will be laid in preparation for the 803. Top soil will be removed to Southwest edge of playing field. We estimate that approximately 15-16 tons of 803 will be required and will use any excess to fill pot holes and make good in car park. Approximately 4tons sand required to cover 803 in preparation for the ground guard tiles. The ground guard tiles will be certified to bare load as requested. We will sieve soil and fill posts with grass seed.

Estimate for the works is £2168.00 plus VAT @ 20% £433.60 total including VAT £2601.60.

If the Council require the area to be fenced off, Harris fencing will be used. This will incur a charge of £100 plus VAT @ 20% to cover hire costs. Committee agreed no Harris fencing required.

Cllr. Hanson proposed acceptance of the quote, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

**1276. To review the safe guard policy.**

Refer to September meeting.

**1277. To review the Bere Ferrers Villagers Agreement.**

The Clerk circulated the document to all Committee members by email.

Cllr. Dennis proposed that the document is fit for purpose, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

**1278. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish Recreation and Play Parks.**

Cllr. Hanson reported on The Down play park as follows:-

* 3 posts rotted, 3 crossbars missing western side, 2 posts rotted/broken southern side
* Graffiti on one bin
* Tripping hazard between old and new areas
* There is still a problem with the roundabout
* Entrapment hazard (missing timber to steps near slide) ship climbing frame
* Graffiti on slide under entrance ladder
* Graffiti on one picnic table

Clerk to write a letter to Rhino Play Ltd stating it has taken 3 months to fix the roundabout and the entrapment on the ship, Council wish to know when these will be fixed.

Cllr. Pengelly stated that there is a loose wire by the wooden bin.

Cllr. Munn passed her report to the Clerk to read –

Grass has been cut, extra on the football field.

Work still going on with the Chess Table – looks tidier.

One of the benches has been repaired by Ian Lindsay.

BFV Group asking again if the Council would consider paying for the table Tennis Table so the VAT can be recovered by the Council.

Site agreed on by BFVG and Council representative Peter Dennis.

The cycle track in need of a good strimming. Also the picnic table could do with a strim around the base and tidy up the woodwork. Perhaps a new table would look better than the dilapidated one in sit. Is this the property of BFVG?

Children’s play area all looked in reasonable condition. Some of the apparatus could do with a coat of paint.

Zip wire looked in good condition as is working. Bins emptied. Tennis court in good condition.

Gates in working order. Zip slide working.

**1279. Monthly inspection of Allotments Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers.**

Cllr. Maycock reported on certain allotments at Bere Alston that the Assistant Clerk asked him to

check if they were being worked.

Cllr. Page-Bailer inspected the Bere Ferrers allotments and was pleasantly surprised by Mr.

Endean’s plot, it looked beautiful. In general Bere Ferrers is being worked.

**1280. Inspection Report by Cllr. Dennis & Cllr. Boot-Handford on the Cemetery Store.**

Present: Hilary Boot-Handford, Pete Dennis and Baz

The general appearance of the Cemetery was good. The few exceptions where the grass was long and unsightly were explained by the fact that people are planting bushes etc. and positioning containers in such a way as to make trimming the grass very difficult and, therefore, time-consuming. The store was in good order given that it’s basically three big sheds with no heating. The equipment was all secured correctly and we had no concerns to report.

Items for action:

* the light switch to the far ‘shed’ should be moved such that it can be switched on without having to go into the dark and feel around on the wall
* the Committee should discuss whether the agreement people undertake when buying a grave includes some clause to keep their containers and plants off of the grave itself
* the new road layout needs a decision made soon
* do we need both trailers? I don't see any problem with keeping both as they have separate uses, but if we do consider getting rid of one, Baz would like (after correct procedures have been followed) the smaller trailer.
* does Council wish to pay for the new garden waste service as without it we need to decide what to do with the green waste from the cemetery
* it would be an advantage to Council for Baz to undertake PAT testing training as all the equipment in the store needs testing. Baz would be happy to do this.
* Trimming back of an Oak Tree on the northern boundary of the Cemetery, as thee branches are low and encroaching on graves. Mary to check if this tree has a TPO on it before any action can be taken. If so permission should be sort to prune this tree. If no TPO, Baz should be employed to trim back as necessary.

Item 4 – regards do Council need both trailers. Agenda item for September.

Item 5 – does Council wish to pay for new garden waste scheme? Agenda item for September.

**1281. To discuss community composting.**

Agenda item for September meeting.

**1282. Management of the Pentillie Estate.**

The Clerk researched the Management of the Pentillie Estate and the following is the answer to why the estate is being managed by Greenspace. This is non- negotiable as it is a condition of planning. As a condition of planning consent, the developer who built your house must arrange long-term management of open spaces and features, including landscaping, drainage systems and play areas. Typically, the Local Authority will not take responsibility for these areas, and so agrees to Greenbelt taking on ownership and the associated obligations. The developer and planning authorities require homeowners to contribute to the cost of management, so everyone who lives in the area can benefit from local landscaping and features; Greenbelt’s Greenspace agreement secures the long-term sustainable future of the development’s open spaces and ensures all homeowners pay an equal, fair sum.

**1283. Correspondence.**

1) The Clerk was informed by the workman that a second pitch has been cut at the Recreation Field, The Down by BAUFC. I wrote to Mr. Westlake seeking an explanation.

We've cut a small section of grass to train on like we have done every 4/5 years to preserve the area outside the pavilion, we've also re-seeded that area at our expense to try and preserve the whole area and keep it in the best condition possible. The area we've cut out will not be affected at all, as anyone can see the condition of the football pitch is exceptional and I wouldn't treat the rest of the recreation field any different.

I welcome all the council to come up to the recreation field to have a look and discuss this with me and see what we are doing is in the interest of the recreation field and not our own.

Your complaint from a parishioner has no substance at all as "B.A.U.F.C" have not had any official training session whatsoever to date. I have also decided to train once a week this preseason which only last 6 weeks rather than twice a week to preserve the grass. Hope this clears everything up.

2) WDBC Mozza Brewer Locality Engagement Officer. They will be at the Saturday Market on the 15th on the Parish Hall with the Garden Waste Roadshow and Compost Bins.

3) James Kiltie –

Approx. 28/5/17 a spraying machine was seen on the Football area of the Rec. field spraying what appeared to be a systemic herbicide onto the field. Almost immediately a noxious smell was and still is in evidence when downwind of the field. The wind on that day was from the southeast which meant the herbicide spray blew towards the Down and the Children’s play park. There is evidence of damage to the leaves on the trees adjacent to the playpark.

I feel this is connected to the spraying. The field is looking unhealthy with areas of dead foliage and yellowing grass. This was an antisocial thing to do considering that it was done on our children’s half term break. A lot of people use the Recreation field. No warning signs were in evidence. I believe that it is the Parish policy to promote our environment and the ecology. Spraying large areas of our field with a herbicide seems to contrast with this policy. I feel that this action was unnecessary given the very limited use that is made of section of the Recreation Field.

This is not the first time that the field has been sprayed 2/3yrs ago I spoke to the Football members about this and I thought that the situation was resolved. Would the council take the appropriate action and confirm receipt of this email.

Reply from Mr. Westlake.

We did have signs at both ends of the pitch saying spraying was in progress, however there's was no herbicides used at all as we was only spraying iron as a plant feeder for the grass which is just a fertiliser. I was there the whole duration which was less than an hour and at no stage did any dogs go onto the pitch and there was only two children and one adult in the park.

Even though the iron is totally harmless we picked a day where there was no wind whatsoever.

The Clerk asked Mr. Westlake to inform Council of the name of the product used, she has had no reply.

**1284. Proposals for next meeting.**

1. Community Composting

2. Precept

3. To review safeguarding policy

4. Do Council need both trailers?

5. Does Council wish to pay for the new garden waste scheme?

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed this 25th July 2017.

Chairman…………………………….