**Bere Ferrers Parish Council**

At a meeting of the Bere Ferrers Parish Council held in Council Chambers, Bere Alston on Tuesday 31st October 2017.

Present

 Cllr. R. Leithall Chairman of Council

 Cllr. H. Boot-Handford Cllr. M. Page-Bailey

 Cllr. D.M.A. Chapman Cllr. D. Pengelly

 Cllr. S. Hanson Cllr. H. Rogers

 Cllr. B. Lamb Cllr. G.R. Reed

 Cllr. R. Maycock Cllr. E. Wager

**1423.** **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Dennis due to illness.

**1424**. **Chairman’s Report.**

As announced last month Shirley Munn has resigned as a Councillor and has since been presented with a bouquet of flowers as a goodwill thank you in recognition of her valuable contribution to our Parish Council over the last few years.

Neighbourhood Plan. The Bere Peninsula Community Plan Group are scheduled to meet soon with the hope that they will be able to present to Parish Council in November a summary of their responses to questions raised during the public consultation. The target is to have the Neighbourhood Plan updated and ready to submit to West Devon Borough Council this coming January.

Children’s play park at The Down. Our thanks to the community group BARP who will give a £3,500 contribution towards a new bonded rubber mulch play surface. Based on lowest price quotes, two different suppliers were selected for installation of bonded rubber mulch surface to be laid beneath the new play equipment, and for bulk delivery of loose rubber chippings (that we will arrange to get spread over larger area in and around the older play equipment). Subsequent issues raised by both suppliers have been resolved and purchase orders placed in line with their original quoted prices and our expectations.

The F&GP committee held an additional meeting this month in order to produce a first draft budget (required for precept) for the next financial year.

I and Cllrs Mark Page-Bailey and Brian Lamb attended the Southern Link meeting held in Tavistock on 5th October, and a report from this will be given tonight.

Cllr Ralph Maycock represented our Parish and attended Tavistock’s Mayor’s Civic Service held in Tavistock.

Council vacancy. The vacancy to be filled by co-option has been advertised on our website and elsewhere, and the closing date for applicants is 12 noon on Monday the 20th November.

Remembrance Sunday is in two weeks’ time on 12 November 2017 and members are encouraged to join either or both of the traditional wreath laying ceremonies and church services held locally in Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers.

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed that Council do not lay the New Zealand Cross at Bere Ferrers this year as we have a wreath there already, but a donation for the cost of the cross be given to Bere Alston Royal British Legion, seconded by Cllr. Rogers. Discussions were held.

A vote was taken 5 against laying the cross, 6 for. Motion failed.

The Chairman asked for a volunteer to lay the cross Cllr. Chapman agreed to lay the cross at Bere Ferrers with the Vice Chairman of Council laying the Council wreath at both Bere Ferrers and Bere Alston as the Chairman will be away, Cllr Hanson agreed to lay the cross at Bere Alston.

**1425**. **Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken**

 **on these items.**

1. Cllr. Reed – informed the Council that he approached the National Grid Fund on behalf of Weir Quay

Sailing Club for a donation to the building of the Club House at the Weir Quay Boat Club and was

extremely successful in getting a £20,000 grant which is being presented tomorrow at 10am.

**1426.** **To approve the minutes of Full Council held on 26th September as a true record and taken as**

 **read.**

Cllr. Hanson proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Reed.

Matters Arising

Minute 1368 – regarding the long standing fault on the roundabout installed by Rhino.

The Clerk read the following reply from Christian Parker.

Thank you for allowing us to investigate the issues raised with regards to our previous correspondence on the subject of the supplied roundabout. We have attended site to ensure the roundabout is in good working order and can confirm this to be the case.

The roundabout has been manufactured for DDA compliance and the speed in which the product spins is an important measure. The roundabout rotates approximately ¾ of the way round after spinning has stopped and this is deemed acceptable by the manufacturer. The slower speeds give suitability for wheelchair users, allowing a wheelchair bound child to use this product and be rotated (spun) safely.

Adjustments maybe possible to increase the speed but this may affect the DDA compliance and manufacturer’s warranty. Please let us know if this is something you wish for us to look further into and we will discuss the options with the manufacturer.

Whilst on site inspecting the roundabout, all other Rhino Play equipment & surfacing supplied was viewed and is in good & safe working order. The only current recommendations is the requirement for safety surfacing in many areas of which Mr. Pengelly advises is due imminently.

Rhino Play will always be here to help or advise in anyway

Discussions took place. Cllr. Leithall asked for two Councilor’s to go up and make an inspection of the roundabout, Cllr. Maycock and Cllr. Page-Bailey volunteered and based on their findings Council will be in contact with Rhino.

Minute 1369(1323) – Training – Cllr. Lamb stated that Southern Links have agreed to resurrect the training.

Pat Whymer will do another training session on Planning but not with individual Councils, he will hold a session for all Councillors.

 Cllr. Lamb also stated that Sue Nightingale will be putting on a course late January on the Code of Conduct.

Minute 1369(1325) – Outline application for 7 houses at Bere Ferrers. The Inspectors have not been in touch

 and the applicant has asked for a further 3 weeks delay.

Minute 1370(1337) – Clerk was asked to investigate and confirm that this Council needs a safeguarding

 policy – the Clerk read the following email from Lesley Smith DALC.

‘Although I think it’s not a bad idea to have a safeguarding policy for the council, it does require careful thought – the attached policy had some oddities in it which ought to be sorted out eg. the responsibilities of the safeguarding officer – don’t really make sense in that it says the Mayor decides whether a DBS check is required under the heading of the responsibilities of the safeguarding officer – so who is responsible for this. Also under records to be kept – you cannot make public through a book being reported to council meetings when a child has made an allegation of abuse. Also in the paragraph after this section – what organisations are being referred to here? I would assume those working with the council, or receiving grants from the council, or occupying council buildings – so this needs a bit more clarification.

Safeguarding is a real issue – the council just needs to be clear what someone should do if they have concerns – what they expect of organisations operating out of their buildings – and what they could reasonably expect to advise Councillor’s about in the course of carrying out their duties.

Discussions took place over Lesley’s reply. It was agreed to ask Southern Links if Councils need a safeguarding policy. This Council did not think it necessary for them.

**SO RESOLVED**

**1427**. **To approve and adopt the Plans minutes held on Tuesday 3rd October and taken as read, to**

 **deal with matters arising.**

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

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

**SO RESOLVED**

**1428**. **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Footpaths and Environment meeting held on 3rd**

 **October and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Chapman proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

Matters Arising

Minute 1387 – Footpath Guide – Cllr. Rogers has offered to re-do the Footpath Guide with as much of the

 new information that we have, Council accepted Cllr. Rogers offer.

Minute 1391(1) – Damaged Milestone – The Clerk has been in touch with Mr. Horner County Archaeologist

who has been in touch with the Milestone Society who have confirmed that these elaborate markers date from around 1868.

Mr. Horner stated “Our structures team has added the repair work to their list of ‘non- programmed’ tasks.” Not sure what this means in terms of timescale, but it is a start, we have also asked John Doswell to collect the slate and take it back to the depot.

Minute 1391(5) – Mr. Murdoch long standing complaint that he has with the local highway department.

 The Clerk read the following email from Mr. Murdoch;

‘Many thanks for your reply…….The funny thing is the very next day after they received my email

they sent out contractors to empty the said drains. However they have still not emptied all.

I feel that their stated policy is not fit for purpose and it is a complete false economy.

I have made it clear to all the seriousness of the situation and that their unwillingness is leaving the

general public in danger, thus I have every intention of being a witness to any future injury caused to

the general public by the councils reluctance to do the right thing…..unfortunately it seems common

practice to blame austerity for their own shortcomings’.

 Cllr. Chapman proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

**SO RESOLVED**

**1429.** **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes precept meeting held on**

**Tuesday 10th October and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Page-Bailey.

Matters Arising

Minute 1393(1) – Manhole covers Pilgrim Drive to Fore Street walkway. The Workman checked them and

 there seems to be no problem. Clerk to find out owners.

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

**SO RESOLVED**

**1430**. **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 17th October and**

 **taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Hanson proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

Matters Arising

Minute 1397(1336) – Surfacing The Down Play Park – The Clerk has been in conversation with the

representative of Soft Surfaces with the following result – they hope to put the surface in by either the end of week commencing 30th October or the following week.

Minute 1398 – BAUFC alterations in the Pavilion – Cllr. Boot-Handford confirmed that Mr. Westlake had

 been around to her house to complete the CASC forms.

It was agreed that Council asks Mr. Westlake for a revised copy of the plans for the work at

 The Pavilion.

Minute 1401 – BARP second phase of works at The Down play park – Cllr. Pengelly reported that they have

cancelled the climbing wall as this would not have the necessary required safety surface under it. BARP have asked Tesco for a two months extension to using the grant.

Cllr. Hanson proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Reed.

**SO RESOLVED**

**1431.** **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on Tuesday**

 **24th October and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Page-Bailey.

Matters Arising

Minute 1411(2) – The bench on Station Road Bere Ferrers – The Clerk checked with the inventory and this

 bench is not on our inventory.

Minute 1412 (1356) Rubber chipping – the discussions that took place at F&GP reference the company

wanting payment up front was not minuted. Ecochippings stated their terms are payment before

delivery, this is not Council’s policy, after various discussions it was agreed a letter be sent stating

our policies.

The Clerk has received a reply from echo-chipping asking that the Council confirm their order on

headed paper and this to be signed by a responsible Councillor, this was done and the Chairman

signed the letter. The Clerk received a reply yesterday thanking us for our letter of confirmation, “We are now producing the coloured chipping and I will advise when ready to ship.”

The Clerk has had a date of the 9th November; we now need to get a working party to spread them. Cllr. Wager suggested we contact Andy Ball as he has a telescopic lifter and he could place the bags in the play area.

Minute 1411(3) – Cllr. Wager was down in the hall car park at 10.30 on Saturday morning and the rubbish

was awful, he asked that a letter be sent to the Youth Club leader asking politely if they would talk to

the youth and ask them if they could use the litter bin provided by Youth Club and Council to keep

the area tidy.

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Reed.

**SO RESOLVED**

**1432**. **Recommendation from F&GP that this Council leaves the Dog Warden Scheme.**

The Clerk read the following email from Mozza Brewer the Localities Officer:

‘It appears that there was no written agreement in place but an understanding that WDBC would provide cover for Dog Warden duties in Bere Ferrers Parish Council for an average of 4 hours/week at £920.46.  This cost was calculated by WDBC to provide a Dog Warden for 7 parish councils who requested help with dog issues. Each parish council contributed according to the requested hours.

Bere Ferrers £920.46 /52 weeks = £17.70 per week or £4.42/hour.  Obviously this is greatly subsidised by WDBC in order to maintain the service and this is the same cost as was charged in 2012/2013 – see section from finance spreadsheet below.

I hope that this helps.

If the parish council wants a written agreement then I will ask the Group Manager (Helen Dobby) to progress this. Please let me know’.

After discussions Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed that we go to the end of term for the scheme and do not renew, seconded by Cllr. Wager.

A vote was called, 7 for the proposal to not renew the scheme and 3 abstentions.

A letter to be sent to West Devon stating that we expect a fully authorized Dog Warden with a uniform and the authority to legitimately fine people.

**1433.** **Internal Audit carried out by Cllr. Boot-Handford and Cllr. Reed.**

Cllr. Boot-Handford and Cllr. Reed undertook the internal audit; Cllr. Boot-Handford and Cllr. Reed did not feel they could sign off the audit as it was only a 50% success rate. Clerk explained that she has been awaiting confirmation from the bank that she can cash petty cash cheques.

**1434. Report from Cllr. Pengelly on Youth 2 Youth AGM.**

The Youth Hut is open 2 evenings per week, Mon and Wed 7-9pm.

The hut is still very active and well used by the youth of the village. In 2016 I reported that no girls were using the facility, happily this has changed and now there are 5 girls who regularly attend, plus some who visit occasionally. Hopefully this will improve as word gets around.

Vikki is still holding her cooking lessons; something that is proving popular with all, on the night of the AGM chili con carne was being prepared.

The West Devon Partnership link (Tavistock, Princetown, Horrabridge and Bere Alston) is progressing well with the help of lottery funding.

The hut organizes many activities and appears to be very solid financially.

Unfortunately on the morning of the AGM the hut was broken into, although nothing appeared to be missing, there was some damage, which will probably warrant an insurance claim.

The hut appears to be very well run valuable asset, appreciated by the youth of the village and the parish Council.

**1435.** **Report by Cllr. Leithall on Southern Links meeting.**

Bere Ferrers Parish Council were represented by Cllrs Richard Leithall, Cllr. Mark Page-Bailey, Cllr. Brian Lamb

West Devon Council Update

Joint Local Plan

* Examination commences in January
* Applicants wishing to be represented will be contacted
* Public enquiry will take place in a number of venues around Plymouth

Year 2018 Plan (ie. plan for next year)

* 8 corporate themes (don’t directly align with current functions) People, Places, Business may be adopted as per Devon County
* Ultimately, planning for a single Council
* Budget shortfall forecast due to a combination of a reducing grant from Central Government and increasing (inflation impacted) costs
* For financial year 2018-2019, West Devon need to close a £700k budget gap (inclusive of only a 1% pay rise) and South Hams close £584k budget gap
* Budget workshop to address the £700k 2018/2019 budget gap that currently exists despite efficiencies already made (i.e. ⅓ of workforce already gone, new computing system)
* Considering feasibility of commercial property acquisition that generates income whilst taking advantage of low cost of borrowing

Policing Issues

There was no Police representation. Noted that crime figures going up in a similar way to that occurring across the Country.

POST MEETING NOTE: Inspector Mark Sloman gave the following to questions raised at the meeting:-

* *I don’t believe the increase in crime is down to a decrease in police numbers in fact in West Devon in the last 12 months we have seen a very slight increase in officers working here.*
* *Some of the increases seen are down to the way we now record reported crime, particularly with regards to violent crime and sexual offences. However we can’t put all of the increases down to the way we record reported incidents. Nationally there has been an increase.*
* *We will continue to focus our resources on protecting the vulnerable and ensuring people are safe from harm. We will continue to work with other agencies, partners and the public to reduce crime. We are unable to do this on our own and we require the support of all parts of the community.*

Town and Parish (TAP) Funding

Another chance to apply for TAP funding if requests are received before 16th November

£19,018 worth of TAP Funding requests were approved:-

£1,500 for Lydford’s Community Bus Shelter

£1,400 for Dartmoor Forest’s Air Ambulance Night landing site

£6,350 for Lamerton’s VAS signs to slow traffic

£2,693 for Milton Abbot’s renovation of unsafe retaining wall

£5,950 for Brentor, BMPC, Lydford, & Mary Tavy Lengthsman

£1,125 for Brentor’s two Parish Notice Boards

TAP funding refused was:-

£5,825 for Peter Tavy’s Highway drainage repair (because responsibility of Devon Highways)

Training

Around £3,500 held by BFPC on behalf of Southern Links members

Parish councillor training about Planning matters can be provided by Patrick Whymer who has gone out to Councils in the past. Cllr Brian Lamb took an action to help facilitate this.

Available for loan: Projector, screen and laptop

Southern Links own this equipment which can be loaned if booked out and collected/returned.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 30th November 2017

**1436**. **Report from Cllr. Lamb on West Devon Borough Council.**

Cllr. Lamb reported that due to budget deficit there is a suggestion of a Community Lottery.

Cllr. Lamb reported that West Devon Borough Councillors voted to submit a proposal that they join with South Hams to make one council, 13 councillors voted for 18 voted against.

South Hams voted 19 for, 8 against and 3 abstentions.

This means that the proposal to create one new council for South Hams and West Devon failed and will not be submitted to the Secretary of State.

**1437**. **Correspondence.**

1) Bere Ferrers Villagers Association – Diana Mitchell- We are holding our AGM on Thursday evening in

Bere Ferrers Social Club and wonder if the Parish Council has appointed a Councillor to our Group,

as Shirley Munn has resigned? We are very sorry that she is no longer on the Council as she was

very helpful.

One item that will come up on Thursday is grass cutting in the recreation field. We are disappointed

that the grass isn't cut in time for half term or holidays when the field gets used by lots of children. It

would be most helpful if your contractor timed his mowing appropriately.

The table tennis table is in place and looks very good. We think it is a great asset. Thank you for

your help in dealing with the purchase.

 The Chairman asked for a volunteer to become Council’s representative on the Bere Villagers

Association, Cllr. Lamb agreed to represent Council.

2) Ros Davies P3 – Annual Workshop 2017 South Hams and Teignbridge Workshop Tuesday 28th

November at The Watermark Centre, Ivybridge. Cllr. Chapman does not know if she will have

transport.

3) South Devon & Dartmoor Community Partnership.- copy of a letter to Alison Hernandez re:

Neighbourhood Policing Review.

4) Campaign to Protect Rural England- Devon’s Dark Skies Light Polution. Devon Voice. Newsletter of the

Devon Branch of the campaign to protect Rural England. Whats Special to you. Landscape issues in your Neighbourhood Plan. Landlines why we need a strategic approach to land.

5) DALC- Newsletter.

6) Stuart & Sherry Mirfin – New Zealand Centenary - Hi Mary and Eddie

It was great to meet you at Bere Ferrers.

We are home from our big trip and just want to tell you we were so impressed with the lovely day

that the town organised for the 100 year Anniversary.

The flowers in the church were lovely, thanks to Margaret we believe, the beautiful food that the local women all put on, the welcome we received at the train station from Chris and then being taken into the old train wagon and served coffee.

The ceremony at the station was well done and the effort from the local children in the new

memorial at the station was great to see.

We found the church service very emotional, especially when the group performed the song that had been written.

So many thanks to The British Legion for organising the day.

The only thing we were disappointed with is not knowing that Amanda Gillanders was there on the day. I did not receive the email Eddie sent a week before the event which included her, until we got home. It’s a shame we weren't introduced.

We introduced ourselves to McKenna’s from Hawkes Bay NZ, the great nephew of McKenna, and to Wardens from Ireland the nephew of Warden. He had his 2 granddaughters with him and we thought the other young ones were with him. We also spent time with Peter Griffiths from Northern London and originally NZ. His grandfather was the platoon commander of Gillanders and Stus father Ashton Mirfin. We cannot prove it but we suspect that Ash followed Gillanders out of the train.

So thanks again - we have some lovely photos of the day and will remember it forever.

Best wishes Sherry Mirfin

Nelson NZ

7) The Clerk asked for permiss to pay the following cheques;

 a. Post Office Ltd – BT Broadband £94.80

 b. Sparling Recycling Ltd – Empty Skip £276.00

 c. Post Office Ltd – EDF Toilets, Office, Pavilion. £188.85

 d.Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual Affiliation fee £108.00

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed payment, seconded by Cllr. Reed.

**1438. Questions from any member of the public present at the discretion of the Chairman.**

1. Cllr. Wager – at 4.30 this afternoon I witnessed a Keltic Recovery lorry with an Ambulance on board

traveling on the Denham Bridge Road. I do not think there is a restriction notice on the Quarry Cross end. There is one at the top of Winsabear Lane.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members and members of the public for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.39pm.

Signed this 28th Day of November 2017

Chairman………………………………..