# BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chamber Bere Alston on Tuesday 17th October 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. B. Lamb, Cllr. E.K. Wager.

**1395. Apologies.**

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

**1396. Notice of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be**

**taken on these matters.**

1) Cllr. Lamb – we had a fantastic turnout at the Apple Fest.

2) Cllr. Hanson – reported that the blocked drains down by the Station have been cleared out, Cllr.

Maycock – the Road Warden Team can now keep them clear.

3) Cllr. Wager – around the Parish Hall and front doors is swamped in leaves and twigs can they

be picked up and taken away. The Well at Callington is immaculate; our well at Tap Hill need’s be cleaning out.

**1397. Matters arising from the minutes of the 12th September and taken as read, to deal**

**with matters arising.**

Matters Arising.

Minute 1336 – Surfacing The Down Play Park – the Clerk ordered the rubber mulch from Soft

and received an approximate date of 12/13 October. The Clerk then had to contact to check the measurements done by the company as they did not agree with the measurements on the quotation work; also they have a problem in getting the stone base to site as the weather has been so bad.

Discussions took place.

Cllr. Hanson agreed to re-measure the area tomorrow.

After further discussions Cllr. Hanson proposed that this work be deferred until next year, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

A question was put regards the safety of the area around the boat that was to be mulched. Cllr. Leithall asked if there were a couple of Councillors who would check the surface depth area of the wood chip, Cllr. Hanson offered to do this when she re-checked the measurements tomorrow and report to the Clerk.

It was agreed that this work would have to go out to competitive tender again next year.

Minute 1337 – Safeguarding Policy – the Clerk is waiting a reply to the question as to whether we

need a full policy.

**1398. To discuss with Mr. Westlake BAUFC plans for the Pavilion, also joining CASC.**

a) Mr. Westlake has spoken with Cllr. Boot-Handford a few weeks ago; he now has all the

information necessary to fill in the forms with Cllr. Boot-Handford.

b) Mr. Westlake has spoken with West Devon Building Regs. Officer who is happy with all the

works to be undertaken. The only thing that is different is that the door from the Home Team

changing room into the back passageway is not to be blocked up as this will be part of the Fire

Exit.

Mr. Westlake is looking for Council to give the go ahead to start this work.

Discussions then took place with regards the condition placed on the Football Club to become a

member of CASC to help Council save money.

Mr. Westlake said they will leave starting the work until the application forms for CASC were

completed and sent off, he also said there is no guarantee that they would be successful.

Once the forms are sent off, the Club will ask Council to give permission for the work to start.

**1399. Financial Statements.**

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

committee members.

Cemetery Cllr. Hanson proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

Recreation Cllr. Hanson proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

**1401. Report from BARP.**

BARP is now looking at the next phase at The Down Play Park, they have a £6,000 grant from the Co-operative to spend, and the following are ideas of what they would like;

* Climbing wall – 2 sections 4.5m long x 2m high
* Cargo net – remove old and replace with new
* Install posts and rope alongside rolling log
* Remove and replace ropes from commando crawl and Burma bridge
* Supply and install heavy duty wooden picnic bench
* Supply and install dragonfly play sculpture
* Supply and install bouncy mushroom

Cllr. Pengelly proposed the committee invoke standing order 3p (to go into part 2) to discuss suppliers, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

Cllr. Hanson proposed the committee revoke standing order 3p (come out of part 2), seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

Cllr. Lamb felt a check should be made on the required safety surface on the 2 metre wall as there are certain specified depths on fall heights.

Cllr. Hanson proposed Council agrees to BARP’s proposals as long as they meet all safety conditions, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

**1402. To review Burial Fees and Allotment & Recreation Fees.**

a) Present fees were circulated to Councillors by email. Cllr. Hanson proposed that all fees for pitch, Pavilion and the Barn at Bere Ferrers be increased by 5%, seconded by Cllr. Page-Bailey. All present were in favour.

b) Cllr. Hanson proposed no increase be made on Allotment Fees, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

c) Cemetery Fees – Cllr. Pengelly proposed that all fees be increased by £10, seconded by Cllr. Hanson. All present were in favour.

**1403. To set a precept for Recreation and Cemetery for 2018-19.**

Due to the lateness of the meeting it was proposed this item be deferred until November’s meeting.

**1404. Does Committee wish to pay for the new green waste scheme for Cemetery to**

**dispose of flowers etc.?**

A short discussion was had; Cllr. Leithall proposed that Council join the green waste scheme, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

**1405. Report by Cllr. Hanson the Green Burial meeting and minutes of the meeting.**

The Green Burial website is up and running. We still have no land and not many subscribers as yet.

**Wednesday 27th September 2017 at 19:30 in the Council Chamber.**

**Present:** Sarah Hanson (SH), Mark Page-Bailey (MPB), Sue Maycock (SMa), Shirley Munn (SMu), Graham Reed (GR), Peter Walshe (Minutes).

**1. Apologies:** None.

1. **Follow -up actions from 12th July meeting:**

**2.1** Shirley to make contact with Estate Agent/Vendor of piece of land near Brian Lamb’s orchard in Bere Ferrers (Footpath 85) to find out size of land and cost. SMu reported she had approached the farmer, who owned the land, but he is already in negotiations and the land is no longer available.

**2.2** Mark to follow up on the flat piece of land between Bere Ferrers and Weir quay on sale with Kivells. MPB stated that the land is still for sale through Kivells, but so far no details have been made available. He will make further enquiries at the Footpaths/Environment meeting. Another piece of land has become available between Colly Town and Bere Ferrers, a 2 acre site costing £65,000. The site is difficult to access and the cost is too high. **2.3** Tamar Partnership meeting on the 31st July: arrangements to be made for Mark and Sarah to go to the meeting with Graham to enquire about possible grants. The meeting related mainly to river matters and was not concerned with the Tamar AONB, so no progress was made.

**2.4** Shirley to speak with Katie from Parnell’s solicitors to seek advice on CICs and how subscribers should be listed in Memorandum of Association. SMu has attempted to speak with Parnell’s, who have not responded. Although approaches have been made by emailing questions and seeking advice, unless some payment is made, there is little support, or interest.

**2.5** Sarah to speak with the ANBG reference burial sites that have been set up as charities (how this has been done and what if any implications there are). SH has not contacted the ANBG burial sites as there is an outstanding issue regarding charitable status. She will look at the website [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com) and see how it was set up. If a charity appears to be feasible, donations from interested people could be sought for plot acquisition.

**2.6** Graham to look further into the Lottery Challenge. GR considered the Lottery Challenge to be wrong for the Sub-Committee’s fund raising purposes, being aimed at specific one-off events and having to jump through too many administrative hoops. **2.7** Shirley to visit Pentiddy at the end of July. SMu visited Pentiddy, which is a commercial organisation with an acreage set aside.

**2.8** Neil (a new member of the Parish) needs to be invited to the next meeting on the 27th September as he has shown great interest in the group and has offered advice, help and time. Neil is a graphic designer and would be very helpful with providing a visual layout of what the Sub-Committee would like to see. GR suggested sending him copies of the minutes of the meetings to encourage his interest.

**2.9** Mark to look into how to set up a website and look at a template for creating a home page. MPB has set up the website which is excellent and is discussed further under Item 4. **2.10** Graham to speak to Mount Kelly as they have set up an excellent website for the choir to seek advice and help (for free). GR did not contact Mount Kelly regarding their website, as it was no longer relevant.

**2.11** Sarah to draft something for the Bere links directed at the landowners on the Peninsula. SH has published details in Bere Link and Tavy Times, aimed at encouraging land owners and potential subscribers on the Bere Peninsula to come forward with their contact details.

**3.0** **Response to recent press briefings:**

**3.1** The response to the Bere Links article and the Tavy Times report has been poor. Potential land owners and subscribers have been directed to the Bere Ferrers Parish Council. Two ladies have left their contact details with SH; SMu noted that a couple of others had expressed interest - details should be passed on to SH.

**3.2** There is a major problem of how to grow additional subscribers from a small handful to a significant number, say 100 people. SH stated the crucial need is to obtain a suitable site. SMa suggested approaching the Edgcumbe Estate to see if there is any interest in selling/leasing a small piece of land. GR will let SH know of any useful contacts at Edgcumbe Estate and SH will pursue this possible initiative.

**3.3** Another potential way forward to encourage more subscribers would be to approach clubs such as the Bowling Club, Weir Quay Sailing Club and other village Associations to sound out interest. This might encourage possible subscribers, but without an identified site, there will be problems getting subscribers ‘on-board.’ It is difficult to sell the idea, before we have the land.

**3.4** MPB suggested that the Sub-Committee consider leasing a piece of land, at say £100 per acre per month. This should be regarded as a long term 100 year project. Any surplus land could then be rented out for other agricultural or commercial purposes. A possible way forward would be to use TAP funding to get things underway and help with setting up fees such as publicity and legal fees. The green burial site would also be available for neighbouring parishes e.g. Gulworthy and Buckland, so grant funding in association with other parishes might be a way forward. SH stated that the timing for TAP funding application is imminent. MPB agreed to look at the TAP schedule and investigate this potential approach further.

**4.0 Comments on website created by Mark Page-Bailey:**

**4.1** Committee members agreed that the new website (bereferrerswoodlandburials.org.uk) is excellent and SH thanked MPB for his hard work. It is 99% what SH had hoped to see. MPB asked for additional comments and information to be included on the webpage, such as dates of events and more information on how to join.

**4.2** SH read out her comments for inclusion into the website. SH preferred “plot costs are expected to be comparable with those of conventional burials,” rather than “plot costs significantly lower than conventional burial plots”, though we could still say “plot costs are expected to be in the region of £700.” MPB will include SH’s additional paragraphs to support the website and provide more details.

**5.0 Funding for set-up activities:**

**5.1** SH might be able to get some funding from the Parish Council for setting up activities. The amount sought is in the region of £200. This could include producing a leaflet or mailshot for every household in the Bere Ferrers Parish.

**5.2** The current population of the Parish is approximately 3000 people in 1000 households. A leaflet could be produced which is sent directly to each household. MPG considered this to be a worthwhile exercise and will investigate its feasibility. SH will request an up-to-date electronic copy of the electoral role to assist in the mailing process.

**6.0 Any Other Business:** None

**7.0 Action Summary for next meeting:**

**7.1 SH to investigate St Albans Woodland Burial Trust charity-based organisation to see how they set up.**

**7.2 GR to let SH have any useful contacts for the Edgcumbe Estates;**

**7.3 SH to contact Edgcumbe Estates to see if there is any potential interest in selling/leasing a small piece of land;**

**7.4 MPB to investigate the availability of TAP funding and the possibility for leasing a larger site;**

**7.5 MPB to include SH’s comments onto the website to provide additional detail;**

**7.6 SH to approach the Parish Council regarding funding for setting up activities, leafletting and mailshot;**

**7.7 MPB to investigate potential household mailshot to encourage local support and subscribers for a green burial site;**

**7.8 SH to get an up-to-date electoral role to assist with the mailshot process.**

**1406. To discuss Community Composting.**

Cllr. Page-Bailey has been in touch with Devon Community Recycling Network and was given the following information:-

“Local Authority cut backs meant the end of DCRN & DCCN (our sister Devon Community Composting Network, no more) I am working hard to find ways to take forward a new combined Network Devon Community Resources Network (DCNR) and funding is my focus for the remainder of the year. I will be delighted to add you to the list of members but at the moment not a great deal of activity for members apart from the Facebook site.”

**1407. To review the position regarding road layout for next section in Cemetery.**

It was agreed to defer this item until next month.

**1408. Correspondence.**

1. Paul Graeme-Drury – seeking permission to keep 5 Geese on the allotment, permission agreed

.

2. Michael McGregor –To whom it may concern.

“I am a concerned dog owner and former sportsman and qualified football referee who uses the Bere Alston recreation ground to exercise my dog. Today I walked my dog, as I often do around the recreation field. Much to my dismay I had to pick up 5 bags of dog poo around the football pitch. I often witness dog owners go to the field and head straight to the pitch to exercise their dogs without using any of the other more suitable areas of the field. I acknowledge that the majority of dog owners are responsible but for me to have to pick up 5 bags of other owners dog mess around the pitch is not good.

It does pose significant health risks to players and that is aside from the unpleasantness of having to wash it off in the event of an accident. As a fellow dog owner I see no reason why the playing area cannot be restricted to not allowing dogs on the pitch due to this reason.

I do understand that sometimes a dog can stray onto the pitch if off a lead but the way the pitch is being used is a nice surface for the dogs to run on with no regard to the effort that is clearly being taking in maintaining a facility that is something the parish and football team should be very, very

proud of, the recreation field is a good size and I cannot understand why dog walkers insist on sole using the pitch to exercise their pets. Please can you carefully consider how the area is being used by dog owners and also the potential of restricting access on the pitch to dogs. Kind regards”

It was felt Council should reiterate the dog fouling article in the next issue of the parish magazine, reminding people of the hazard and again reminding them to pick up after their dogs .

3. Roger White – Bere Ferrers Villagers Association confirming that the outdoor table tennis table

is now installed at Bere Ferrers Recreation Ground.

**1409. Proposals for next meeting.**

1. Precept.

2. Update safeguarding policy.

3. Diana Memorial Stone.

4. Community Composting.

5. To review position regards road layout for next section in Cemetery.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm

Signed this 31st October 2017.

Chairman…………………………….