**Bere Ferrers Parish Council**

At a meeting of the Bere Ferrers Parish Council held in Council Chambers, Bere Alston on Tuesday 28th November 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. P. Dennis Cllr. H. Rogers

 Cllr. S. Hanson Cllr. G.R. Reed

 Cllr. B. Lamb Cllr. E. Wager

 Cllr. R. Maycock

1475. **Chairman’s Report.**

**Neighbourhood Plan, Statement of Consultation**. The Bere Peninsula Community Plan Group are here tonight to seek approval for their Statement of Consultation. If approved by Parish Council, then this can be submitted to West Devon Borough Council, hopefully by this coming January.

**Children’s play park at The Down**. Our thanks to Andy Ball, Harry Ball and Paul Willmot for providing the services of a telescopic lifter to distribute the large sacks of rubber chippings into the playpark. Plus, our thanks to the working party that included Councillors (Ralph Maycock, Brian Lamb and Mark Page-Bailey), friends of BARP and Chris Avery from Class landscapes who manually spread the 13 tons of loose rubber chippings over the large area in and around the older play equipment. On the same day contractors laid a new bonded rubber mulch play surface beneath the new play equipment previously installed by BARP.

**Weir Quay Community Water Sports Hub Club:** I attended an award ceremony where the National Grid made a presentation to the Club of a £20,000 cheque that will allow work to be commissioned to build the new Boatshed.

**Remembrance Day**: Our Vice Chairman, Cllr Ralph Maycock laid a wreath from Parish Council at the War Memorial in Bere Alston, and Cllr Brian Lamb laid a similar wreath at the Memorial in Bere Ferrers with Mary Taylor and other Councillors also in attendance.

**Bere Alston 2nd Scout Group 60th Anniversary**: Last Sunday, I attended the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the Bere Alston 2nd Scout Group. There was a good attendance from the Beavers, Cubs and Scout groups, and all in the movement recited the Scout Promise. Several Long service awards were made, including 20 years’ service recognition for Reverend Nick Law who also received a separate Award of Merit to services to the Scouts

**Southern Links Meeting**: Cllrs Mark Page-Bailey, Brian Lamb and I plan to attend the Southern Link meeting to be held in Tavistock this Thursday. Our two TAP funding applications met the recent deadline (special thanks to Mary Taylor) and are on the agenda list for approval. One is for three Parish Notice boards co-funded by us, and the other for new play equipment at Sarah Park to be co-funded by BARP

**Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service**: We have been informed that the Service has opened a consultation period for its new draft plan which outlines how it intends to use its resources to help protect the public in the future. Individual responses can be made online, although you are prompted to declare if you are a Councillor**. https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/AboutUs/HaveYourSay**

**Next Full Council Meeting & Christmas**: There is one more Full Council Meeting coming up soon on Tuesday 12th December, and we plan to hold the traditional Parish Council Christmas party afterwards. Councillors’ partners are automatically invited along with other nominated special guests.

1476. **Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken**

 **on these items.**

1. Cllr. Boot-Handford- with regards to the Clerk being able to cash petty cash cheques at the bank I went in

 today and had no problem, so will continue to do this if that is ok.

2. Cllr. Hanson – Informed Council the following about the Green Burial sub-committee As you know, I decided to cancel last night's meeting because two of the subcommittee were unable to attend, and because we still have not identified a suitable plot of land (ref my previous email referring to no available land on the Mount Edgcumbe Estate).

Having spoken to most of the subcommittee members on the subject, the consensus is that as we cannot make much progress on the project until we have identified a suitable site, we should put our further efforts on hold, and not schedule any more meetings until the position changes. I will inform Council of this decision at its next meeting (28th November).

Looking at the actions arising from the last meeting (27th September), most are complete, and I believe that the remainder are not worth the effort of discharging until we have identified a suitable site. Therefore I suggest that for now we all simply take on the actions of 1) keeping a lookout for a site, and 2) recording contact details of any potential subscribers. Please let me (and the rest of the subcommittee) know if you become aware of movement on either front.

3. Cllr. Lamb – reminded Councillors about the form they had to return to the Clerk letting her know what

 courses they would like to attend, Southern Links Training need to know as soon as possible.

4. Cllr. Lamb – asked about the sale of the trailer, Cllr. Dennis has the photos and he will put the add up in

 the new year.

5. Cllr. Reed – is not able to attend the February the 8th Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison meeting, is there

 anyone who would attend in Cllr. Reed’s place. Cllr. Leithall hopes he can attend.

6. Cllr. Dennis – would like to wish all a Merry Christmas as he will not be sending cards but will make a

 donation to charity.

1477. **Presentation of the Neighbourhood Plans, Statements of Consultation.**

Cllr. Maycock presented a PowerPoint presentation on the statement of consultation with Graham Reed explaining the Environment section, Mike Palmer Housing, Ralph Maycock Economy, Ewan Rae Community and Ralph Maycock presented the Transport & Communications section as Granville Starkey was not able to attend.

Cllr. Lamb – wished to highlight the development of the Down Estate and the developer bringing traffic through the new estate, this should not happen. Cllr. Maycock stated that entry could be a joint access with the Bowling Club.

Further discussions took place.

Cllr. Boot-Handford reiterated what a magnificent feat of endurance this has been and congratulated all those connected with the Neighbourhood Plan for a job well done.

Cllr. Maycock stated there are two other documents to come and the Strategic Environment Assessment, this should be with us by January and once all documents in place it can be presented to West Devon Borough Council.

Cllr. Leithall proposed that this Council accept the second public consultation statement as presented, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

The Chairman called for a vote, all in favour of accepting the document 11, against 1. Motion carried.

Cllr. Leithall – Council recognises all the work and time that has been put into the Neighbourhood Plan and thanked everyone for that.

1478. **To approve the minutes of Full Council held on 31st October as a true record and taken as**

 **read.**

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

Matters Arising

Minute 1424 – Council Vacancy. There has been no nominations; the Chairman stated we should advertise

 again in the new Year.

Minute 1426(1378) – Ongoing problem with the roundabout at The Down play park. Cllr’s Maycock,

 Page-Bailey and Pengelly inspected the roundabout and Cllr. Page-Bailey stated it is

 very difficult to turn it but this is due to regulations for this type of equipment.

 The Chairman said “Unfortunately we will not be complaining again”

Minute 1426(1363) – Planning Training – The clerk explained that Pat Whymer will not come out to us as it

 is only 12 months ago that he did a training session here, but he will accept any new

 Councillors and integrate them with a training session held for Tavistock Town

 Council.

Minute 1426(1325) – Outline application for 7 houses at Bere Ferrers.

Cllr. Lamb reported that the Planning Inspectorate will make a decision by the 1st December whether or not to accept the alterations or ask for a new application.

Minute 1429(1393) – Manhole cover Pilgrim Drive to Fore Street. The Clerk has spoken to the owner of the

flats over the archway and he says they do not belong to him but could be South West Water’s. The Chairman felt we should get some anti slip paint and paint them.

Minute 1431(1411) – The Clerk reported that the Youth Leader has been asking the youth at every session

 to use the litter bin provided.

Cllr. Musgrave stated that there is a campaign to clear the area.

**SO RESOLVED**

1479. **To approve and adopt the Plans minutes held on Tuesday 7th November and taken as read, to**

 **deal with matters arising.**

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

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

**SO RESOLVED**

1480. **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 14th November and**

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

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

Matters Arising

Minute 1447 1) – Owner of Jam Factory putting in kerb stoner, Clerk has not heard from Mr. Doswell.

 Cllr. Wager stated he is now planting shrubs.

Minute 1448(1397) – State of the Recreation Field on The Down. Mr. Wager felt it was much too wet to

 roll.

Minute 1451 – Disposal of Shillet. The clerk spoke to Andy Ball who has no use for the shillet and it is

 difficult to store. He did suggest Mr. Shuttkacker may like it.

Minute 1455 – To review the position regarding road layout for the next section of the Cemetery (Dog

 Exercise Field).

Cllr. Lamb suggested that at the next Open Spaces meeting a subcommittee be formed with terms of reference to look at the road layout.

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

**SO RESOLVED**

1481. **To approve and adopt the F&GP minutes held on Tuesday 21st November and taken as read, to**

 **deal with matters arising.**

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

Matters Arising

Minute 1469 – The Clerk has been chasing up our payment from Gulworthy for TAP Funding.

 I have spoken with Clare Chapman and she confirmed it was paid last June.

 Also Clare stated there will be no applications accepted next year from TAP Funding for a

 lengthsman’s work and suggested Council put forward an application in March for this.

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

**SO RESOLVED**

1482. **Internal Audit carried out by Cllr. Maycock and Cllr. Page-Bailey.**

Cllr. Page-Bailey stated that they tested two items and they were all fine.

1483. **Report from Cllr. Lamb on West Devon Borough Council.**

West Devon fall out over the joint Councils is still going on.

We are now trying to balance the budget, this will be ongoing, and one group are looking at cuts the other looking at rises.

Cllr. Lamb stated the he and Cllr. Musgrave visited the Energy Plant in the Dockyard. There is an opportunity to visit the plant if anyone wishes, interest was shown. Cllr. Lamb to arrange in the New Year.

Cllr. Lamb gave the following report on REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT DEVON HIGHWAYS

CONFERENCE FOR TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

There was presentation by the Manager of Skanska who are the new contractors for Devon, having taken over the Devon Highways name. A number of teething troubles regarding the incompatibility of computer systems has caused a six month hiatus in repairs... They are an international Swedish company, who built the Gherkin, in London and the new Forth Bridge so should be able to deal with pot holes.

There was an introduction to the Asset Management Plan where P.C.’s are asked to access this from Devon Highways site and check on position of all road/footpath assets and amend as necessary or add so the DH have correct locations. I doubt whether we can add to the knowledge of our Local Highways Officer.

Three Parish Councils gave talks on what works their road groups had done and the additional grants they had drawn down from D. H. One unfortunate P.C. were told that they could not use a local tractor to clear ditches, in spite of the fact that the driver had an Operator’s Licence, having recently retired from D.H. Some red faces when it was pointed out to Devon staff that it was perfectly legal provided he complied with Chap 8 requirements.

Details given of a special website for Parish & Town Councils (through D.H.site) where you can access all works and problems in your Parish. Clerk invited to complete feedback form on this.

Information was given out on the Community self-help and Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund (HMCEF.) Not for capital projects. In 2016/17; 49 out of 79 applications were approved and £95,000 granted, resulting in works valued at £168,000 being completed. £58,000 already approved for 2018/19. Have we had details of this scheme?

A session on Community Self Help was brought to a halt when I asked for an explanation about the fiasco which had stopped the work of the noble members of our Road Wardens Group by the bureaucracy of DCC. I related the sordid details of the second contract requiring us to take on unlimited liability for any member who stepped outside the strict working criteria and caused a legal claim. Neither Lucy Barrow who is the Highway Services Manager and responsible for all Road Warden Groups or any other of the 19 members of D.H. present had heard about the new contract or problems etc. etc.!!

I will be writing to her with copies of the relevant correspondence in the near future including the implications that our five containers of ‘pothole mix’ have reached their expiry date and should be replaced, because of this fiasco.

Parish Councils can now acquire the legal powers to close roads for special events within their Parish. The requirement is for the appointment of a Councillor who should attend a one day course at Saltash (COMAC,) with some paperwork implications.

We were informed that winter salt over 2/3 years old in open bags has probably deteriorated but replacements in sealed 25 kg bags are available and these are easier to handle and deliver to individual wardens. We were also told that DH had been informed that all the signs were for a bad winter!

They now have on the DH Community web site a Highway Safety Awareness E –course, this is apparently for members of R.W. teams.

Finally a session on reporting a problem via DH website, not just potholes, but overhanging hedges, ice, debris, grit bins, lights, hazardous trees, blocked drains and overriding verges when drop is more than 100mm is a safety defect. Actionable potholes have to be 40mm deep and 300mm diameter with right angle sides – not a saucer shape! Though, our R.W. could get a special material – Ultra Crete – to deal with those.

Other information I will give to our Road Warden and Clerk.

1483. **Correspondence.**

1) Mr. Hamilton – Loathed as I an to make a fuss I feel it incumbent on me to comment and complain about

 the language we are subjected to by members of Bere Alston United FC and their visitors. I

 refer specifically to a match this afternoon (November 25)

 Letter to Mr. Westlake and refer to Open Spaces

2) West Devon CVS- West Devon CVS in conjunction with Wiser Money’s  Transitions  Project

warmly invites you to our proposed Community and Wellbeing event in Bere Alston Parish Hall, PL20 7EJ on Tuesday 23 January 2018, 2 pm until 6 pm.  This event is a great opportunity to promote and market what you do and what you can offer in the Bere Peninsula, to the benefit of residents of all ages in this rural community.

The areas of interest we hope to have represented are ones that appeal to both older and younger people, covering transport, housing, welfare, learning, advocacy, environment, good health and fitness as well as social and creative activities. The underlying aim is to help local people  find out what activities and services are already available and to identify any gaps, whilst at the same time encouraging residents to get involved, perhaps by taking up volunteering to help others in the Peninsula and to have a voice.

The event will be open for everyone to attend.  As it runs from 2 pm until 6 pm, those who are not working, are retired or otherwise free in the early part of the afternoon, will be able to come along from 2 pm onwards; parents collecting children from school or those returning home from work will be able to come along later, up until 6 pm. There will be some mini wellbeing activities and challenges on offer including creative workshops run by Tavistock Scrapstore and we hope one or two other organisations, and there will be refreshments available for stallholders.

If you would like to book a table in the Hall, and/or can offer a fun mini activity, please complete and return to me the attached booking form as soon as you can. This will be on a first come, first served basis, so do please respond quickly.

We very much hope you will be able to take up this chance to promote your group in this beautiful rural parish of West Devon, thus helping to enhance and sustain its vibrant community.

3) Police Report for 7th and 28th November -

 1 x Common Assault – Domestic Related

 2 x Criminal  Damage – Graffiti and Arson to Parish Council Property

1 x Criminal  Damage – Car was scratched

1 x Criminal  Damage – Brick through a greenhouse

For some reason the Criminal Damage seems to be spiking at the moment, hopefully it is only a temporary glitch and nothing more sinister.

2 x Common Assault

1 x Harassment – neighbourhood related

1 x Malicious Communication – cold calling

1 x Criminal Damage – Neighbourhood related

1 x Attempted Burglary.

That seems to be all the recorded crime for the month.

4) West Devon Borough Council- **Are You Ready For Winter 2017?**

**West Devon Borough Council is urging all residents to take a few moments before winter strikes, to make sure that they are well prepared for the bad weather.**

To help residents, the Council has put together the “Are you ready for winter” campaign 2017, which wraps up the best safety advice and alert services from the Council and its partners.  This allows residents to make the most of the winter, safely. To make it even easier, West Devon Borough Council has taken the best advice from its partners to tell you where you can find important information quickly and easily.

 - Looking for information about floods and how to be #floodaware? Follow the Environment Agency - @EnvAgencySW.
 - Is there a storm approaching? Follow @metofficestorms or @metofficeSWEng.
 - Worried out the road network in bad weather, check in with @Devonalerts and @highwaysengland.
 - Worried about Flu or winter bugs? Go to @NHSchoices.

**Cllr Jeff Moody, West Devon Borough Council's Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing said:** “Each year, around the festive season, we work with our partners and government agencies to put out vital messages to residents, about health and safety during this period, and also any important weather advice.

“It’s so important that residents use this time before the full might of winter strikes, to get familiar with all the key information that can be found on our partners’ social media sites. There is great advice there about flooding and how to prepare for it, how to get your car ready for winter, or even what is happening out on the roads.

“Parish and Town Councils are also crucial in emergency situations because most of them have a plan of what to do in bad weather. Residents should get in touch with them beforehand about the emergency plan. They can also get more information about how to get hold of sandbags, who designated snow wardens are and also who are the people trained to work in road clearing gullies.

“We are really asking all residents to act quickly by following us as well as the Environment Agency, Devon County Council and the Met Office on Twitter and Facebook. Please avoid being caught unprepared in a time of crisis.”

Residents can also see retweets and shared messages from the Council on social media about “Are you ready for winter” messages from all our partners.

All it takes is a few moments of your time to arm yourself for an emergency. There will be less impact on everyone if we all **get ready for winter**.

5) Alison Hernandez’ Monthly Police Commissioner’s report

6) Just a very brief email to say we have three spaces available for Strimmer/brushcutter training on **Saturday 2nd December** at Stover Country Park near Newton Abbot.  The spaces are due to cancellations and will be offered free of charge for P3 volunteers and parish/town council employees who are undertaking work on rights of way.

If you are able to join us please email me as soon as possible to reserve your free space.  The course runs from 9am until 4pm and delegates are requested to bring the following:

* Strimmer
* Safety gear
* Packed lunch
* Money for all day carparking (approx. £2 - £3) can be claimed through your P3 grant from your parish/town council.

Places are offered on a first come first served basis and maps plus further details will be sent upon confirmation of a place.

Cllr. Maycock requested we ask if there are any more courses booked for the New Year.

7) Alex Rehaag –West Devon Borough Council

I have been contacted by RENT plus as they were wondering if there had been any feedback from the presentation which they gave.  I think they were seeking the views as to whether this would be something which would be acceptable in the parish in the future.

I would be grateful if you could let me know if there is any feedback I can pass on.

8) Devon Association of Local Councils- News Letter.

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

Signed this 12th Day of December 2017.

Chairman………………………………..