**Bere Ferrers Parish Council**

At a meeting of the Bere Ferrers Parish Council held in Council Chambers, Bere Alston on Tuesday 28th February 2018.

Present

Cllr. R. Leithall Chairman of Council

Cllr. H. Boot-Handford Cllr. R. Maycock

Cllr. D.M.A. Chapman Cllr. M. Page-Bailey

Cllr. P. Dennis Cllr. D. Pengelly

Cllr. S. Hanson Cllr. H. Rogers

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

1613. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Wager due to illness.

1614. **Chairman’s Report.**

**New Play Equipment**

Both Parish Council and BARP have placed synchronised purchase orders with Rhino Play to renew equipment for the children’s playpark in Bere Alston.

**Parish Councillor Training Courses**

Many members attended along with Councillors from Gulworthy and Buckland Monachorum the Planning Training Course hosted here in the parish Hall with a comprehensive presentation given by Pat Wyndham. The Code of Conduct Training that was cancelled has been re-scheduled for 18th April.

Also, Southern Links Training Courses (TAP funded) are now available for booking. Councillors are encouraged to attend any or all of the three courses:-

* New & Existing Councillors: Thurs. 22nd March 2018 – 19:30
* Finances: Thurs. 26th April 2018 – 19:30
* Chairmanship: Thurs. 24th May 2018 – 19:30

**Parish Meeting**

The annual Parish Meeting is coming up soon, and it is noted that by convention this year’s venue should be Bere Ferrers village, and we are looking for ideas for a guest speaker.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

Due procedure seems to be progressing well noting that an official inspector has been appointed.

**Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee**

I attended the Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee Meeting held 8th February 2018. Summary Report will be given this evening.

1615. **Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken**

**on these items.**

1. Cllr. Maycock – County have been in touch informing Cllr. Maycock that the snow warning has gone

from yellow to amber. There are 7-8 volunteer snow wardens.

Major routes round the Parish will be gritted by County. The snow wardens will try and get around the junctions and Tap Hill.

Cllr. Pengelly was asked how parishioners can contact the snow wardens and road wardens, could we put a contact number on the website and in the Parish Magazine. Cllr. Pengelly has asked for an item to be put on next month’s Open Space agenda.

2. Cllr. Pengelly – I recently received complaints about the poor state of repair of the road from Station

Road down to Ferry Farm. This road has several pot-holes and at least 3 dips in the road

where there is evidence of flooding. A car had to be recovered at one of these points after

being flooded. One particularly bad point is near the entrance to the school. I reported all the problems and asked that this should be prioritised as I consider it dangerous. This one has now been repaired, but none of the others have been. Is there anything the Parish Council could do to prioritise this road? I also reported the flooding problem encountered once again near the Woolacombe Farm entrance. I also reported the Mile Level pot hole, which was being worked on this afternoon.

During this conversation I was asked what is the role of the road wardens and how they

can be contacted. Cllr. Maycock replied that the remit is pot holes no bigger than a dinner

plate by about 1” deep. Cllr. Page-Bailey stated that Health & Safety is the issue because

of the roads on the peninsula are not wide enough to do the repair and still allow traffic

past.

Cllr. Maycock thought it would be a good idea to put something on the website explaining

what we can do.

3. Cllr. Dennis – Recently the road from Buckland to Roborough Down was closed with no explanation.

1616. **To approve the minutes of Full Council held on 30th January as a true record and taken as**

**read.**

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

Matters Arising

Minute 1555(1529[2]) – The seat and chains from the zip line have arrived.

Cllr. Lamb asked Cllr. Musgrave if he would take the current issues of vandalism etc. to the Community Safety Partnership meeting

Minute 1558 – Report from Cllr. Lamb on SW Rail Development – Cllr. Lamb has written a draft reply and

the Chairman has agreed the consultation letter be sent.

**SO RESOLVED**

1617. **To approve and adopt the Plans minutes held on Tuesday 6th February and taken as read, to**

**deal with matters arising.**

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

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

**SO RESOLVED**

1618. **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Footpath & Environment meeting held on 6th**

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

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

Matters Arising

Minute 1573(Fp6) – reply letter from Peter Guy

I took a look at Fp 6 on Friday. It is fine. The landowner has simply felled some of the old elms along his hedge boundary which is a good thing. Hopefully there will be less dead wood falling onto the path now and the increase light will dry the path up more readily. It will probably need a bit more cutting in the summer months now though

Minute 1574 (Unclassified County Road) – the Clerk wrote to Peter Guy our Footpath Warden about the

incident that occurred on this Unclassified County Road and a request from Mr. Crozier and Mr. Harrison.

The Clerk read the following letter from Peter Guy;

The highway in question is Unclassified County Road 301, Bere Ferrers. It is a legitimate public highway open to all traffic. To change the designation would involve taking this to magistrate’s court to prove that it was no longer needed as a road. The various user groups would object and the case would get nowhere. There are many people who wish to use these old roads. Indeed I have found it one of the better and more pleasant routes when I have inspected it. It links to the road down to Leigh Farm and makes an ideal through route. The road status means it does always carry rights for use by horse riders and cyclists.

I do not know what the police involvement was but they have not contacted DCC about the status of the road as far as I know.

Cllr. Page-Bailey asked if he could have a copy of Mr. Guy’s letter.

Cllr. Hanson wished to congratulate Cllr. Rogers on all the work she has done to the reprint of the Footpath Guide.

Cllr. Chapman proposed adoption, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

**SO RESOLVED**

1619. **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 13th February and**

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

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

Matters Arising

Minute 1585 – The Clerk has placed the order with Rhino for phase two, with the proviso that no work is to

be undertaken until Council gives permission, due to the very muddy entrance.

Minute 1588 – Cllr. Lamb and Cllr. Wager visited the Bere Ferrers Playing Field. It seems as though the

problem is compounded by surface water coming down from Hensbury Lane. Cllr. Lamb has

filled in a bad hole by the main gate entrance but feels a sleeping policeman should be built

in the entrance and also another one further down where there is a gully; this could then shoot

water into the gully away from the road way to the car park. The mud in the entrance to the

car park needs resolving and a load of crushed slate be placed there. Refer this back to

Open Spaces.

The Clerk reported that the tap in the Cemetery has a burst pipe, water turned off.

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

**SO RESOLVED**

1620. **To approve and adopt the F&GP minutes held on Tuesday 20th February and taken as read, to**

**deal with matters arising.**

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

Matters Arising

Minute 1600 – Sick Pay – the Council is not able to reclaim sick pay as they are a Government Body.

Minute 1603 – Cllr. Page-Bailey has spoken to Nathan Blamey regards the making of two wooden notice

boards, he confirmed he could do that.

Minute 1602 – Cllr. Lamb felt that the hedge hanging over the entrance on the left of the car park should be

cut back. He also asked what is being done about additional lighting. Refer to Finance &

General Purposes.

Minute 1606 – New Accounting System – Cllr. Dennis stated this will not only save money it will make the

Clerk and Assistant Clerk’s jobs a lot easier. Cllr. Dennis has been talking to his work

colleagues to ascertain what system they use, standard or a best practice. This is work in

progress but hopes to have a package ready by the end of the Financial Year.

Cllr. Boot-Handford stated we owe Cllr. Dennis a tremendous vote of gratitude.

Cllr. Lamb asked that defibrillator Training be placed on the agenda for Finance & General Purposes next month.

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed adoption, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

**SO RESOLVED**

1621. **Internal Audit carried out by Cllr. Chapman and Cllr. Dennis.**

Cllr. Dennis – we did a check on cheques out and followed it through; there is trouble linking cheques to the bank statement as they are being recorded as bulk payments. Cllr. Dennis reported that all was ok.

1622. **Report from Cllr. Leithall on the Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Meeting.**

Presiding: Commander Carl Necker Royal Navy, Queen's Harbour Master Plymouth, Neil Trathen, Deputy Queen’s Harbour Master

Speaker: Colonel Neil Watkinson Royal Marines

1 Assault Group Royal Marines based at RM Tamar Devonport, re-located from Poole over 4 year ago. Plymouth is an ideal location being near to many of the other Army and Navy “customers” they provide training for.

1 Assault Group Royal Marines provides the Royal Marines expertise and training in small boat operations and amphibious craft.

Understand “we can be a nuisance” but the exercises in and around Port of Plymouth is essential training.

Royal Marines Base at Chivenor located along the North Devon coastline. Every landing gradient and condition nearby except snow and ice, or mangroves

RNLI Report

RNLI Safety Campaign will be rolled out again this year.

* 60% of lifeboat launches was to go to the aid of vessels
* 34% of incidents involving vessels was related to mechanical breakdowns
* There has been a 28% increase of incidents of people in trouble
* There has been an increase in self-harm incidents (eg. Jumping from Tamar Bridge)

MMO (Marine Management Organisation)

This is an organisation that facilitates the constructive management of the Port and surrounding water for all users (eg. MoD, Commercial Shipping, Fishing, recreational, Marine Scientific Resources)

There is a proposal that Plymouth Sound and surrounding marine protected areas should become the country’s first National Marine Park.

* Plymouth Sound, as the UK’s first National Marine Park would be about managing space robustly and should not impede on naval or fishing activities
* 1st March is first meeting to discuss proposals

Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF)

Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) is the estuary management that partners with stakeholders to promote integrated management for the Tamar estuaries and nearby coastal areas in to ensure long term sustainability. TECF and its advisory bodies (eg. Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee (PPMLC) aim to provide a framework for the management of the Tamar Estuaries.

TECF has a Twitter account: use Google search @TamarEstuaries

* Consultation on Potting & Mobile Gear Permits has been launched

The next TECF meeting is planned in about 3 week’s time [this would put it around end of February / beginning of March].

A new proposed Slipway notice board was presented, and comments were invited to be received before the next meeting.

There is information on the DEFRA website about …

Natural England

Vessels over 20m (instead of 25m) will be required to register for navigation assistance.

Next meeting: 14th June 2018

Hand-out Reports:-

* Report of TECF Matters by Infrastructure Officer

(Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) - Plymouth City Council)

* Natural England Update, PLMC Meeting 8th February 2018

(government's adviser for the natural environment in England)

1623. **Proposal for Cllr. Wager to become a member of the Plans Committee.**

Cllr. Lamb proposed that Cllr. Wager becomes a member of the Planning Committee as he has taken great interest and has a vast knowledge of the Peninsula, seconded by Cllr. Page-Bailey.

1624. **To support Gulworthy’s TAP application for a hearing loop wire for their Parish Hall.**

Discussions took place, Cllr. Lamb proposed that this Council supports Gulworthy’s application, seconded by Cllr. Leithall, all were in favour.

1625. **To seek acceptance of the Footpath Guide for printing.**

There were one or two minor adjustments and Cllr. Boot-Handford asked if we could have the Parish emblem on the front cover. It was also thought that it should have mention of where the two defibrillators are placed in the Parish.

Thanks were proposed to Cllr. Rogers for producing a draft of the guide.

1626. **Report by Cllr. Lamb on West Devon Borough Council.**

The last meetings have been very long. The Council Tax bill will go up by 2.99%.

The discretionary grants were revisited as it was felt that not enough notice for the organisations to find alternative funding has been given.

The Mayoral Awards are being sought entries by Friday.

The Joint Local Plan meeting is in Tavistock this Thursday.

The Waste Group – food not recycled but put in black bags is costing them ¾ million pounds. There will be a campaign to put it in the grey food waste bins.

1627. **Correspondence.**

a) St Luke’s Hospice- On the 12th August a group from Bere Alston in conjunction with St Luke’s Hospice

will run an Open Garden Walkabout. My reason for informing you is that the St. Luke’s team intend starting the route outside the Village Hall by the War Memorial. The surgery will be used for most of the cars as it takes place on Sunday. The route is confined to the centre of Bere Alston.

b) TAP Grant Fund Sarah Park.- Advising you that your application to receive funds has been successful.

c) PCSO Greenwood Crime Stats For February-

1 x Malicious Communications – Social Media issue between a couple of school children

1 x Criminal Damage to a vehicle – domestic related and offender has been charge with the offence

1 x Criminal Damage to a glass in a door

1 x Theft of caravan – offender caught

1 x Use of threatening words – ongoing neighbourhood issue

1 x dog out of control

1 x ABH

d) Billie Burnett Report of Bere Alston Community Wellbeing event and our thanks.-

***1.* Background and aim** The idea of holding a Community Wellbeing event was first discussed at a community meeting on the 21st June 2017 held in the local Primary School in Bere Alston, West Devon; organised by the Rev Nick Law. The idea was bought to life by Billie Burnett from West Devon CVS and Rose Hunter from Wiser£money who both work for Transitions, with lots of support from Nick, local groups, volunteers and businesses. There was a small budget available for the event.

*(Transitions is a partnership between Wiser£money and West Devon CVS and funded by the Big Lottery for 3 years to provide free and confidential money and debt advice across the rural settlements of West Devon and Torridge for those unable to access mainstream advice and to work with community partners to improve rural communities financial wellbeing and reduce social isolation.)* The underlying aim of the event was to help and encourage local people of all ages to:

· find out about their local community groups and services

· gather useful information and know where to go for advice

· provide inspiration to take up new activities and make new friends

· offer an opportunity to have their voice heard.

We also hoped by bringing community groups and services together under one roof we might

strengthen local connections and encourage networking, sharing of resources and in some cases maybe even springboard new community ventures. It was agreed by the Transitions team that we would organise and monitor the event as a pilot to find out if in a rural area the event would be well supported by local services and groups and welcomed by members of the public and we could evidence if it met its aim.

2. **Summary of what we learnt from the event**

✓Over 160 individuals participated in the event including 89 members of the public, 60 + individuals involved on the stalls and 12 volunteers

✓30 organisations had stalls (32 with WDCVS and Transitions)

✓45 individuals, couples and families were interviewed when leaving (estimate we spoke with over 80% of the 89 members of the public)

✓Age of those attending who took part in the exit survey, in order of percentage: 30% were aged 56 to 65 years, 27% were 66 to 75 years, 14% were under 15 years, 11% were 76 years plus, 9% 26 to 35 years, 7% 46 to 55 years, 2% 36 to 45 Years

✓86% of the public questioned when leaving the event said they had found out about a service they did not know about

✓67% and 23% respectively said they had become interested or maybe interested in something new

✓78% and 7% respectively said they had, or maybe had learnt something that will help them to improve their wellbeing or they will share with friends or family (for instance about saving money, becoming more active or learning a new skill).

✓96% of stall holders had increased their knowledge of other services (yes lots 50%, a little 46%).

✓92% of stall holders had been encouraged to engage with other services (yes lots 54%, a little 38%).

✓100% of stall holders had used the opportunity to consult with the public about their service (48% yes lots, 52% a little).

✓**Community wellbeing consultation**

**The most important services and community attributes** spoken about by the public attending are (in order of how many times they were mentioned):

1. Local Doctor and Chemist, Community Spirit, Train to Plymouth and Bus to Tavistock

**The services or attributes that had fallen away**: Bank, Greengrocer, Vet and

Neighbourhood Watch.

**The things that would make the Bere Peninsula even better** two most important:

1. Improve train links and offer later train service to Plymouth (especially weekends)

2. More for young people to do.

**Issues**: dog mess and graffiti

3. **Conclusion**

The Community Wellbeing event worked well and met its aim. Considering it was a wet and windy day in January in a rural location the event encouraged 160 plus individuals and 30 organisations to give their time and commitment and shows clearly that the Bere Peninsula has a very strong and vibrant community spirit and network. What happens next will truly illuminate if the event provided a useful community catalyst and encourages more people to get involved locally and more people know where to seek advice and help in the future. It has certainly given Transitions the confidence to try this again in other areas but it will be a tall order to find a community as friendly and welcoming.

e) Jane and Andy Morton. Rubbish, broken glass, graffiti and a lack of light in and around alley between Drakes Park & Chapel Street.-

We would like to draw your attention to the growing problem of littering and vandalism in and around the alley between Drakes Park and Chapel Street in Bere Alston as well as the lack of any street lighting at night.

It is a very well used passage between the two roads for families walking to and from the primary school (estimated 20-30 children each day on school days) and also used by many villagers to get to and from the village centre shops, avoiding the main road with its limited safe pavements.

Littering has been a problem in this location for quite some time. (We live at the end of Chapel Street and have witnessed it personally for the past 10 years.) However, it has certainly become an increasing issue over the past few years and more significantly so in the last couple of years. There is certainly space for a litter bin either along the alley or probably at the Chapel Street end, where there is more room. We notice several new litter bins have been placed in the village recently and that funding for another may be difficult but we feel very strongly that this location is desperately in need of one. Perhaps this site could be put forward as the next urgent location to be furnished with a bin?

Before black Christmas, in early November 2017, graffiti appeared all over the wall of electricity sub-station. We know many local residents are very distraught about this and we hope we are not the only people to report this vandalism. It would make a great difference if cleaning this up could possibly be arranged. We personally contacted the police over this but as far as we know, nothing has come of that.

More recently, since Christmas, we can report 3 separate incidents of empty spirit bottles and soft drinks bottles left littering the entrance to the alley on the Chapel Street end, either perched on the wall of the sub-station or thrown in the hedge. The past two occasions several of the spirit bottles have been smashed all over the footpath area. This is of particular concern in terms of the safety of all those using this alley way, in terms of falling onto broken glass, as the slope leading to this area is also sloping.

We can easily provide photographic evidence if required although would also encourage the site is visited to see the extent of the problem.

At night time there is no lighting along this alley way and at the corner it becomes pitch black and wonder whether some lighting could make the spot much safer and also act as a deterrent for the unsociable behaviour which is now regularly taking place.

I hope you will feel able to support the clean-up of this area in some way as it is so sad to see such an unpleasant site in our lovely village. (We will continue to pick up litter when we come across it.)

f) The Clerk sought payment of the following accounts-

1. Wallgate Ltd- Soap for Wallgates. 7488 £69.50

2. Dart Valley Systems- Service water system on urinals. 7489 £153.60

3. Cash- Petty Cash & postage. 7490 £40.00

Cllr. Lamb proposed payment, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members and members of the public for attending declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed this 27th  day of March 2018.

Chairman………………………………..