**Bere Ferrers Parish Council**

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

Present

Cllr. R. Leithall Chairman of Council

Cllr. H. Boot-Handford Cllr. D. Pengelly

Cllr. D.M.A. Chapman Cllr. H. Rogers

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

Cllr. R. Maycock Cllr. E. K. Wager

Cllr. M. Page-Bailey

1699. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Dennis due to business and Cllr. Hanson due to holiday.

1700. **Interview candidate for co-option to Council.**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Peter Crozier and explained the procedure.

Mr. Crozier was asked to give a short resume on his reason for wishing to join Council.

Mr. Crozier stated that he has been asked before to join Council but has always been busy with his business interest in farming for the last 30 years and has farmed Leigh Farm for 22 years. He has got involved in a few things in the Peninsula and has kept a keen eye on things going on in the village and thought it was time he did something about it.

Mr. Crozier was then asked questions from the Councillors.

He was asked by Cllr. Leithall to leave the room for Councillors to discuss his co-option.

After discussions Mr. Crozier was invited back into Council.

Cllr. Wager proposed Mr. Crozier be co-opted onto Council, seconded by Cllr. Lamb, the Chairman invited Cllr. Crozier to join Council.

1701. **Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken**

**on these items.**

1. Cllr. Lamb – Informed members that he and Cllr. Hanson have set up two defibrillator training sessions

for 16th & 23rd May.

2. Cllr. Lamb – The Syrian Refugee Picnic will be held at Bere Ferrers on 23rd June.

3. Cllr. Reed – The RYA are promoting a ‘Never tried water sports event’ which will be held by Sailing and

Gig clubs. The Weir Quay Sailing Club will be taking part on Saturday 12th May.

1702. **To approve the minutes of Full Council held on 27th March as a true record and taken as**

**read.**

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

Matters Arising

Minute 1667(1650) – The Clerk has a pre-format of the footpath guide which is in the process of being

printed.

**SO RESOLVED**

1703. **To approve and adopt the Footpath and Environment minutes held on Tuesday 10th April and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

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

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

**SO RESOLVED**

1704. **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 10th April and**

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

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

Matters Arising

Minute 1678 – The suggestion with regards the workman trimming the canker, this tree is not on Mr.

Endean’s plot.

Minute 1679 – The Clerk has the following costings for the hire of a digger to clear the ditch at Bere Ferrers Recreation Field:-

1. Tavistock Tool Hire - £70+VAT per day, £10 each way delivery and pick up charge, fuel will be charged at £1 per litre.
2. D.H. Micro Digger - £60 per day no VAT, free delivery full tank of fuel on return.
3. Brandon Tool Hire - £100+VAT per day, £15 each way delivery and pick up charge, fuel will be charged at £1 per litre.
4. WH Bond - £96+VAT per day, £35 each way delivery and pick up charge, 95p per litre fuel charge. Will need to see a copy of hired in plant insurance.

Discussions were held. Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed we use D.H. micro Digger, seconded by Cllr. Lamb

The workman to operate the digger.

Cllr. Page-Bailey proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

**SO RESOLVED**

1705. **To approve and adopt the F&GP minutes held on Tuesday 17th April 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 1685 – Rhino have put in new and replacement equipment. Cllr. Pengelly stated they were waiting

for the picnic bench.

Minute 1693 – The Clerk has spoken to Pascoe the stone mason, he will give us a price for cleaning the

benches and game tables.

Minute 1697(1) – The Clerk has emailed Mr. Slaughter. He did forget to charge us for the website domain

name fee, he will send an invoice.

Minute 1697(2) – The Clerk pointed out that the donation proposed for the ‘Tommy Appeal’ would be paid

to an individual as Mrs. Hill is ordering all the statues.

Discussions took place and it was agreed that the Clerk speak to Mrs. Hill with a

suggestion of she either provides us with an invoice from the appeal which we can pay or

we order the statues and give them to her.

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

**SO RESOLVED**

706. **To adopt the amended Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.**

We the undersigned propose that Full Council accept the amended Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and adopt them.

Cllr. Boot-Handford, Cllr. Page-Bailey, Cllr. Hanson, Cllr. Lamb and Cllr. Rogers.

Standing Orders – Discussions took place.

Cllr. Page-Bailey pointed out that he and Cllr. Boot-Handford attended a training session at West Devon and pointed out that “Members of a Club should declare a pecuniary interest and leave the room”.

Cllr. Lamb proposed that we take Standing Orders as they are and accept them and in the future have a special meeting to discuss them.

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed acceptance of the amended Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

A vote was taken 9 for 1 abstention.

Refer Financial Regulations back to F&GP.

1707. **Report by Cllr. Lamb on Rail Meeting.**

**Plymouth Journey figures-** these are down slightly from 193,155 to 190,854 a drop of 1.2%.The service lately has not been as reliable as it could be. This is down to current issues with rolling stock, driver training and also weather issues. GWR & Community Rail Partnership - will work together to come up with a bespoke plan for the line when things go wrong and any opportunities for positive PR in the coming months to counter some of the lack of confidence in the railway from local people.

**Late evening train and fireworks- Plymouth CC Rep** will ask Citybus about the possibility of bus connections, if the late service happens this year

**Rolling stock**- currently in the process of the cascade as electrification progresses. The first least 8 of these. The new Intercity Express Trains will begin to run services on the London route in July this year.

**Timetable**- there are big timetable changes coming across Devon and Cornwall in January 2019. The timetable isn’t finalised yet but it will mean a half hourly service on the Cornish mainline which will improve frequency and connection opportunities for branch lines like the Tamar Valley Line. Some London services will be quicker as well by mainly running fast between Reading and Taunton and the London service will be more hourly than it is now, so generally good news.

**Plymouth station**- the plans for the re-development of the station are continuing. The new vision is one of a station which offers a better introduction to Plymouth. Concern was again expressed that there were neither a bus interchange or even a service into Royal Parade planned.   
There were discussions on BA scrapyard of 65 cars, 2 boats, I caravan and a pile of steel scrap not motor parts!

DCC has engaged consultants to look at what would be needed to run a daily service from Okehampton in terms of construction. The result is a substantial list of works with a price tag to match. GWR has been asked by the Secretary of State for Transport to look at plans for running year round regular services to Okehampton. As the line is currently in private hands, some of the assets are not up to network standards. GWR will be responding in due course.

The Sunday service to Okehampton will be running again this year.

1708. **Report from Cllr. Lamb on Bere Alston Station Rubbish.**

Cllr. Lamb produced photos of the car business and also the end of the line where Network Rail has dumped a load of rubbish.

Cllr. Lamb stated that Cllr. Benson started talks about the cars at Bere Alston Station. West Devon has been playing around since 2015 and has had no response from Great Western Railway.

There is still an awful lot of rubbish along the line and this area is owned by Network Rail.

Cllr. Lamb proposed a letter be sent to Network Rail asking them to tidy this area up immediately as a matter of urgency and to stop dumping in the area.

Cllr. Maycock thought the lease on the garage land is imminently up for renewal and they would not be granting it again.

1709. **Report by Cllr. Lamb on West Devon Borough Council.**

Recycling has had a few ups and downs with the new regime**,** but the quantity returned is up.

The Code of Conduct training was a good session.

The Government has consulted West Devon on the new legislation on mini buses, this will have an impact on Park & Ride, schools, and scouts etc. as drivers must have a PSV License. We have been asked to bring this to Parish & Town Councils to lobby.

Cllr. Lamb to draft a letter.

1710. **Report by Cllr. Leithall from March Full Council on Southern Links.**

Apologies were received from Insp Mark Sloman (D&C Police)

1. **Policing issues** - statistics distributed prior to meeting.

In the absence of Insp Sloman, figures reviewed. One Question arising – Is there any way of identifying which Parishes have the largest problems, can the information be broken down any further.? Response from Insp Sloman in blue italics below –

*We can drill further down if required, however before we do this I would want to know which parishes are requesting this and why?*

*We have about 47 parishes in West Devon so it would be very resource intensive to get all parish figs. But if there is a specific problem then we can certainly look at it.*

It was noted the figures were increasing and acknowledged that some of this could be down to the changes in reporting and the fact historic incidents are recorded.

*In general we have seen increases in crime over the last 12 months and as I have said before that is following a national trend. We believe there has been an increase in crime but also some of it comes down to the changes in what we record as a crime, this has seen us recording a lot more incidents as crime.*

Bere Ferrers raised a problem they are experiencing with anti social behaviour incidents and although reported they are very concerned over an apparent lack of attention given by the Police to it despite the fact they have passed on car registration numbers and names of potential suspects.

*Can Bere Ferrers be more specific around ASB in the village, I have checked our records and we have not seen an increase in reporting. We did see an increase of reporting in Bere Alston over the winter months but as a result of this our units were tasked to focus their patrols in that area, which they did. We subsequently saw a reduction.*

*If there is an issue that we are not aware of I can again look at this.*

1. **DCC Highways – John Fewings**

Concern was raised by a few parishes over apparent lack of co-ordination on signing of diversion routes around road works, John to investigate further however he stated a Highways Officer on sick leave has only had a temporary secondment officer in place recently could account for some issues.

[Skanska has a seven-year highways maintenance contract with Devon County Council] and Skanskia have been in place for nearly a year, it has been a culture shock for DCC, new processes have had to be put in place plus making different IT systems work together.

The local Neighbourhood Highways Officers are the first point of contact for Parishes. There is a new Chief Officer in place who is encouraging all to challenge S

Traditionally Highways have been ‘data led’, they are now looking at involving communities more to help Parishes.

Reductions in funding has resulted in them concentrating on maintaining A roads, there is extra money available next year for pot holes and also for cleaning and drainage.

Peter Tavy raised the issue of lack of liaison between Highways and Parishes re work that is to be undertaken. John explained different teams are responsible for different types of work and co-ordination is not straightforward. They are looking at better ways of working together and are re-instating the role of Community Liaison Officers in an effort to address this. They recognise this is an area where improvement is required.

1. **WDBC Update – Sophie Hoskin and Steve Mullineaux**

Budget setting was completed end Feb, Council Tax (WD element) to increase by 2.99% the maximum possible = 13p per week for a Band D property.

We are in challenging times, the books balance for this year but not for future years therefore the Council is looking at more efficiencies and provision of discretionary services, fees and charges. A robust commercial strategy is in place, they are investigating investing in commercial property. The Okehampton office is to close in April, there will be a new limited face to face service in the Okement Centre, they are stopping taking cash and cheques in any office.

There is a procurement exercise taking place as the FCC contract ends in April 2019. They are looking at costings for a like for like service and also asking for alternative options eg a reduction in black bag collections.

SM – the Government has announced an increase in Planning fees by 20%, this increased revenue has to be reinvested in planning services, WD fees have been increased, they now have a full capacity of planners and an enforcement team of 3.8 FTE and the enforcement backlog is reducing. There is a national shortage of planners but particularly in the south west, they are therefore looking at ways of working to encourage planners to come to the area and also to retain the existing.

General Data Protection Regulations – WD are looking to see how they can provide support and help to Parishes, more information to come.

Recent bad weather – a good test of their systems, the new way of working showed a lot of benefits with a normal service to customers being provided. They were the only local council able to do this.

TAP Guidelines for the coming year – DCC have issued new guidelines on how they wish things to go forward, new name for the fund ‘Communities Together’, WD have not yet been able to finalise the process, more information to follow.

1. **DCC Update – Simon Kitchen**

Report distributed prior to meeting. Simon highlighted the information on Crowd Funding in the report – an initiative being investigated by the County as a way of using the internet to raise finance linking local ideas and innovation with individual investors.

1. **TAP Fund new applications**
   1. **TAP Guidelines 2018/19 –** not yet available see above.
   2. **New applications**

Buckland Monachorum – Crapstone Weland Project, request for £2000, total project cost £6000. Cllr Royston advised she was prepared to reduce application to £1500 in order all applications could receive funding. **£1500 agreed.**

Milton Abbot Group Parish request for funds for 2 defibrillators, cabinets and training etc, original request for £3420 but now reduced to £1858 as Parish can now obtain equipment at reduced costs from Heartswell. **£1858 agreed**.

Gulworthy requested an application to be considered as received after the WDBC deadline, application for £1100 to provide hearing aid loop and amplifiers for Gullworthy Parish Hall. **£1100 agreed**.

1. **DNP Update – Jo Rumble**

DNP still funded by Defra, working on 40% reduced budget from original funding, no changes.

Enjoy Dartmoor magazine, new version circulated, Jo highlighted on Page 30 the Love More Life campaign and the Ranger Code for all visitors to the moor to follow

1. **Parish Feedback and issues –**

The Chair advised that the Link Meetings Terms of Reference could not be reviewed until new TAP or Communities Together procedures resolved, to be added to future agenda.

1711. **Internal Audit.**

Cllr. Boot-Handford and Cllr. Lamb carried out the internal audit followed by A4 and B1.

A4 from cheque to invoice to bank statement.

B1 allotment book through to paying in sheet.

All was satisfactory.

1712. **Correspondence.**

1) Mark Hopwood GWR – use your phone as a rail ticket. Great Western Railway expands use of mobile

tickets. GWR expanded the availability of mobile tickets across its network, enabling customers to

travel wioth their ticket on their smart phone or tablet and the train operator is giving 20 lucky

people the chance of winning £200 of e-vouchers.

2) Devon Volunteers Week – Cllr. Lamb suggested the gentleman that litter picks and cleans the grafitti in

Bere Alston. Cllr. Boot-Handford stated he is very ill.

3) PCSO Greenwood –

3 x Criminal Damage (related to long term ongoing Neighbourhood Issues)

1 x Criminal Damage – Damage to the door of the gas meter via the hinge being bent.

1 x Criminal Damage – Damage to property by breaking a padlock.

4) Kier - Notification of road closure.

**Notification of road closure – Work Ref: LM501 NC7008306**

I am writing to inform you that Kier have applied for a road closure to complete SWW Utility works outside 10-12 Station Road. These works, subject to approval from Devon Highways these works will take place 25/06-29/06/18.

5) WDBC – Tell your Council what you think.

The quality of the air in South Hams and West Devon is generally very good. However there are three locations in South Hams where the air quality fails to meet the National and International levels for Nitrogen Dioxide. Theses areas are categorised as Air Quality Management Areas.

Both Councils have a legal responsibility to produce an air quality action plan.

To enable them to do this they have produced a Clean Air Strategy, which brings together all of the Councils proposed actions.

Now the Councils are about to embark on an initial 8 week consultation on the Clean Air Strategy. Consultation starts 20th April and runs to 20th June.

6) DALC – Newsletter.

7) Alison Hernandez – Police and Crime Commissioner

April Newsletter.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members and members of the public for attending declared the meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed this 29th May 2018.

Chairman………………………………..