

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 26th July 2022.

Present

Cllr P Crozier	Chair of Council
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. B. Lamb
Cllr. R. Leithall	Cllr. D. King
Cllr J Maciejowska	Cllr. R. Maycock
Cllr. H. Peace	Cllr. Pengelly
Cllr. S. Russell	Cllr. C. Shaw

In Attendance: Cllr. A Blackman, PSCO K. Williams & PC W. Thielmann

151. Apologies

No apologies were received.

152. Declaration of Interests

No declaration of interests were declared.

153. Notifications of items of interest as the discretion of the chair. No action can be taken on these items.

PSCO Williams and PC Thielmann provided the Council an update on the crime figures for the Bere Peninsula, including pre and post covid. Before covid, the figures were up by 5% and during lockdown that figure had dropped. The numbers are gradually going up now.

The Police are working closely with West Devon Borough Council, especially in regards to anti-social behaviour. In the first instant letters are being issued and hand delivered to individuals, which gives the Police the opportunity to speak directly to the individuals and, if relevant, their parents. The Police can report that this approach is working. The last resort is to serve a criminal behaviour order, (previously called an ASBO). In order to try and discourage anti-social behaviour, the Police suggested engaging more with the youth, listen to their issues and give them real dialogue. Find the causes, in order to find solutions.

The Police also acknowledge there is an issue with drugs, but they first need to gather strong evidence, before a warrant will be issued.

Following questions from the Councillors, the officers stated:

By head of population, West Devon generally have lower crime rates, than other parts of the county.

With the issue of underage drinking, the majority of the alcohol obtained comes from the individuals' homes, but the Police will liaise with the local shops.

There are three Police Community Support Officers covering the whole of West Devon. There are three Beat Managers, 13 Response Officers, but the numbers have reduced by 50% over the years. The Police therefore try and visit as much, but the Council and residents need to continue to report, with as much detail as possible, all issues of crime, anti-social behaviour. Crimes can be reported via Crimestoppers, or via the Devon and Cornwall police website.

Cllr. Crozier thanked the officers for their time and for attending the meeting.

154. Presentation to Helen Rogers

Following Ms. Rogers's recent resignation from the Council, Cllr. Crozier presented a card and book token to Ms Rogers. Ms Rogers has been a member of the Council over 2 periods of time, for approx. 10 years and will be sorely missed.

Ms Rogers thanked Cllr. Crozier and the members of the Council and stated she will miss the Council.

155. Chair's Report

Cllr Crozier gave his report:

The Council's summer break will start shortly and only one meeting is planned for August, Plans & Highways on Tuesday 2nd August 2022. The meeting will also include a discussion on the application submitted by Zip World at Tamar Trails in Gulworthy.

The Council's Workman will continue with his project of work over the summer period.

South Hams Council have broken the contract with FCC, West Devon Borough Council has not. West Devon Borough Council are to buy a new refuse vehicle for FCC, that will accommodate the increase in housing in the area and to cover any breakdowns that may occur.

156. To receive reports from the District and County Councillors

Cllr. Angela Blackman, West Devon Borough Councillor, gave the Council an update on the top issues/areas she has been working on:

1. Great Western Railways – a meeting was held recently to discuss the ongoing issue of train cancellations and any cancellations that do occur, Cllr. Blackman takes up directly with GWR.
2. Drugs/anti-social behaviour – the 101 form to report any crimes/issues is too long and most people it would appear do not complete, because of that. Working on trying to get the form shortened.
3. The response times for Planning issues are too slow, but it is slowly improving.
4. Cllr. Blackman's locality allowance has been spent buying a freezer for the local food bank, a shed for the Bere Alston in Bloom's allotment and a lines machine for the junior Bere Alston Football Club.
5. Cllr. Blackman stated she will also conduct a stock condition check on the current Liveswest properties in the area.

Cllr. Crozier's District Borough update:

1. Super links will resume in September and they would like the Councillors to set the agenda.
2. Six years ago, the Government stopped forcing Housing Developers to give financial contribute to increasing the local infrastructure. This is now causing issues, for example, the water works capacity have not increased since numerous new houses development have been built and West Devon Borough Council have asked South West Water to attend a meeting to discuss this issue further.

157. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on 28th June 2022 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Crozier proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

Matters Arising

Minute 97

Cllr. Lamb proposed forming a Task & Finish group to work on the informal Council workshop. Date of the workshop to be arranged. Cllrs. Leithhall and Maciejowska to join the group.

Minute 100 (33)

The HATOC meeting was held on 7th July and the Council had no prior knowledge of the meeting and were not invited to attend. Cllr. Crozier proposed leafleting local residents to attend a meeting at Hope Cottage to discuss Devon Highway's proposal to put yellow lines on Chapel and Fore Street further.

The Clerk had written to the HATOC Committee to ask why no invitation was sent and the Clerk read out the reply. Cllr. Lamb was appalled at their response and suggested it be sent

to the Chief Executive of Devon County Council, Cllr. Philip Sanders and other members of the HATOC committee saying we would like to see the record of the number of accidents in that area, seconded by Cllr. Maciejowska. All in favour.

Minute 108 Cllr. Crozier reported that 2 washing machines had been dumped by the side of Denham Bridge Road. It was reported and they have now been removed by West Devon Borough Council.

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

SO, RESOLVED

158. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Plans & Highways meeting held on 5th July 2022 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Maycock proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

Matters Arising

Minute 116 Cllr. Crozier reported that planning application 1047/22 had been refused

Minute 199 It was discussed that if the Co-Op submit a planning application to relocate their store from Fore Street, the Plans & Highways Committee will organise a public meeting to discuss the application with local residents.

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

SO, RESOLVED

159. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Open Spaces meeting held on 12th July 2022 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Pengelly approved approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. King.

Matters Arising

Minute 127 There is no notice on the abandoned car in Priglim Drive. Cllr. Crozier to follow this up with West Devon Borough Council.

Minute 129 Cllrs. Pengelly, Crozier and the Workman met to talk through the Rospa reports and the Workman's current job list has been updated and prioritised.

Minute 130 Cllrs. Pengelly, Graeme-Drury and the Clerk conducted an inspection of the Bere Alston A allotments and letters will be sent to those holders who's plots are deemed not cultivated. They also met with the Chair of the Allotment Association and discussed where the copse forest could be planted in the allotment site. To be discussed further at the September Open Spaces meeting.

Cllr. Graeme-Drury proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. King.

SO, RESOLVED

160. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on 29th July 2022 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 137 An updated business mandate has been submitted to NatWest and the Clerk is awaiting confirmation it has been completed. Once completed, a debit card can be requested.

- Minute 139 The Clerk has been asked to check the NI contributions made by the Council are correct. The Clerk confirmed that the figures in the Finance report were correct.
- Minute 140 The Bank reconciliation for June 2022 was not reconciled. The Clerk confirmed that it now reconciled, as a payment had not been added. The June bank reconciliation will be presented for approval at the September F & G.P meeting.
- Minute 141 The internal control statement document was discussed at the meeting and requires more work on it, before it can be approved and adopted by the Committee.
- Minute 142 The Clerk to set up a meeting with the Football Club to review the agreement. To take place before the September Open Spaces meeting.
- Minute 145 The Clerk to lead on updating the Council's website.
- Minute 147 Cllrs. King and Russell, Council's representatives for Southern Links, have been sent all information by the Clerk and will be looking into whether face to face training can/will be resumed.
- Minute 148 The Committee agreed to pay business mileage rate of 55 p per mile, net for members of staff who tow a trailer.

Cllr. Leithall proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Russell.

161. HR Matters. To be taken into Part 2

Cllr. Crozier proposed going into Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

Cllr. Leithall proposed coming out of Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

Cllr. Peace proposed that the pay rise not be declined at this stage, but the Council seek further information and await the agreed national salary increases for 2022-23 and once the national pay rise has been agreed, the pay rise to be back dated to 1st April 2022. Seconded by Cllr. King.

162. Correspondence

1. The Clerk requested authorisation for payment for the following expenses and invoices:
 - Expenses - Jane Poulton – £12 for the purchase of toilet cleaning products.
 - Expenses - Steve Hingston - £60 for clothing allowance.
 - Expense - Cllr. Peter Crozier - £25 for book token for Helena Rogers on her retirement from the Council.
 - Expenses - Cllr. David Pengelly – £18 - purchase of self-amalgamating tape for playpark.
 - Friars Pride - £116.40 – purchase of 200 black sacks
 - BT phone & broadband quarterly bill - £332.98
 - H & A Sleep – fuel bill for June 2022 - £178.90

Total amount of £743.28

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

2. The Clerk read out an email from Vice Chair of Beregen:

We as Beregen would like to express our grateful thanks to Steve the Parish Workman for his continuing hard work in the Parish which enhances the Parish and greatly helps the Bere Regen Project. I know these thoughts are fully supported by many other local organisations.

163. Questions from any members of the public present, at the discretion of the Chairman.

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Signed this date 27th September 2022