

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 18th October 2022.

Present:

Cllr. R. Leithall	Chairman
Cllr. P. Crozier	Chairman of Council
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. B. Lamb
Cllr. R. Maycock	Cllr. D. Pengelly
Cllr. S. Russell	

In Attendance: Cllr. V. Grose

240. Apologies

No apologies were received.

241. Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

242. Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chair. No action can be taken on these items.

Discussions took place on the recent local power cuts and proposed national power cuts in early 2023. Cllr. Crozier to check with West Devon Borough Council what their contingency plan is for the area for the proposed national power.

Cllr. Lamb requested the recently installed cycle stands at Weir Quay be repositioned. The Clerk to liaise with the Workman for this will be carried out.

Cllr. Grose brought up the issue of the fence that has been removed on Footpath 6; in that it has made walking the path potential dangerous due to the steep drop. The Clerk has already spoken to the Pathways Officer from Devon County Council regarding this issue. The Committee members requested the Clerk contact the Officer again for further clarification on potential liability.

Cllr. Dennis brought up the issue of being verbally abused by local residents with regards to the action the Council has taken in erecting a car parking sign in the Parish Hall carpark. The sign has now been stolen and it has been reported to the Police. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the next Council meeting.

The Clerk was asked to check that the fire alarm contact with Chubb had been terminated and ensure the amount invoiced to Beregen for the annual insurance cost, was correct.

243. Matters arising from the meeting held on the 19th July and Council meeting held on the 27th September 2022

Matters Arising on the 27th September 2022

Minute 194 & 196 The Clerk to organise a meeting between members of the Council and representatives from the adult and junior Football Clubs.

Minute 198 The business mandate has been successfully updated and the Clerk to now apply for a business debit card.

Minute 199 The Council's website upgrade is in progress and will be completed by the end of the year.

244. To accept the October 2022 accounts for payment

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the accounts for payment for October, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

245. To accept the F & G.P Detailed Receipt and Payment Report ending 30th September 2022

Cllr. Russell proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

246. To accept the reconciled bank statement ending 30th September 2022

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the bank statement, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

247. Review of the Earmarked Reserves

The earmarked reserve Track for Cemetery has a deficit of £51.51. Cllr. Leithall proposed £51.51 be taken from general reserves to reduce the reserve to a balance of zero. Seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

248. 2023-24 Budget

The Clerk to organise meetings with the Chairs of the F & G.P and Open Spaces Committees and the Chair of the Council to put together draft budgets for 2023-24. The draft budgets to then be discussed at the next Open Spaces and the F & G.P meetings. Final approval on the budget to be done at a Full Council meeting.

249. Review of the Council's internal Control Statement

Cllr. Pengelly proposed adoption of the statement, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

250. Review of the Council's Data Protection Policy

Cllr. Maycock proposed adoption of the Data Protection policy, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

251. Review of the Council's CCTV Policy

The Clerk to amend the policy as discussed. Cllr. Dennis proposed, post amendments, adoption of the policy, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

252. Update from Southern Link meeting

Cllr. Crozier updated the Committee on the virtual meeting recently held and how West Devon Borough Council are helping families in Wes Devon on low income.

253. Approve Bere Ferrers Villagers Group's donation for future Bere Ferrers playpark repairs

Cllr. Leithall proposed £519.71 donated by the Bere Ferrers Villagers Group, be put in an earmarked reserve and used for future repairs required at the Bere Ferrers playpark. Seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

Cllr. Lamb stated that the climbing frame anchor had been ripped out. The Clerk to ask the Workman to investigate and repair.

254. Approve the Council hiring the small meeting room in the Council Offices for meetings between the Police Community Support Officer and members of the public

Discussions took place on whether it is stated in the contract between the Council and Beregen, that the Council can hire the meeting room free of charge. Cllr. Leithall proposed, subject to checking the contact, that the Council hire the meeting room and schedule these meetings, seconded by Cllr. Maycock. Cllr. Dennis requested that the room be booked via Beregen's online booking system.

255. Additional working hours of the Clerk

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

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

Cllr. Maycock proposed authorisation for the Clerk to work 4 extra hours per week till the end of December 2022 and in the

interim look into why the extra hours are required. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

Cllr. Lamb proposed that Cllr. Crozier formally write a letter to the Clerk to confirm the temporary changes to her hours.

256. Correspondence

The Clerk read out a letter from UK Management Safety, regarding undertaking a test report on the distribution boards for the Fixed Wire Testing (EICR). This service is a legal requirement and must be done every 3-5 years. Cllr. Dennis to check that this report has not already been done and inform the clerk if not.

257. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. 2023-24 Budget.

258. Questions from the public, at the discretion of the Chair

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 9.18. pm.

Signed by the Chairman

Dated 25th October 2022