

## BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

### **Present:**

Cllr. R. Leithall	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. B. Lamb

### **302. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Crozier, Pengelly and Maycock. The Committee accepted their apologies.

### **303. Declaration of Interest**

No interests were declared.

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

There were no notification of items for information.

### **305. Matters arising from the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

#### Matters Arising

#### Minute 242

The cycle stands at Weir Quay have been repositioned and cycle stands will be installed at the Bere Alston Recreational field in due course.

The removal of the fence on Footpath 6 is out of the Parish Council's jurisdiction and has been reported the Devon County Council Public Rights of Ways.

#### Minute 253

The climbing frame anchor at the Bere Ferrers playpark has been repaired.

#### Minute 254

It was noted that this minute contained incorrect information and the small meeting room in the Council Office is not free of charge for the Council's use. As the minutes for the meeting were approved and adopted by the Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Clerk to ask DALC how the minutes can be amended.

#### Minute 255

The Chair of the Council to write a letter to the Clerk confirming the additional working hours, authorised by the Committee, till December 2022.

#### Minute 256

Electrical inspection tests have been carried out in the Council Offices and Parish Hall.

### **306. To accept the November 2022 accounts for payment**

Cllr. Lamb proposed acceptance of the accounts for payment for November, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

### **307. To accept the F & G.P Detailed Receipt and Payment Report ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

### **308. To accept the reconciled bank statement ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

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

### **309. 2023-24 Budget**

Discussions took place on the proposed budget for 2023-24.

Cllr. Lamb proposed formally accepting the National Joint Council for Local Government Services recommended pay increase for April 2022 to 31 March 2023, for the Workman and the Clerk. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

Cllr. Leithall proposed the recommended hourly rate for the toilet cleaner be increased from April 2023, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

Recommendations on amendments for the Open Spaces budget were discussed and these recommendations will be discussed at the Council meeting.

Cllr. Leithall proposed, with the amendments discussed, the F & G.P 2023-24 budget, seconded by Cllr, Dennis. The full budget, including the budgets for Open Spaces and Footpaths & Environment Committees be discussed and approved at the next Full Council meeting.

### **310. Approve Internal Auditor**

The Clerk presented the Committee with a list of Internal Auditors and their costs.

After discussions, Cllr. Leithall proposed requesting the Town Clerk for Crediton to conduct the Council's internal audit for 2022-23, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

### **311. Review telephone & broadband providers**

The Clerk presented the Committee with a list of alternative telephone and broadband providers and the costs.

After discussions, Cllr. Leithall proposed the Council take out a two-year contract with BT, which includes a mobile sim deal, to be used by the Workman. Seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

### **312. Approve setting up direct debits for EDF, OneDrive Cloud storage, telephone & broadband accounts.**

Cllr. Dennis proposed authorising the Clerk set up monthly direct debits for the Council's EDF accounts, the OneDrive monthly Cloud storage charge for the Clerk's laptop and the telephone and broadband costs. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall

### **313. Approve donations to Youth2Youth and Platinum Jubilee Committee**

After discussion, it was agreed that further information was required and therefore deferred this item until the next F & G.P meeting.

### **314. Approve site of Wildflower meadow**

It was discussed that this item should be discussed and approved at the Council meeting to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2029.

### **315. Correspondence**

1. Email from the Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice bureau requesting a donation to help run their community services.

Cllr. Lamb proposed donating £100 to the organisation, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

2. Email from the Secretary of the Carnival Committee requesting:  
'That the public toilets are left open until the end of Victorian evening on Sat 3rd December? The evening finishes at 8pm and the road closure is from 4pm, reopening between 9pm and 10pm. Also, would we be able to have sole use of the car park during this time too so that we can have street performers in this area?'

Cllr. Lamb proposed the Council give the Carnival Committee permission, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

3. Email from the Chair of the Bere Alston Carnival Committee, requesting the council purchase a Christmas tree to near the flag pole opposite the war memorial for the Victorian Evening on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Cllr. Lamb proposed the Council purchase a Christmas tree for the Victorian Festival and to arrange for an organisation to decorate it. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

4. The Clerk requested authorised by the Committee to pay the electrician's invoice of £48 for the recent electrical inspections conducted in the Council Offices. Cllr. Leithall proposed authorisation of the payment, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

**316. Agenda items for the next meeting**

1. The agreement between the Council and the Bere Alston Regeneration Partnership.

**317. 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 9.34. pm.

Signed by the Chair

Dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022