

## BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

### **Present:**

Cllr. R. Leithall	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Crozier	Chair of the Council
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. B. Lamb
Cllr. D. Pengelly	

### **353. Apologies**

An apology were received from Cllr. Maycock. The Committee accepted his apology.

### **354. Declaration of Interest**

No interests were declared.

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

Cllr. Pengelly confirmed members of the Open Spaces Committee and the Bere Alston Wildflower Meadow and Orchard Creation Group had met and agreed on the layout of the trees to be planted in the dog field.

Cllr. Lamb confirmed there were six bags of salt behind the Cemetery Hut, for people to use if and when required. Grit bins requiring refilling have been reported to Devon Highways.

Cllr. Dennis had four items of notification:

1. The outcome of the car crash which occurred on the Down, the Driver has been given a custodial sentence.
2. Due to illness the meeting scheduled on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022, between residents and the local Police Community Support Officer had been cancelled.
3. The call button on the Council Office is not working. The Clerk to raise with the issue with the lift maintenance company.

### **356. Matters arising from the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

The minutes were adopted and approved by Committee members at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 29th November 2022.

#### Matters Arising

Minute 305 (254) After verifying with DALC, the Clerk to amend the minutes of the F & G.P meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Minute No 254 incorrectly stated the Council could hire the small meeting room in the Council Office free of charge.

Minute 305 (255) The Chair of the Council has sent a letter to the Clerk, confirming her additional working hours till December 2022.

Minute 309 The F & G.P Committee's recommendations on amendments to the Open Spaces 2023-24 budget were discussed and approved at the Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Minute 314 The site of the Wildflower meadow was agreed at the Open Spaces meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

### **357. To elect a Vice-Chair of the Committee**

Cllr. Leithall proposed Cllr. Dennis as the Vice-Chair of the Committee, seconded by Cllr. Lamb. A vote was taken and Cllr. Dennis was duly voted in as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

**358. To accept the December 2022 accounts for payment**

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the accounts for payment for December, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

**359. To accept the F & G.P Detailed Receipt and Payment Report ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

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

**360. To accept the reconciled bank statement ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

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

**361. Discuss the Bere Alston Regeneration Partnership agreement**

This item to be deferred to the next meeting. The Clerk to ensure the agreement is sent out to all Committee meetings prior to the meeting.

**362. Approve donations from the Council**

The Council have received an email from Youth2Youth thanking them for their continued support and asking the Council to make a financial contribution towards their costs. Cllr. Leithall proposed donating £500 to Youth2Youth, seconded by Cllr. B. Lamb. All in favour.

Cllr. Crozier, as Chair of the Platinum Jubilee Committee requested the Council make another donation to the Committee to help cover their costs. Discussions took place on the Committee's accounts. Cllr. Leithall proposed that the Chair and Treasurer of the Committee, annotate and sign the bank statement and the F & G.P Committee will discuss again at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

**363. Discuss additional budget items for 2023-24**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting and review the whole budget.

**364. Review mileage claimed by staff and Councillors**

Discussions took place on the mileage claimed by the Workman.

Cllr. Leithall proposed that the Council extend the rate until the end of the current financial year, seconded by Cllr. Dennis. The Clerk to put the Council's decision in a letter to the Workman and that it will be revisited in the new financial year.

The rate to be reviewed in March 2023.

**365. Bere Alston Football Club's payment and electrical token scheme**

The Clerk confirmed that an invoice for half the year's pitch rent, but surcharge had been sent to the Football Club.

The Chair of the Football Club has subsequently issued a cheque for the whole year's pitch rent. Cllr. Leithall proposed that the Council accept the payment, and waiver the surcharge, the Clerk to notify the Club of the Council's decision, but remind that interest will be charge next year, if payments are received late. Seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

Discussions took place on the electric token machine in the Pavilion. The Clerk to ask an electrician to check what circuits it controls and its calibrations.

**366. Authorization payment for Land Registry searches**

Authorisation by the Council has already been given and the cost of a site plan is £3. Cllr. Dennis and Crozier to liaise to purchase the site plans required.

### **367. Review and approve Grant Award Policy**

The Clerk stated that this was a new policy to replace the Council's current Grant Award policy. Discussions took place on whether certain points in the new policy were relevant to the Parish.

Cllr. Crozier proposed the Cllr. Lamb goes through the policy and revise accordingly, and present it at next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

### **368. Correspondence**

1. An email from Head Teacher at Bere Alston School inviting all Councillors to attend their Carol around the Trees on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30 pm. Cllr. Crozier said he will be able to attend.

### **369. Agenda items for the next meeting**

1. Finalise the 2023-24 budget
2. Finalise the propose 2023-24 precept.

### **370. 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 9.50 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022