

## **BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL**

**At a meeting of the Council held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

### **Present**

Cllr P Crozier	Chair of Council
Cllr. D. King	Cllr. B. Lamb
Cllr. P. Graeme-Drury	Cllr. R. Leithall
Cllr J Maciejowska	Cllr. R. Maycock
Cllr. S. Russell	Cllr. Pengelly
Cllr. C. Shaw	

### **443. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Grose and Dennis. The Council accepted their apologies.

### **444. Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

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

Cllr. Pengelly has received a complaint about the mud on Pentillie Road and has reported it to Devon Highway.

The Clerk updated the Council on the Parish Council Elections taking place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The nomination process will open on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the deadline to submit nomination is 4<sup>th</sup> April. All nomination forms must be do so in person to West Devon Borough Council, Kilworthy Park.

Cllr. Crozier updated the Council that issues caused by certain youths towards a dog training class in the Parish Hall recently had been reported and the youths have been dealt with.

### **446. Chair's Report**

The Government has provided funding towards building the new Okehampton Train Station.

Via a government fund, West Devon Borough Council have been given £1 million for projects to enhance businesses and promote de-carbonisation.

Active Travel Devon are looking to set a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the Council have expressed an interest in joining the scheme.

A while ago, it was suggested by the Council that a piece of land on Pilgrim Drive be used for additional parking spaces. The land is owned by West Devon and the Parish Council will now, with West Devon, formulate a plan to get this projected completed.

### **447. To receive reports from the District Councillors**

Cllr. Crozier gave his District Councillor's report under the item, Chair's Report.

### **448. To receive a report from the County Councillor**

Cllr. Philip Sanders reported that the draft budget for 2023-4 is now taking final shape and it will go before the Full Council on Thursday 16th February 2022 for approval.

Following the award of some extra funding from the Government and some very stringent cuts elsewhere it is anticipated that the budget for children's services will be increased by 18.4%. This will not meet all of the increase in demands and costs in this service but will certainly help to offset some of them.

One of the major concerns is the current state of the Highway network and the rate at which it is deteriorating but the department has been starved of funds for several years now to try to release money for children's services and adult services.

The new Chief Executive Donna Manson who replaces Phil Norrey has now started at Devon County Council and looks as though she intends to shake things around a bit which is a good thing.

Advertisements are currently out for a permanent Head of Children's services and also for a Deputy Head of children's services.

The National Park have announced it is seeking permission to appeal against the decision to ban wild camping on Dartmoor.

The visitor's centre at Princetown has been given a reprieve and will be kept open till 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

With regards to the Parish Council trying to get The Down added to the gritting route, Cllr. Sanders stated he will look into this further.

The Locality budget for the new financial year will be £5,000 and the Parish Council can apply for a donation.

#### **449. Mr Bemister**

Cllr. Crozier introduced Mr. Gareth Bemister, who took over as the new Head Teacher at Bere Alston Primary School in September 2022.

Mr Bemister discussed his vision, values and ideas for the future of the school and how he would like to make the school part of the community again. At present there are 126 pupils, including the nursery and there is capacity for 300 pupils.

Wheels have been put in motion to get the school back to where it needs to be, for example volunteers are now coming into the school to hear children read and The Maynard Trust have given funds to provide a forest school. The installation of the fence around the school, is a safe guarding issue. The school is completely different to when Ofsted did their last inspection and another inspection will be due at some stage.

The school conducted a survey with parents in July 2022 and the school have taken onboard several suggestions that came out of that. A new survey will be conducted in mid-February 2023.

Going forward, the school would like to have an open communication with both the community and the Council and would like residents to get involved in the rejuvenation of the school, for example help clear the grounds in the school.

Cllr. Crozier thanked Mr. Bemister for attending the meeting.

#### **450. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

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

##### Matters Arising

Minute 381 (2) The action regarding a cancelled train in December 2022 and a stranded passenger, is with Cllr. Blackman, who is in contact with GWR.

Minute 373 The empty grit bins have been reported to Devon Highways, but have yet to be refilled.

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

**SO, RESOLVED**

**451. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Plans & Highways meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

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

Matters Arising

Minute 385 The request to have the speed limit reduced on the road from Broad Park Road and Tuckermarsh has been turned down by the Devon County Council Traffic Team, as lowering the speed limit would be ‘totally inappropriate and against DCC speed policy that is based on national guidelines’.

Minute 386 Letters have been sent to householders in Cornwall Street, asking they reduce the overhang of the trees on their property.

Minute 390 Devon Highways have advised that The Down does not fit the criteria to be added to the gritting route, but the Council can purchase a grit bin from them, and Highways the take over the management of it.

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

**SO, RESOLVED**

**452. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Footpaths & Environment meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Shaw proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Russell.

Matters Arising

Minute 397(214) Cllr. Maycock may know someone to contact at South West Water to contact in regards to reporting the bad odour at the Bere Ferrers sewer works.

Minute 399 The annual Parish Paths Partnership survey need to be submitted by 13th February 2023.

Minute 400 The Council has received no update from Devon County Council Public Rights of Way regarding issues with Footpath 2 and 6.

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

**453. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Open Spaces meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. King proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

Matters Arising

Minute 412 A smart meter has been installed at the Pavilion, which will allow the Council to monitor how much electricity is being used.

Minute 415 The Clerk to send letters to the Adult and Junior Football Clubs inviting them to a meeting to discuss the extension of their agreements.

Minute 417 A quote from Outdoor Play has been accepted by the Council. The bonded rubber and cableways repair will be installed approx. 21 March 2023.

Minute 418 The Workman had put a temporary fix on the Junior swing in the Down playpark, but said it would need to be replaced at some point. There are currently spare swings in the Work store, the Workman to be asked if they could be used as the replacement.

Minute 420      The issue of rats at the Bere Alston allotments, to be discussed further at the next Open Spaces Meeting.

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

**SO, RESOLVED**

**454. To approve and adopt the minutes from the F & G.P meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

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

No matters arising.

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

**SO RESOLVED**

**455. Approve 2023-24 Budget**

Cllr. Leithall stated that the proposed budget had been discussed at F & G.P's committee meetings twice.

Cllr. Leithall proposed the Council accept a budget of £77,371. Seconded by Cllr. Maycock. All in favour.

**456. Approve 2023-24 Precept**

Cllr. Crozier proposed the Council submit a precept of £77,371, seconded by Cllr. Maycock. All in favour.

**457. Update on the review of the Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr. Maycock gave the Council an update on the review of Neighbourhood Plan. The next meeting will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 with all the proposed changes. Once completed the plan would need to go the Neighbourhood Plan Inspector.

**458. It is proposed that this Council should now consider plans for a replacement pavilion in order to compile with modern legislation, in particular the Public Sector Equality Act 2010 the planning will be in collaboration with local sporting organisations and villagers, and subject to planning obtaining the required finance, a sub-committee be appointed to lead the proposal and make regular reports to the Council**

Replacing the Pavilion has been discussed by the Council for a number of years now and with the involvement of the Football Cubs, other organisations and all sectors and residents of the village, Cllr. Lamb proposed a Task & Finish Group be formed to start the project. The members to be Cllrs. Lamb, King and Pengelly. Seconded by Cllr. Maciejowska. All in favour.

**459. Invitation from Gulworthy Parish Council to Parishes to collaborate around Climate and Biodiversity emergency plan.**

The Clerk read out an email from a Gulworthy Parish Councillor:

Gulworthy Parish Council declared its support for the Devon Climate and Biodiversity emergency on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Since this time, we have made limited progress in taking a Parish Climate and Biodiversity Plan forward, apart from a valuable meeting with our agricultural community a year ago to understand their progress.

As a small parish (in terms of people) we have concluded that we could make better progress if we cooperate and collaborate with neighbouring parishes. With this in mind we are extending our hand initially to your parishes (Calstock, Bere Ferrers, Sydenham Damerel and Buckland Monachorum). We also have a significant part of our Parishes as part of the Tamar Valley AONB and/or the Cornwall and West Devon World Heritage Site as common factors.

We would be delighted if you were able to respond and let us know if you might have interest in getting back to us and/or having a conversation together and/or sharing this invitation with other parishioners who may have an interest. It is our

view that actions in the area of climate and biodiversity should be supported and encouraged by the Parish Council but led by interested parties in the form of a Climate and Biodiversity Action Group.

After discussions it was proposed that the Council response with an interest with the scheme and Cllr. Maciejowka act as the contact for the Council.

#### **460. Correspondence**

Following a donation, the Council had made to Citizen Advice Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon, the Council had requested holding clinics in the Bere Alston Doctors' Surgery, the Clerk received the following reply:

I have spoken to the management team who would like to pass on our thanks to the doctor's surgery for the kind offer of space to host our service. Unfortunately, because we are currently very low on volunteer numbers, we don't have anyone available to work out of the surgery. However, we will bear this in mind as we recruit new volunteers and maybe you could help us spread the word locally, perhaps through the parish news or word of mouth.

Cllr. Crozier proposed replying back that as soon as they are able to host clinics locally, the Council would be most grateful, as it is much easier for one person to come to Bere Alston, than residents travelling to Tavistock.

#### **461. 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 9.28 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Signed this date 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023