

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th February 2023.

Present:

Cllr. D Pengelly	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Crozier	Chair of the Council
Cllr. Graeme-Drury	Cllr. V. Grose
Cllr. Leithall	Cllr. C. Shaw

In Attendance: Cllr. B. Lamb

474. Apologies

Cllr. D. King sent an apology. The Council accepted her apology.

475. Declaration of Interest.

Cllr. Graeme-Drury declared an interest in the item, routine inspections of the allotment, as he has a plot at the Bere Alston site.

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

Cllr. Graeme-Drury - it had been reported on Facebook that the roundabout in the recreational play park is jammed. The Clerk will ask the Workman to fix.

Cllr Grose reported that the Bere Ferrers Villagers Group have erected a new fence up in the recreational field and the group are now concentrating on fundraiser activities to help purchase new pieces of equipment.

Cllr. Pengelly – an article in this week’s Tavistock Times stated that the Police have reported that no anti-social behaviour has been reported from Bere Alston since September 2022. It was discussed that that all incidents should be report and Cllr. Crozier to contact the police for the justification of their comments.

477. Matters Arising from the minutes from the meeting held on 14th January 2023

The minutes were adopted and approved at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 31st January 2023.

Matters Arising

Minute 411 New defibrillator pads have been ordered.

Minute 411 Regarding the Scouts plans to put up safety posters around the village, they have contacted Devon Highways. Cllr. Shaw have invited members of the Scouts to attend the next Open Spaces meeting to show the Committee examples of their posters.

Minute 418 The junior swing seat has been replaced with a spare seat the Council had in their storeroom.

478. Donation from BARP

Cllr. Pengelly updated the Committee that the charity, Bere Alston Recreation Parks (BARP), will discuss, at their next meeting, to close down. BARP had also written to the Clerk to say they are to discuss donating their remaining assets to the Council, providing the Council are able to confirm that these funds would be ring-fenced and spent on new projects in line with them charitable objectives, specifically to improve the play spaces at The Down Recreation Field and Sarah Park.

Cllr. Crozier proposed the Clerk reply that the Council would be very happy to accept BARP’s donation and also their terms on how it is to be spent. Secondly the Council believes new trustees can be found in order to continue the charity, so requested it not be closed down at this time and also leave a nominal sum in the bank account, in order the it was not closed down too. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

Cllr. Graeme-Drury proposed going into Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

Cllr. Leithall proposed coming out of part 2, seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

479. Bere Alston Benches

The Clerk has received an email from a member of the Bere Alston in Bloom group:

'BAiB are looking at various planting projects for this year and one idea we have had was to ear mark some of the benches within the Village to paint them a pastel colour and then to reflect the colour of the paint in the planting either side of the bench. Having looked at some of the benches they are looking as if they need a face lift and it would certainly lift the spirits of those sitting on them and walking past.'

After discussions Cllr. Crozier proposed allowing the group to paint one bench located in the Parish Hall Garden and request a representative come to an Open Spaces meeting, to discuss with the Committee their proposal further, seconded by Cllr. Graeme-Drury.

The email also stated that some members of the public had commented to them that some of the benches are very low and once sat down, it could be difficult to get back up again. The suggestion was therefore whether the Council would consider raising the height of some of the benches?

After discussions, the Clerk was asked to check what the national standard height of benches should be and report back at the next meeting.

480. The cemetery memorial garden

The Workman has requested permission to clear up the memorial garden. As the area is used for the scattering of ashes, there was concern on how best to tidy it up and the Clerk to first consult the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management to check whether there is any protocol on this matter and advise the Workman accordingly.

481. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish recreation and play areas

The Clerk to ask the Workman to unblock the roundabout at the Down play park. Cllr. Shaw to look at the ropes that need replacing in Sarah Park, update the Clerk and the Clerk to obtain quotes to replace the ropes.

482. Inspection of allotments at Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers

Discussions took place on the continuing rat issue at Bere Alston. The Clerk and the Chair of the Council had an onsite meeting with members of the Environmental team from West Devon Borough, who gave recommendations and advice for each plot with poultry and the Council on the whole, on how best to control the issue. The Clerk to forward the information onto the relevant allotment holders. With the ongoing issue of avian flu, the Environmental representatives also stated that no birds can be moved, therefore no poultry should be moved on and off the allotments at present.

Cllr. Leithall proposed the Committee make a recommendation to the F & G.P Committee to engage a pest control company to tackle the rat issue and whilst the avian flu is going on, no further permissions be given to further allotment holders to have poultry on their plots. Seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

It was agreed to review the current allotment agreement at the March Open Spaces meeting.

483. Correspondence

1. A member of the public informed the Clerk via telephone that they would no longer be able to cut the verges at the top of Fore Street, Bere Alston.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the person and thank him for the work he undertook over the years. The land is owned by West Devon Borough Council, but it was suggested that going forward the Council's workman be asked to cut the verges.

2. The Council has received an email from Unleashed street food, a pizza van seeking permission to have a weekly regular pitch to sell pizzas on Council's land.

To be agreed to discuss this further at the Council meeting on 28th February 2023.

484. Questions from the public present, at the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair

There were no members of the public were present at the meeting.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.56 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Dated this date 28th February 2023