

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 25th April 2023

Present

Cllr P Crozier	Chair of Council
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. D. King
Cllr. B. Lamb	Cllr. V. Grose
Cllr J Maciejowska	Cllr. R. Maycock
Cllr. Pengelly	Cllr. C. Shaw

630. Apologies

An apology were received from Cllr. Leithall. The Council accepted his apology.

631. Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interest made.

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

The Clerk updated the Committee that the wet pour was due to be installed in the Sarah park playground on 4th May 2023.

633. Chair's Report

Cllr. Crozier – We are still in the pre-election period, but the Parish Council election was uncontested and the Council is two Council members short. The Council will therefore advertise for co-option, after the 9th May 2023.

Dr. Frances Howard, who was not able to attend the Annual Parish meeting on 31st March 2023, was presented with her award by myself and she was overjoyed to receive it. The Council had been disappointed with the article of the event featured in the Tavistock Times, but an updated article was printed in the following week's edition.

Lastly, Cllr. Crozier attended the funeral of the former Tavistock Town Councillor Ted Sherrell and he has been the only person to ever have been given the honour of Freeman of Tavistock for his service to the community. Ted Sherrell was one of the well-known farming Sherrell family who was born and went to school in Bere Alston and then Tavistock Grammar school

634. To receive reports from the District Councillors

There will be an election for the Bere Ferrers Ward on the 4th May 2023 and Cllr. Crozier confirmed he was one of the members standing for election.

635. To receive a report from the County Councillor

The County Councillor was not present at the meeting to give his report.

636. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on 28th March 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 574 (513 (469)) Discussions took place on the various issues of pot holes within the Peninsula. It was stressed again that all pot holes need to be reported on the Devon Highways Report a Problem webpage.

Minute 576 (537)

Update on Footpath 2 - Devon County Council Public Rights of Way Service has agreed a temporary route with the relevant landowners close to the alignment set out in the 1972 Order (the current definitive alignment). This permissive route is open and available for use whilst work continues to either reinstate the definitive alignment or consider a potential permanent diversion.

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

637. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Annual Parish meeting held on 31st March 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.

There were no matters arising.

Cllr. King approved adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

SO, RESOLVED

638. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Plans & Highways meeting held on 4th April 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 600

The Clerk has sent a response to the Deputy Director of Highways and Infrastructure Development, Devon County Council, but not yet received a reply.

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

SO, RESOLVED

639. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Open Spaces meeting held on 11th April 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 609

The notice notifying that the Council wish to tidy up the Memorial Garden in the cemetery can now be removed and the Clerk to advise the Workman to conduct a 'light' tidy up of the garden.

Minute 611

The Workman to be asked if he can rectify the exceeded gap allowed of 8 mm around the Roundabout at the Down playpark.

Minute 613

Cllr. Grose stated the Bere Ferrers Allotment Association to still to meet to discuss tidy up the area around the water containers.

The pest control management plan is working well in the Bere Alston allotments. West Devon Borough Council has issued the Parish Council with a formal warning regarding the rat infestation there and the Council have 28 days to formal response on action has been taken.

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

SO, RESOLVED

640. To approve and adopt the minutes from the F & G.P meeting held on 18th April 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 620 (549)

It was requested that the Workman take an electric meter reading from the Pavilion every week over the summer months.

Minute 620 (562)

The Clerk is now the official contact for the Council's charity and the new Charity trustees have been registered.

Minute 620 (564)

Cllr. Lamb has sent an email to Parish Councils inviting a representative to attend the Southern Links Committee meeting on Wednesday 24th May 2023. Cllr. King will attend as the Bere Ferrers Parish Council representative.

Minute 624

The Clerk is seeking further advice with regards to the Council's Asset Register for 2022-23.

Minute 625

Following the pizza van visit to the Bere Alston recreational field carpark on 23rd April 2023, there were no reports of littering the next day. The Council has received a letter from a member of public asking why the pizza van is not being charged to trade in the carpark. The Clerk was asked to respond that a 3-month trial period has been granted to them for no charge, but if they wish to continue after this period, a charge would be implemented. The Clerk to ensure the Pizza van company signs an agreement with the Council.

Discussions on whether commercial businesses using the recreational field should be charged. Cllr. King proposed that charges for the use of the recreational spaces be reviewed at the next Open Spaces meeting, seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

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

SO RESOLVED

641. Atlas Tower Group's request to build a single mobile mast in Bere Alston

Cllr. Crozier welcomed Maxwell Rae, CEO of Atlas Tower Group to the meeting.

Mr. Rae explained that Atlas Tower Group build mobile towers and then rented out space on the towers to the four main mobile phone operators, including EE, whose coverage is particularly poor in this area.

Mr. Rae stated a few reasons why it is important to have a tower installed in the area:

1. The Police and blue light services will soon switch to using the EE network and their activities will be hampered in this area, as the EE coverage is not improved.
2. Smart meters use the O2 network, therefore a poor signal means no readings are automatically submitted.
3. Health & medical reasons for individuals, for example people use mobile data to send their glucose readings.

By the Parish Council agreeing to the build and also the location of the tower, will give them more control. Also as this is an AONB area, the Council's support, could assist in getting permission for the tower to be build.

The mast would be approx. 75 feet high; a tall tower is required in order to have enough space for all networks to use. Atlas though cannot guarantee that the operators will rent space on the tower, but if it goes ahead, they would approach all the networks.

A question was asked on whether it would improve the signal around Denham Bridge Road?

At this early stage, Mr. Rae could not say for sure that it would. Stylised towers were discussed but Mr. Rae confirmed this have now been discontinued due to their high carbon footprint.

Cllr. Crozier thanked Mr. Rae for attending the meeting and answering their questions.

After further discussions the general view of the Councillors was positive as better communication is required in the area, but deemed that more information needs to be gathered before putting any plans in motion and reservations were made about the height of the tower.

642. Approve cost for hire of digger and materials for jobs required around the Parish

Cllr. Pengelly detailed the costs of hiring the digger, heavy duty wacker plate and other associated costs for the jobs to be undertaken around the Parish.

Cllr. Lamb proposed accepting the costs, seconded by Cllr. Maycock. The work to commence w/c 15 May and the Clerk was asked to arrange the hire and delivery of the digger and wacker plate.

643. Update on the Council's Land Registry applications for the Down, Bere Alston and the Parish Hall, Bere Alston

The Clerk updated the Council that the Land Registry require the market value of the recreational field and the Parish Hall. After discussions it was agreed that the market value of the Parish Hall should be its current insured sum.

Cllr. Dennis to ask a colleague for their advice on the market value of the recreational field.

644. Correspondence

1. Letter from Mrs. Jeanette Englefield:

I am writing to express my thanks for the award made to me Friday evening, and for the superb way it was presented. It was indeed my privilege to be able to enhance the looks throughout the village, and it gave me great happiness to be involved with it, that others felt it was enhanced also added to this feeling. The obvious increase in smiling a bonhomie makes things like this worthwhile. The fact that the very busy Parish council took the time and effort to create such a lovely evening, showing how much our efforts were appreciated, makes it all doubly worthwhile.

2. A free Resilience Forum event providing information about how communities can tackle flooding, drought and other emergencies, details of grants available and a plan for dealing with a wide range of incidents is due to take place on the 17th May in Bridestowe.

Cllr. Grose volunteered to attend the event, on behalf of the Council.

3. The Clerk has received more complaints from The Down cul-de-sac residents, regarding drivers driving into their road on football match days. The postcode advised on the website, appears to direct drivers to The Down cul-de-sac. There has also been a complaint about car parking dangerous on the road, again mainly on match days.

After discussions the Clerk was asked to request the Football Club use What 3 Words for visitors to locate the recreational field car park and also ask visitors to park on the road with consideration for other road users and pedestrians.

645. Questions from any members of the public present, at the discretion of the Chairman.

The member of the public in attendance, did not ask any questions.

Being the last meeting of the current Council, Cllr. Lamb gave a summary of all the projects/jobs completed by the Council over the last four years and thanked all members of staff and Councillors for their hard work and commitment.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at

9.21 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Signed this date 25th April 2023