

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Council Chambers, Bere Alston on Tuesday 25th July 2023.

Present

Cllr. B. Lamb	Vice-Chair of Council
Cllr. Archer	Cllr. P. Dennis
Cllr. D. King	Cllr. V. Grose
Cllr J Maciejowska	Cllr. R. Maycock
Cllr. M. Patterson	Cllr. Pengelly
Cllr. C. Shaw	Cllr. E. Wager

179. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Crozier, Cllr. Saxby, Borough Councillor and Cllr. P. Sanders, County Councillor. The Council accepted their apologies.

180. Declaration of Interests

Cllr. Patterson declared an interest in the B3257 road works.

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

1. Cllr. Lamb - One of the major subjects tonight is the closing of the B3257 road by Devon Highways and before we reach this item on the agenda, I thought that you would like to hear the updated information that I have received from Phil Durrant at Devon Highways.
 - The job has been restricted to five days by bringing in more resources of materials and staff.
 - Denham Bridge road will be managed by Gatemen who will allow traffic in one direction at a time. Normal journey time is about six minutes.
 - HGV's & Buses will convoy through the B3257. complete.

This change has only come about because our Community has shown its concern and anger at the original plans and I would like to particularly thank Philip Sanders, County Councillor, our District Councillors, Cllr. Crozier, and our Parishioners who have responded and the Tavistock Times for their support and in particular the well scripted letter from Mike Street and of course the Parish Council.

2. Cllr. Wager requested an update on the ash dieback tree he reported at a previous meeting. The Clerk stated Mount Edgecumbe's agent had requested a plan and a photo and passed their contact details to Cllr. Wager for him to follow up. Cllr. Wager also reported another ash dieback tree. The Clerk to report.
3. Cllr. Grose reported that Footpath 49 was impassable at present, but Public Rights of Way, Devon County Council are in contact with the landowner and have requested the obstruction be removed.

A Public Rights of Way Senior Officer had received a report of a tree showing signs of ash dieback on Footpath 28, and asked if the Council inspect on their behalf. After an inspection, Cllr. Grose found 8 ash trees, one which is dropping branches and others that do not look healthy. The trees are located on the bank not the footpath. The Clerk to pass the information and photos taken to Devon County Council.

A Resident was concerned that when boarding the bus at Bere Ferrers, the driver does not take fares until they get to Bere Alston and is worried that it is going to show that nobody from Bere Ferrers is using the bus. The Clerk confirmed that this issue had been brought up before and verbally Stagecoach had given assured this would happen, but will contact Stage Coach again and obtain written confirmation.

182. Chair's Report

Cllr. Lamb read out a report sent in by Cllr. Crozier:

This month has been dominated by the decision of Devon Highways to reroute all light vehicles through the Denham Bridge road, while they are patching between Orstocks and Tavistock Cross. Their excuse other than Health and Safety, is that the machinery is too big allow traffic to pass on a controlled each way system, however they can accommodate the busses and HGV's it does not make sense. I wrote to Highways in June when it was announced, pointing out that Denham Bridge Road was a restricted access and this is the reply I received.

'Dear Cllr Crozier, Thank you for the comments on this TTRO, this was referred to the contractor and their planner confirmed they are aware of the restrictions on Denham Bridge Road. The diversion through this is only for light vehicles, all HGV's will be separated by the gate men and allowed slowly through the site, as was done for the previous section the other week when they diverted through Crowndale Road.'

Cllr. Crozier continued - I have been keeping our County Councillor informed and he is as perplexed as we are. We have not given up yet. We have now furnished the traffic survey done for the neighbourhood plan in 2015 to show them the potential number of vehicles that will contest this narrow medieval road.

I have also attended the Youth2 Youth AGM on the 10th July and I was pleased to hear that the anti-social behaviour has been reduced markedly through by talking to the individuals concerned with their parents. Last Saturday I attended the Garden Club Show and presented the Cups to the winners. Also congratulations to Bere Alston in Bloom for all their hard work and good luck following their recent judging.

183. To receive reports from the District Councillors

The Borough Councillors were not present at the meeting.

184. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Philip Sanders was unable to be present because of personal family reasons.

185. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on 27th June 2023 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 117

On the subject of food poverty in the Parish, Cllr. Maciejowska will put a proposal together for the next Full Council meeting.

Minute 120

Further discussions took place regarding the closure of the B3257 from 14th August 2023 for five days. Devon Highways had not yet confirmed their start and finish, or whether they will work through the night. Cllr. Lamb to request this information. As previously stated, HGVS, buses and tractors will be allow to travel along the road via convoy. It is also assumed that ambulances and doctors on call, would also be allowed through.

Cllr. Lamb proposed the Council put a statement on the Council's social media page, highlighting the information the Council have received so far. Seconded by Cllr. Maciehowksa. All in favour.

Minute 121

The Housing Needs Survey for Bere Ferrers and Bere Alston has received a good response so far and the Council urges those residents, who have not yet completed the form, to please do so, as it is very important for the Bere Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan. The deadline to complete is Friday 4th August 2023.

Minute 123 Cllr. Lamb proposed Cllr. Archer join the Plans & Highways Committee and Cllr. Patterson join the Footpaths & Environment Committee. Seconded by Cllr. Wager. All in favour.

Minute 126 (75) Cllr. King is in the process of gathering the gradients for each footpath. Once completed, it will be included in the next guide reprint, but until then, it could be included as an insert in the guide currently on sale.

Minute 127 (91) Councillors agreed that bearing in mind the service we have received from our present hedge contractor there might not be a need to go out to tender and that this should be discussed at the next Open Spaces meeting who can make a necessary recommendation.

Minute 128(103) The Parish Hall application with the Land Registry is now complete and the Council are awaiting confirmation of registration. Once confirmed, the application to register the Bere Alston recreational field will be discussed again by F & GP to decide the necessity bearing in mind the huge cost.

Minute 133 At last week's F & G.P it was noted that there were cars doubled parked in the Parish Hall carpark and cars also blocking the emergency exit of the Hall. Discussions took place on the ongoing issues residents face parking their vehicles in the village and the fact that the request to West Devon Borough Council, to turn a piece of land at Pilgrim Drive into additional parking, is proving to be a very slow process. It was also discussed that the Parish Hall car park needs to be free for user of the Hall and if commercial users were not able to park, they may take their business elsewhere.

Cllr. Lamb had been requested to draft another letter to those parked in the carpark asking they not park in the car park until after 8 pm, as highlighted in the carparking sign. No Councillor seconded the motion. Motion not carried.

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

SO, RESOLVED

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

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

Matters Arising

Minute No 140 (60) The B3257 roadworks were discussed earlier in this meeting.

Minute 144 Cllr. Maycock gave the Council a summary of the talk Mr Simon Coles, Director of Carney Sweeny gave at the meeting, who attended on behalf of Burrington Homes. Cllr. Maycock stated that although the site has been approved for development, the blocking point was the exit and entrance was currently to be from Woolacombe Road and Devon Highways will not agree to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph from Quarry Corner. Burrington Homes will submit a new application, for an identical scheme to the one previous submitted, in the next few weeks.

Minute 147 It was acknowledged that the request to turn a piece of land on Pilgrim Drive in to additional spacing, is becoming a long-drawn-out process. The Clerk to chase up with West Devon Borough Council.

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

SO, RESOLVED

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

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

Matters Arising

Minute 153

Following attending the inaugural Tamara Coast to Coast walking route, Cllr. Grose stated there were circular walks in the Peninsula, listed their website. Cllr. King stated that when she walked the route, she didn't see any signposts to indicate it was the Tamara Walkway. Cllr. Grose to look into this.

Minute 156

The issue of grass not being cut at the Trinity Churchyard has been reported to the Bere Ferrers Borough Councillors. West Devon stated it has been cut recently, but it has not. Cllr. Patterson to follow up with Cllr. Blackman.

Minute 163

Cllr. Wager commented that the water feature in the Mosaic Garden had not been removed. The Clerk to follow up.

Cllr. Pengelly proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Wager.

SO, RESOLVED

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

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

Matters Arising

Minute 167

A meeting between the Active Travel Project and Cllrs. Lamb, Grose and Maciejowska has been set up for next month.

A reminder that all booking for the Parish Hall need to be done via the Beregen booking system or via phoning Beregen.

The Clerk is in process of organising a meeting between Cllr. Grose and members of the Landulph Parish Council to exchange ideas about climate and environmental approaches.

Issues with logging into NatWest Bankline - Cllr. Crozier is in the process of obtaining new card readers and PIN numbers for Cllrs. Lamb and Leithall

Minute 168 (103 28 619) The Workman requires a motorcycle rider to assist him in where to place the concrete slabs. Cllr. Pengelly to look into this.

Minute 168 (103)

The Clerk to officially write to Mainsbridge and Balment Estate Agent, thanking them for providing valuations of the Parish Hall and Bere Alston Recreational field free of charge. Valuations were required in order to registration the assets with the Land Registry.

Minute 168 (107)

The three-year insurance agreement the Council took out with Zurich was not a fixed price, but a discounted rate that would be applied each year. The insurance is therefore subject to index linking, which the Clerk was not made aware of. The F & G.P committee will look further at the contract at the next meeting.

Minute 168 (109)

After investigation by the Clerk, it would appear the Council's current website provider, cannot accommodate a WCAG compliance website the Council requires. Therefore the Clerk is investigating alternative providers, primarily those who specialise in providing websites for Parish Council.

Minute 172 The previous monthly audit conducted by Councillors is not relevant, as the majority of the Council's accounts are now completed online. The Clerk to draw up a new process.

Minute 176 Cllr. Dennis is waiting on the Electrician to add the test date stickers to the distribution boards.

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

SO RESOLVED

189. Update on 2215/22/FUL – Co-Op Westcountry Ltd (Kenwyn) application and Burrington Estates application of land north of Woolacombe road

Both applications are currently with the West Devon Borough Council Planning department. Cllrs Crozier and Lamb met with the Borough Councillors, Cllrs. Blackman and Saxby and requested they organized a meeting with Head of Planning to get one solution for both applications. There is no update yet.

What the Council is aware of is there have been two different replies to each application regarding the reducing the speed limit coming into the village. Burrington Homes, they have been informed by Devon Highways that the speed limit will not be reduced, yet according the Officer handling the Co-Op application, they have been informed the speed limit will be reduced.

A question was asked when Burrington Homes submit their new applications, will the previous comments, objections be carried over? Cllr. Lamb did not know, but will ask the Planning Department.

190. Community Art Project – discuss a request received from the Berey Crafters craft group in Bere Alston to create of piece of art to be displayed in the village

Unfortunately the representative from the Berey Craft group did not attend the meeting, therefore this item will be deferred to the next meeting

191. Discussion on the Community Payback awareness project

The Clerk had, prior to the meeting, emailed Councillors a copy of a presentation giving information on the scheme, given at a recent meeting held at the West Devon Borough Council.

After discussions, Cllr. Lamb suggested all Councillors think about a scheme and how it could work and bring it to next Council meeting.

192. Confirmation of Clerk's working days and annual leave for August 2023

The Clerk confirmed that she will be on annual leave from Monday 14th August 2023 and return to work on Wednesday 30th August. During the first two week of August, some days the Clerk may need to work from home, but will keep the Councillors informed and also put a notice on the Council Office door. All phone messages though are emailed to the Clerk.

Cllr. Wager requested a discussion to reintroduce an Assistant Clerk be added to the next F & G.P meeting's agenda.

193. A request to consider moving the Bere Alston noticeboard to outside the Parish Hall

Cllr. Saxby requested, via the Clerk, for the Council to consider moving the Bere Alston noticeboard from its currently location, beside the phone box to the outside the Parish Hall, as it would be a more central location.

After discussions, Cllr. King proposed leaving the noticeboard in its current location, seconded by Cllr. Shaw. All in favour.

194. Correspondence

1. An email from an allotment holder:

I have previously opened my allotment as part of the Bere Alston Open Gardens event as a demonstration of wildlife friendly allotment growing. I've now been approached by the Tamar Valley AONB to open my allotment for a couple of hours as part of their Community Action for Nature event in Bere Alston on Saturday 23 September.

Would the Parish Council be happy for me to do this? I would have a small table display and do small informal tours around the plot, as I did for the Open Gardens day.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you. The Council voiced no objection to this proposal.

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

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

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.59 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Signed this date 26th September 2023