

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

Present:

Cllr. D Pengelly	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Crozier	Chair of the Council
Cllr. V. Grose	Cllr. Leithall
Cllr. E. Wager	

In Attendance: Cllrs. B. Lamb and Patterson

233. Apologies

Cllrs. King and Shaw sent their apologies. The Council accepted their apologies.

234. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

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

Cllr. Lamb enquired about the progress of installing motorbike stands in the Parish hall carpark. The Workman/Clerk need to seek advice on how much space is required between parking slot.

Cllr. Grose gave her apologies for not attending the Pavilion site meeting held last week.

236. Award of the Eاون Wager Allotment Cup to the best Bere Alston allotment

The Clerk had been unable to invite the recipient for this year's award in time for the meeting, therefore it was agreed to defer this item to the Full Council meeting on 26th September 2023.

237. Matters Arising from the minutes from the meeting held on 11th July 2023

The minutes were adopted and approved at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th July 2023.

Matters Arising

Minute 154 (84) Cllr. Wager reported no action had yet been taken with the ash dieback trees, located on land owned by the Mount Edgcombe Estate and will contact the Land Agent again.

Minute 154 (92) Cllr. Crozier has received an invite to attend the 2023 South West Bloom Civic Reception in Truro on 2nd October 2023.

Minute 156 A meeting between the Community Service Officer from West Devon Borough Council, Cllr. Angela Blackman, West Devon Borough Councillor, Cllrs. Patterson and Wager took place with members of the Holy Trinity Church. It was agreed that the graveyard in the churchyard will be cut 8 times a year. To still be agreed, an area that will be left for wildflowers.

Minute 163 (2) The Council has received correspondence with regards to dog mess not being cleared up. Cllr. Crozier reported that the Workman had found 64 dog messes, when he recently cut the grass at the Bere Alston recreational field. After discussions the Clerk to contact the West Devon Borough Council requesting the Mobile Locality Officer visit the site, Cllr. Crozier to mention in the next issue of Berelink and posters put up on the Noticeboard, requesting all mess be picked up and if no improvement in the next few months, the Council may have to rethink allowing dogs on the field.

238. Review of the Open Spaces Detailed Receipts & Payment Report – April to August 2023

After review, Cllrs. Pengelly proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

239. Review of hedges at the Down

It was agreed to defer to item to a later meeting, once the hedges had been trimmed. It was explained to members of the Committee, that in the past residents had requested the hedges been cut lower down to deter unsocial behaviours and the Council had agreed to this.

240. Discuss Pavilion repairs required

A site visit of the Pavilion was conducted on Thursday 7th September and attended by Cllrs Crozier, Pengelly, Leithall, Shaw and Wager. A list of repair jobs has been put together and the Clerk to pass onto the Workman to start working through.

241. Review of the grass cutting schedule

The Clerk updated the Committee on the number of hours the Workman had spent on grass cutting since April 2023. There had also been numerous hours of maintenance required and a replacement of two belts. It was discussed that the main issue is the Council do not have a heavy-duty grass cutting machine. It was agreed to perhaps hire a Contractor, if the grass is getting too long and the long-term plan is for the Council to save for a more suitable machine.

242. Improvements to Bere Alston playparks

Cllr. Pengelly requested this item be deferred to the next meeting, as he is still waiting on confirmation of the funds from the BARP charity.

243. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish Recreation and Play areas

Cllr. Shaw completed his report and had reported no major issues.

Due to annual leave, the inspection of the Bere Ferrers playpark had not been done. Cllr. Lamb stated he would do it this week and report any issues to the Clerk.

244. General improvements required at the Bere Alston allotment site

On Thursday Sept 7th 2023, Cllrs. Crozier, Leithall, Pengelly, Shaw and Wager inspected the Bere Alston Allotments, to ascertain what to do with the area at the bottom of the field.

Discussed was to extend the road to the bottom left of the site, using the shillet, currently dumped at the end of the track. Cllr. Pengelly has been contacted by two allotment holders regarding the state of the track. Cllr. Pengelly suggest that the centre of the track needs lowering, as small cars were dragging. Cllr. Crozier explained that allotment holders could fill in the wheel track using the dumped shillet.

Also discussed was to cut back the area the trees are planted in and clear the bonfire site. It was agreed that the Council hire a digger or contractor to clear the bonfire remains and that once cleared, the area to be mowed a least once a year. The Clerk to look into the costs and present at the next meeting. The Clerk to also contact the Bere Alston Allotment Association and organise a meeting between themselves and to discuss the trees planted in the area.

245. Inspection of Allotments Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers

Cllr. Grose reported that one Bere Ferrers plot is not being worked on. The clerk to contact the allotment holder.

246. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. Costs to hire digger/Contractor to clear Bere Alston allotment bonfire site.
2. Improvements to Bere Alston playparks.
3. Poultry on Allotments

247. Correspondence

1. Email from the Bere Ferrers Villagers Group regarding the state of the potholes in the Bere Ferrers recreational field car park and also the problems with the diversion drain.

Cllr. Pengelly stated the Workman had been informed and it is on his list of jobs to do.

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

A member of the public asked if he and members of his family would be able to pre-purchase burial plots in an area not yet designated for burial and not currently available for pre-purchased. The member of public stated this family would be able to offer a donation to the Council and also a family member was a garden landscape designer, would be happy to offer his services for free and design a new memorial garden for the cemetery.

Cllr. Crozier explained that this had been discussed at the Open Spaces meeting on 11th July 2023 and the Committee discussed and agreed that this request would not be permitted at this time, as the current policy of the Council is to only allow burial in the current designated areas only. Also that previous requests like this had been declined in the past, therefore it would be problematic to allow this. The Councils' Standing Orders state that a resolution made by the Council, cannot be reversed within 6 months of a decision. The Council will therefore add this as an agenda item for the February 2024 Open Spaces meeting and discuss the policy of burials at the Cemetery on a whole.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.03 pm.

Signed by the Chair

THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN ADOPTED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL

Dated this date 26th September 2023