

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr. R. Leithall Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Crozier Chair of the Council
Cllr. P. Dennis Cllr. V. Grose
Cllr. B. Lamb Cllr. R. Maycock
Cllr. D. Pengelly

In Attendance: Cllr. P. Archer

552. Apologies

All members were present.

553. Declaration of Interest

None were made.

554. Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chair. No action can be taken on these items at this meeting

Cllr. Lamb enquired whether there had been a recommendation from the Open Spaces meeting, held on 13th February 2024, to introduce an additional surcharge for poultry owners on allotments. The Clerk confirmed there had not and it had been agreed further research was required, before a recommendation was to be made.

Cllr. Maycock has been approached by two members of the public regarding the issue of dog poo bags being left on hedges/end of the road near Station Road in Bere Alston. Could a litter bin be installed at this location? After discussions both Cllrs. Maycock and Grose to visit the site and view the situation. Item to be referred to the Footpaths & Environment Committee.

Cllr. Dennis highlighted again the lack of lighting in Fore Street, Bere Alston and that he had recently tripped over a planter which he hadn't see. The Clerk read out an email received from the Lighting Team from Devon County Council, 'regrettably due to austerity measures and budget cuts Devon County Council currently has no budget available for the installation of additional street lighting'... 'However, should the local Parish or District Council be willing to fund additional lighting, Devon County would be happy to advise them, and it may be possible for DCC to adopt lights for future energy costs and maintenance after installation'. The Clerk has also written to the Lighting Team to enquiry whether extension arms can be placed on the existing light and is awaiting a response.

Cllr. Dennis also asked that two of three people be trained on the Parish Hall's Fire alarm system, after discussions it was agreed The Clerk, Chair and Vice of the Council would conduct the training.

555. Matters arising from the meeting held on the 23rd January 2024

Matters Arising

Minute 742

Denham Bridge is still closed, but Devon County Council are working to have it open as soon as Possible.

Minute 473 428 (379)

Following the proposal that a weekly meter reading be taken and an invoice for the electricity used, be sent quarterly to the Bere Alston Football Club. The Clerk confirmed she had yet to have a conversation with the Manager of the Football Club, but will do so shortly.

Minute 483

The Clerk informed the Committee that after inspection by the Workman, it appeared that lead on the roof of the Bere Ferrers Bus shelter, had been stolen. Looking at recent photos both Cllrs. Leithall and Crozier took, discussions took place on when the incident might have occurred. It was agreed that Cllr. Crozier was to inspect the site with the Workman and the Clerk to report to the Police.

The Clerk is in progress of obtaining quotes from suitable tradesperson to repair the Station Road/Drakes park bus shelter. It was agreed that the Clerk ask local bus companies if they have know

of any companies that conduct bus surveys. Cllr. Leithall to inspect the shelter again and Cllr. Lamb to make enquires about a donation to replace the shelter.

Minute 485

The Clerk to laise with Cllr. Dennis how to amend the Land Registry documents of the Youth Hut.

556. To accept the February 2024 accounts for payment

Cllr. Leithall proposed payment, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

557.To accept the F & G.P Detailed Receipt and Payment Report ending 31st January 2024

Cllr. Grose proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

558. To accept the reconciled bank statement ending 31st January 2024

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the reconciled bank statement, seconded by Cllr. Grose.

559. Approve Clerk's additional hours for February 2024

The Clerk requested approval of an additional 4 hours, due to extra meetings and work undertaken in February. Cllr. Maycock proposed approval. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall. All in favour.

560. Review Financial Regulations

Cllrs. Lamb and Leithall had reviewed the current regulations and their suggested amendments where sent to Committee members prior to the meeting. Cllr. Lamb highlighted the following amendments:
Petty cash has been deleted and replaced with the Council no longer keeps petty cash.
Four Councillors will be authorised each year as the cheque signatories and authorisers Bank Line payments where two of these Members will be required to deal with each transaction. The four authorised Councillors will be appointed at the first meeting of the F & G.P. Committee each year after the Annual Meeting.

Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the financial regulations, seconded by Cllr. Grose. All in favour.

561. Review Standing Orders

Cllrs. Lamb and Leithall had reviewed the Standing Orders and their suggested amendments where sent to the Committee, prior to the meeting. Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly. To be added to the Full Council's 27th February 2024 agenda, for final approval.

562. Review Risk Management Scheme

The document had been sent to all members prior to the meeting. There were no amendments to note.

Cllr. Leithall proposed approving of the document, seconded by Cllr. Dennis. All approved.

563. Report from the Sports Development Committee

Cllr. Archer apologised for not attending the event, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Cllr. Lamb stated the event had produced positive feedback from those organisations who attended and almost 100% who attended, were in support of a new Pavilion. A report of the day will appear in the Tavistock Times.

So far there are been approx. 40-50 completed responses forms. Forms have been distributed around the village and a link to complete the form is on the Council's Facebook page.

The proposed plans will be in the Council Chambers office for members of the public to view. On Sunday 25th February 2024, the Pavilion will be open for people to come and visit.

Cllr. Pengelly stated he had been disappointed with the lack of responses he received regarding extending the playpark in the Down and will now hold a meeting with the sub-committee group to discuss how they proceed.

564. Discuss SafeLine auto dialler package for the Council Office lift

At the last meeting, Cllr. Dennis explained that in April 2024 new legislation will come in stating there should be an external phone line installed, in order for assistance to be raised, if the lift breaks down. Cllr. Dennis has asked if this was necessary, as the lift is only used when there is more than one person in the building. He is still waiting on a reply. It was agreed to defer this item to April's meeting.

565. Correspondence

1. Email from DALC regarding the Devolution Deal for Devon:

'The consultation invites views on the draft proposals to establish a new Combined County Authority – a new decision-making body which would be required by law to oversee new funds and powers transferred from Whitehall to Devon and Torbay.

A devolution deal website (Devon and Torbay's deal - Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal (devontorbaydeal.org.uk), has been launched which features FAQs, a consultation questionnaire, a summary of the Devolution Deal proposal as well as the full document. The consultation closes on 24 March 2024. On completion, Devon County Council and Torbay Council will each consider all responses and determine whether to submit a final proposal to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. If the SoS is satisfied, an Order in Parliament will create the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, with the aim being to create the CCA during 2024.'

2. Email from Devon Air Albrumcne regarding the switching of the 3G network across Devon as of the 31st January 2024.

'And therefore they will be conducting a light test for each lit CLS to test that the system is still operational and working as it should. If the GSM unit at your site doesn't operate as we expect, we'll make a note of it and get in touch with you with regard to possible options. The important thing to note is that if the GSM unit doesn't work as we expect, we will still continue to land and use your site if required at night and will simply tell the pilots that for the time being your site is a temporary dark site. They are also currently in conversation with BT and other suppliers about a suitable long-term solution to ensure we can still utilise the network of lights across Devon as and when we need to. In time this may mean we replace the GSM units with another Unit able to work with 4G or 5G. As soon as we are able to communicate the next steps we will do so.

'Please be reassured that none of this will prevent Devon Air Ambulance from landing in your community at night if required. We will still be able to come and help your community when you need us most and your CLS is vital to keep us operational.'

566. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. Publication Scheme

567. Questions from the public, at the discretion of the Chair

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

here being no further business, the Chair thanked members for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Dated 27th February 2024