

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 12th March 2024.

Present:

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

In Attendance: Cllrs. B. Lamb and M. Patterson

597. Apologies

There were no apologies.

598. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Grose declared an interest in the allotments.

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

Cllr. King enquired about the forthcoming road closure signs on the B3257 road. Will the whole road be closed during the works duration? The Clerk to request clarification from Devon Highways.

Cllr. Pengelly to visit the Bere Aston Primary School at the end of the school day on Friday 15th March, to speak to parents regarding the playpark improvements in Bere Alston. Cllrs. Grose and Lamb to attend also.

Cllr. Lamb update the Committee that the Sport Development Consultation completed forms box will be opened in the Council office on Monday 18th March. The information will then collated into a full report.

600. Matters Arising from the minutes from the meeting held on 13th February 2024

The minutes were adopted and approved at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2024.

Matters Arising

Minute 542 (462) The Clerk read out a reply from the Asset Principal Estates Surveyor at West Devon Borough Council, who apologised for the delay but confirmed, as previously stated, that WDBC is provisionally supportive of the Council's proposal to turn the piece of land on Pilgrim Drive into additional car parking. They have commissioned a report on title of the land and it is now hoped that things will progress fairly rapidly.

Minute 544 The Clerk stated that more research was required into the digital cemetery mapping for High Cross Cemetery and therefore suggested this item be put on hold and brought back to the Committee later in the year.

Minute 546 Allotment holders will be notified in their 2024 invoice, of the rent increase from April 2025. Invoices to be sent out from 27th March 2024.

601. Open Spaces Receipts and Payments Report ending 29th February 2024

After review all members agreed to accept the report.

602. Review quotes for work to be carried out at the Bere Ferrers recreational field car park

The cost for the works required at the car park will be approx. £1200-1300. The committee recommended authorising and final approval will be discussed at the next F & G.P meeting.

603. The Down football parking

Cllr. Shaw has received complaints from residents living on the Down that cars are parking inconsiderately on football day matches. The Clerk had already contacted the Junior football Manager and raised this subject. It was discussed that there is no parking restrictions on the road and the Council can only go back to the Football Club and ask again that they pass on the message that drivers need to be more considerate on where they park.

604. Discuss submitting a grant to fund purchase of Swift boxes and callers

A member of the public at the meeting discussed with the Committee how Swifts are in danger and wished to apply for a small grant to purchase 6 Swift boxes and callers to be placed on 6 properties around Bere Alston. Would the Council submit the grant on their behalf? After a short discussion all members agreed to submit the application.

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

Cllr. Shaw reported at The Down play park, the bin by the entrance has a slat missing and a nail is protruding from the top of it. Also the wooden fence needs attention. At Sarah Park play park, one post needs replacing. The Workman to action. It was again discuss to bulk buy wooden posts and rails.

There were no issues to report at the Bere Ferrers playpark.

606. Report on Parish Councils' policies on poultry on allotments

It was agreed at the last meeting to take advice, before agreeing whether to charge an additional surcharge for poultry owners. After discussions Cllr. King proposed from April 2025, the following allotment charges:

£26 for a full plot and £30 for a full plot with poultry
 £18 for a half plot and £24 for a half plot with poultry.
 Seconded by Cllr. Wager. All in favour.

All allotment holders will be notified of the increase in their 2024-25 invoice letter.

607. Inspection of Allotments Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers

Cllr. Crozier reported no major issues at the Bere Alston site. Several vacant plots will be offered to the those currently on the waiting list.

There were no major issues to report at the Bere Ferrers site.

608. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. 2023-24 Open Spaces Detailed Receipts and Payments report.
2. Rospa Reports.
3. Update on Bere Alston playpark improvements.
4. Report from Sport Development Committee.

609. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

There were no other members of the public present at the meeting. There being no other business, the Chair thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.39 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:

Dated this date 26th March 2024