

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 13th February 2024.

Present:

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

In Attendance: Cllrs. P. Archer, B. Lamb and M. Patterson

539. Apologies

Cllr. D. Pengelly sent his apology. The Council accepted their apology.

540. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Grose declared an interest in review of the allotment rent.

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

None were given.

542. Matters Arising from the minutes from the meeting held on 16th January 2024

The minutes were adopted and approved at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 30th January 2024.

Matters Arising

Minute 459 (363) The Co-Op planning application will be discussed at a West Devon Borough Council Committee meeting on 27th February 2024 and a site visit prior to this meeting is being arranged.

Minute 461 Quotes are being obtained for carry out the work required at the Bere Ferrers recreation field carpark and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Minute 462 The Clerk has contacted the Asset Principal Estates Surveyor for Assets at West Devon Borough Council for an update on transferring land at Pilgrim drive to the Parish Council, several times now, but still has not received a reply.

543. High Cross Cemetery purchase of plots

Two members of the public wish to pre-purchasing burial plots in an area of the cemetery, not yet opened for purchase. This request had previously been discussed and not granted at an Open Spaces meeting on 11th July and the members of the public wished for to be discussed again, as they had been unable to attend that meeting. The members of public offered a donation to the Council and a design for a new memorial garden.

After discussions, all Committees members agreed that the members of public should pre-purchase plots in the current area of the cemetery open for purchase, and these plots can be transferred to the new section, when it is opened for pre-purchase.

544. Cemetery Mapping

It had been discussed at a meeting held on 17th January 2023, not to proceed with digitizing the cemetery map, due to the high costs. The Clerk wished for it to be reconsidered again. After discussions, Cllr. Crozier proposed that the Clerk conduct more research and obtain more quotes and discuss at a future Open Spaces meeting. Seconded by Cllr. King. All agreed.

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

There are no major issues to report at Sarah Park, but the Workman to be asked to replace one rotten post on the perimeter fence. It was noted that at the last meeting, the Council discussed bulk buying wood and storing in the Cemetery Hut, to be used for repairs as and when required.

546. Review of allotment rent for 2025-26

Allotment rent is reviewed every three years by the Committee and allotment holders are given 12 months' notice of any increases.

After discussions, Cllr. Crozier proposed increasing the rent by £2. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall. The new rent for 2025-26 will be £26 for a full plot and £18 for half plot.

547. Discuss introducing an additional surcharge for Poultry owners

Due to the ongoing issue of rats at the Bere Alston allotments, the Council have incurred the costs of purchasing rat bait boxes and poison, therefore should poultry holders have an additional surcharge to cover these costs? After discussions, Cllr. King proposed the Clerk conduct more research and ask also other Parish Councils what they do.

548. Inspection of Allotments Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers

The Clerk has emailed all allotment holders to inform them the rent will be due from April 2024 and to inform the Clerk if anyone will be giving up their plot at end of March, as there are a few people on the waiting list.

549. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. Cemetery Digital mapping
2. Report on other Councils policy on poultry on their allotments.
3. Open Spaces Detailed Receipts and Payment report.

550. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

A member of the public had a few queries/questions:

Firstly, they wish to report there was now a defibrillator at Collytown.

Wished to report the poor condition of the road in Collytown and cars are clearing driving on the verges to get pass. It has been reported to Devon Highways but no action has been taken. The Clerk was passed the information and will chase up with Devon Highways.

The member of public also wished to highlight a caravan/horse lorry parked on a piece of land and believe people are living in it. This will need to be reported to the Enforcement Planning team at West Devon.

Lastly, they wanted to highlight the health and safety issue of runners in Collytown not wearing hi vis clothing at night.

Another member of the public wanted to discuss the issue of dog mess not being picked up on the Bere Alston recreation field and as members previously by Councillors, there is a designated dog exercising field next to the recreation field.

The Committee assured the resident that they Council have reported the issue several times to the West Devon Locality Officer and had also put-up various posters. At the Public Consultation Day on Saturday 17th February, there is an opportunity for residents to complete a response form and there is a question on the form asking whether dogs should always be kept on the lead on the recreation field.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.52 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:

Dated this date 27th February 2024