

DRAFT VERSION
Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Footpaths and Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 9th April 2024.

Present

Cllr. V. Grose	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. P. Dennis
Cllr. M. Patterson	

659. Apologies

Cllrs. King, Maciejowska and Shaw sent their apologies. The Committee accepted her apology.

660. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

661. Items of Interest at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken on these items.

Cllr. Dennis wished to highlight why the cats eye removal on the B3257 took priority over the pot holes/road repairs. The Clerk confirmed the road would be resurface w/c 20 April. Cllr. Dennis asked his comments be forwarded to Cllr. Isabel Saxby and Cllr. Philip Sanders.

662. Matters arising from the minutes from the 6th February 2024

Matters Arising

<u>Minute 525 (350)</u>	The Clerk to arrange a meeting with the new Public Rights of Way – Parish Paths Liaison Officer.
<u>Minute 355</u>	Cllr. Crozier stated that this time of year was not a good time to invite local farmers to attend a meeting and it was agreed to extend the invite to the next Footpaths & Environment meeting.
<u>Minute 526</u>	Cllr. Grose thanked all Councillors who had contributed to helping the P3 survey for 2023-24.
<u>Minute 530</u>	The amount of rubbish is piling up again along Denham Bridge. It was agreed to highlight the issue in the Bere Link magazine and on social media.

663. Footpaths & Environment 2023-24 Finance Report

After reviewing the financial report, Cllr. Grose proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Cllr. Patterson.

Any missing footpaths signs need to be reported to Devon County Council Public Rights of Way.

664. Form the Lost Paths & unclassified roads sub-Committee group

The first meeting unfortunately had to be postponed and will be rescheduled.

665. Update on EV car charging points in the Parish

The Clerk has registered the Council's interest in installing 2 EV chargers and based on information received from the Devon LEVI, (Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure), it is expecting the charge points will be delivered between 2025 and 2027.

666. Update on proposal to adopt a route in Silver Street, Bere Ferrers, as a public footpath

The Clerk confirmed that in order to adopt this route as an official footpath, the Council would need to gather evidence and make a formal Schedule 14 application under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. After discussions, Cllr. Grose proposed to take this request no further, as nobody has raised any objections and it is a noted access point. Seconded by Cllr. Patterson. All in favour.

667. Update on the Climate and Ecology Bill

There was no update on the Bill at this time.

668. Environmental Issues

First reported at the F & G.P meeting held on 20th February 2024, that dog walkers were leaving their poo bags on the hedge on New Road, behind the station, both Cllrs. Leithall and Grose have walked the road and not found any evidence of this happening.

669. Correspondence

1. Open Day at St. Dominick Village hall 30th April – just a diary date holder to let you know that I have booked St Dominick Village Hall for the mid-afternoon and early evening of the 30th of April for anyone interested to meet National Trust staff, partner organisations as well as members of the team from Jeremy Benn Associates who will have produced a draft report on the feasibility of options for the future management of Haye Marsh by this date.

1. Email from a Bere Alston resident regarding a notice that has recently appeared on a public right of way on land adjacent to, and presumably owned by the new Bere Alston Bowling Club. ‘My understanding is that permissive paths indicate a route which will not become a right of way and can be closed at the discretion of the landowner. This notice is misleading. I would like to bring this to the attention of the Parish Council and would hope that after due consideration they could respectfully ask the landowner to remove it if my understanding of the law is correct. An alternative notice could, for example, read Public Right of Way Please keep your dog on a lead. The advice published on your website clearly states that dogs do not need to be kept on leads on rights of way, whilst being aware of any issues when it would be appropriate.’

After discussions it was agreed to forward this to the Devon Council County Public Right of Ways to investigate.

2. Email from the Rural Services Network, a membership organisation that provides a national campaigning voice for rural communities, inviting the Council to join our Rural Village Services Group, a grouping of Parish Councils in England where we aim to share best practice and enable the group to contribute to our national campaigning work. They are currently offering membership at £50 + VAT a year to those joining the group.

After discussions it was agreed, the membership to the organisation was not required at this time.

670. Items for agenda for next meeting

1. Report from the Sub-Committee for Lost Paths & unclassified roads group
2. Audit of missing footpaths numbering signs.
3. Invite farmers to discuss the pros and cons of how they are dealing with environment issues and Government plans.

The next Committee will be on 3rd September 2024 at 8 pm.

671. Questions from the public present at the meeting at the discretion of the Chair

There being no further business the Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

Signed by the Chair:

Signed this date 7th May 2024