

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 9th July 2024.

Present:

Cllr. C. Shaw	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. R. Leithall	Chair of the Council
Cllr. P. Archer	Cllr. D. King
Cllr. V. Grose	Cllr. M. Patterson
Cllr. D. Pengelly	

In Attendance: Cllrs. P. Crozier, B. Lamb and E. Wager

126. Apologies

There were no apologies.

127. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Grose declared an interest in the allotments.

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

Cllr. Patterson has been contacted by a member of the public regarding the poor state of certain footpaths. It was discussed that all issues need to be logged with Devon County Council Public Right of Ways and Cllr. Patterson will pass back that information. The Clerk to ensure the link to report issues to Devon County Council is easily found on the Parish Council's website.

Cllr. Wager noted that the Parish Hall windows had been repainted, but the fascias were not, which is also urgently required. The Clerk to pass onto Beregen.

Cllr. Lamb brought up that in the past Councillors conducted a visit all of the sites the Council is responsibility for and suggested this be reactivated. All agreed to do so. The Clerk to arrange.

129. Matters Arising from the minutes from the meeting held on 11th June 2024

The minutes were adopted and approved at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2024.

Matters Arising

Minute 73 (680) The rounders meeting, held on Wednesday 3 July, was a success and the group will now meet every Wednesday at the Recreational Field at 7 pm.

Minute 74 The strimmer is fixed and the new mower has been delivered, therefore the grass cutting around the Parish, is getting back on track.

130. Update on the meeting held by the playparks Sub-Committee

Two piece of gym equipment were installed in the Bere Alston recreational field on Monday 8th July 2024.

The Clerk read out an email from a resident complaining the harm the installation of the fitness equipment will do to local business. It was discussed that the equipment is for the use of all the community and has been installed, following the recent consultation the Parish Council carried out with local residents. The top three items requested were:

1. Bonded rubber surface be installed at the playparks.
2. Gym equipment
3. Traversing Wall, which has now been installed at Sarah Park.

Two Contractors have quoted approx. £30K to purchase and install wet pour/bonded rubber surfacing at the Down playpark, therefore the Sub-Committee group are proposing purchasing 5 bags of rubber chippings, to top up both Sarah Park and the Down playpark. Once the rubber chippings have been purchased and installed, the Sub-Committee group to look into purchasing further play equipment. The Clerk to let the Sub-Committee know why much money is left in the Bere Alston

Playparks grant/fund.

Cllr. Archer proposed obtaining the price of purchasing 5 bags of rubber chippings and a decision on purchase be made at the Full Council meeting on 30th July. Seconded by Cllr. Crozier. All in favour.

131. Discuss requests from the Wildflower Group to install a bat and bird box and an Orchard interpretation Board

The Wildflower Meadows Group wished to obtain permission from the Council to install a bat and bird box on a veteran tree in the Parish. After discussion, it was agreed to allow the Group to install a box on one of the beech trees located along the Down.

The Group's second request was where to place an interpretation board about market gardening and labels for the community orchard, located in the dog field. It was first discussed and agreed that the Clerk request the Group cut the grass in the meadow area. It was suggested that the Board be placed within the area of the orchard, but first wished to know more information on the size and design of the board.

132. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish Recreation and play areas

Cllr. King stated there was no issues to report with regards to the Bere Ferrers playpark. The Workman to be asked when the Bere Ferrers recreational field will be re cut.

Cllrs. Patterson and Archer commented that the nails they reported in last month's report, have been removed and the Clerk reported that due to workload, the other items raised in the report have yet to be done. Outstanding jobs required around the Parish were discussed and perhaps the need to hire a temporary worker during the summer months, to help with the increased workload. The Clerk to look into costs or hiring a temporary worker or a Contractor. A meeting between the Clerk, Workman and Cllr. Shaw will also be arranged to prioritize the current jobs required.

Cllrs. Archer, Lamb and Shaw are to fill in the large dip in the grass area in Sarah Park.

133. Routine inspection of the allotments, Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers, including the clearing of Bere Alston Allotments

All Bere Alston plots have now been rented out, including several plots that were very overgrown and had lots of rubbish left on them. Cllr. Grose's inspections noted a lot of work is currently being conducted on the plots. Cllr. Crozier to make enquiries on whether rubbish cleaned from one particular plot, can be removed by a local resident.

Cllr. Patterson stated she had been contacted by an allotment holder at Bere Alston, complaining about the lack of work being done on the back plots. The Clerk to contact the plot holder for further information on which plots they are referring to.

A meeting between the Council and allotment holders to discuss actions going forward, will be scheduled for September/October 2024.

There is currently one plot available in Bere Ferrers. Emails have been sent to overgrown/unworked plot at Bere Ferrers. The Clerk to ask one plot holder to remove rubbish on their plot by the next Open Spaces meeting, (mid-September 2024).

134. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. Update the Playparks Sub-Committee's meeting.
2. Update on installation of rubber chippings and wooden surrounding at the Down playpark.

135. Correspondence

1. An email from Jasmine Russell, who runs outdoor fitness classes on the recreational field. Would she be able to use the dog field for the classes? There's access for her van and it is enclosed for children not to escape.

After discussion, it was agreed using the field would not be advisable, firstly for health and safety reasons and secondly the Council would not want to stop people walking their dogs in their designated space.

2. An email from a member of the Bere Alston Primary Academy Rain Forest Library Project requesting a donation to the project.

This request will be discussed further at the next F & G.P meeting to be held on 23rd July 2024.

136. 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 8.45 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:

Dated this date 30th July 2024