

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Council Chambers, Bere Alston on Tuesday 30th July 2024.

Present

Cllr. R. Leithall	Chair of the Council
Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. B. Lamb
Cllr. V. Grose	Cllr. J. Maciejowska
Cllr. M Patterson	Cllr. D. Pengelly
Cllr. C. Shaw	

151. Apologies

Apologies was received from Cllrs. P. Archer, P. Dennis, D. King, R. Maycock. The Council accepted their apologies. An apology was also received from Cllr. Blackman.

152. Declaration of Interests

No declarations were made.

153. Notifications of items of interest as the discretion of the chair. No action can be taken on these items.

Cllr. Grose gave an update on the Rounders Group – she has been DBS checked. Under 16-year-olds, must be accompanied by an adult. New equipment, a first aid kit and accident book has been purchased and the Group due to meet again on Wednesday 31st July at the Bere Alston recreational field at 7 pm.

Cllr. Shaw has met with the Manager of the Bere Alston Football team, who has highlighted of list of things the Club would like repairing at the Pavilion, before their first game on 17th August 2024. The two most urgent items being fixing the Referee door and the repainting of front of the Pavilion. The Clerk to obtain quotes to refix the door. It was suggested, asking the Football Club, that if the Council supply the paint, would the Club repaint the Pavilion? Cllr. Shaw to ask.

154. Chair's Report

Congratulations to Bere Alston in Bloom Committee Members and other Parishioners for the work put in to make the village look so bright and tidy, Judging took place on 23rd July. A few days before our Clerk was informed that the area around the Parish Hall needed tidying. Thanks to Cllrs. Shaw and Crozier who gave their time at short notice to attend to this.

Under the overall leadership of Cllr. Lamb, good progress has been facilitating use of The Down recreational field for wider recreational sports. Cllr. Grose has helped establish the rounders game and Cllr. King has initiated some good contacts associated with Women's football and an inaugural event is on Friday 2nd August at 6.30 pm.

The Council continues to support the revised planning application for the Co-Op store and has looked to reiterate certain conditions regarding 30 mph speed limit and bus stop inside the store's car park. We should have a de-brief update on this planning application later on this evening.

There is no scheduled Full Council meeting for August, likewise no scheduled committee meetings, except for Plans & Highways on 6th August 2024.

155. To receive reports from the District Councillors

Cllr. Saxby report:

The Co-Op application was rejected at today's meeting. It therefore may be worth to start thinking about how the fill the store, if the store closes in Fore Street.

Following the General Election and at the School's invitation, Cllr. Saxby recently gave a talk to the primary school on Politics. Do have funds left in her Locality Budget to give a donation to the Rounders Group towards the purchase of their new equipment.

Finally is in the progress of arranging a meeting with the Senior Planning Officer to discuss the planning system and if there are any issues, problems please do let her know.

Cllrs. Blackman had sent her apology, but sent the following report:

I'm really pleased with the effort the Bere Alston in bloom group undertook for the visit last week, a great community effort. I will pass comment once the planning committee has been conducted in relation to the coop application. Slightly disappointed that speakers were refused for the second committee hearing based on the fact details were not submitted until after the close off date for the original meeting. I have raised this but have not received a positive response.

Open spaces- the toilets in the recreation field, I'm interested to know the take up from volunteers for the opening and closing of the toilets and how this will be managed as I have concerns regarding potential vandalism if not properly managed and how this will be conducted and monitored. Send my best and I wish everyone a lovely summer.

156. To receive a report from the County Councillor

The County Councillor did not attend the meeting.

157. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 25th June 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Lamb proposed an amendment to the minutes, Minute No 104 (61), Insert the word 'existing' before bus stops. All agreed. Cllr. Leithall proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

Matters Arising

Minute 99

Cllr. Crozier attended the Youth 2 Youth Annual General Meeting and children are being asked to sign a contact that they will behaviour whilst attending, or they will not be allowed to return.

Minute 103 (45) The Clerk to chase up Beregen on whether the trip hazard reported in the Parish Hall has Been looked at.

Minute 103 (46) The Clerk read out West Devon's response to the Parish Council's Freedom of Information request seeking further clarification and asking specific questions regarding the action of Officers and the decision-making process on a planning application. The email confirmed that the Parish Council's questions has been forwarded on to the relevant Officers so that a full and detailed response to our questions will be provided by Thursday 8th August 2024.

Minute 104 Cllr. Maycock's proposal to send a letter of no confidence to the West Devon's Planning department, is on hold until the Parish has received answers to those questions.

Minute 104 (60) Devon & Cornwall Police had 20 days to resolve to the request sent by the Parish Council. The Clerk to chase up.

Minute 105 (75) Cllr. Crozier had stated that there were too many posters up at the Bere Alston recreational field, to be discussed further at the next Open Spaces meeting.

Minute 113 (2) The Clerk stated that no water leak had been found at the Bere Alston toilets, therefore she had requested Source for Business a meter testing. The wholesaler has until 9th September 2024 to provide Source for Business a response to our query.

Cllr. Maciejowska proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

SO, RESOLVED

158. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Plans & Highways meeting held on 2nd July 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Patterson.

There were no matters arising.

Cllr. Lamb proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Patterson.

SO, RESOLVED

159. To approve and adopt the minutes from the Open Spaces meeting held on 9th July 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Shaw proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Patterson.

Minute 130 Cllr Pengelly stated he was disappointed that the article in the Tavistock Times regarding the two new pieces of gym equipment, stated the cost to purchase was £15,000, when in fact it was £3,000. It was also written that the grant to purchase the equipment came from Sport England but in fact it was the National Lottery. The Clerk was asked to write to the Times requesting an amendment.

Minute 131 The Clerk has written to the Wildflower Group asking for more information on the interpretation board they wish to install, but not received a reply yet. The Group have cut the grass, but has requested if the Council would donate the materials to build a more robust fence around the meadows to stop dogs breaking in and trampling much of the meadow. Volunteers would erect the fence. To be discussed at the next Open Spaces meeting.

Minute 132 The large dip in the Sarah park playpark has been filled in.

Cllr. Shaw proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Patterson.

SO, RESOLVED

160. To approve and adopt the minutes from the F & G.P meeting held on 23rd July 2024 as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Lamb proposed an amendment to the minutes, insert the words 'steps' at the Bere Ferrers War Memorial. All agreed. Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

Matters Arising

Minute 139 The yellow lines have been painted in the car park.
Cllrs. Grose and Shaw have filled in the holes in the Bere Alston recreational field. It will need monitoring going forward.

Minute 144 The Clerk has contacted Live West and is awaiting a reply from their Legal Team. Following the Council's concerns regarding Point 6 of the Head of Terms transfer document from West Devon, they have amended it. They have also given the Parish Council their approx. legal fees.

Minute 145 A part time toilet cleaner has been hired to clean the new public toilet at the Bere Alston recreational field. The Workman will open the toilet Monday to Friday and a rota of volunteers, organised by Cllr. Lamb will close Monday to Friday and open/close, Saturday and Sunday.

Minute 146 Cllr. Wager questioned why the car parking space, to the left of the road leading down to the Doctor's Surgery, yellow lines were not repainted, as he has witnessed lorries struggling to get down the road, if cars are parked in that space. After discussion, it was agreed to monitor the situation.

Cllr. Crozier proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

SO, RESOLVED

161. Report following the DM & L Committee Meeting, regarding planning application 2215/FUL/22, held at West Devon Borough Council on 30th July 2024

Cllr. Crozier confirmed the Co-Op application had been rejected and gave a report on the meeting. The Parish Council had been disappointed, along with the Developer, the Co-Op and members of the public, that they had been unable to speak at the meeting, although comments sent by the Parish were read out. Cllr. Crozier commented that their rejection revolved around the Tamar Valley National Landscape comments and their objection.

After further discussions on the meeting and discussions between Councillors and a member of the public, who asked if the Council would now reconsider their support for the application, the Council agreed it if there was an appeal on the application, the Council would only be able to comment on any new material/information and if a new application is submitted, the Council ought to relook at the Council's position on the application. All agreed.

162. Authorise purchase of equipment and materials for The Down and Sarah Park play park

Cllr. Shaw had had to leave the meeting, therefore Cllr. Pengelly gave a report that the Sub-Committee Group were not yet in a position to confirm the purchase of rubber chippings for the Down Play park and the Group will meet again to make a decision on the purchase, before the next Open Spaces meeting on 10th September 2024. The Clerk to obtain samples of both the coated and uncoated rubber chippings.

163. Bere Alston recreational field track

Cllr. Leithall shown an aerial picture of the proposed track for the recreational field. After a discussion with the Football Club, a small part of the track had been amended. Cllr. Leithall had also put together three different costs. Cllr. Pengelly suggested another amendment to the track. After discussions, Cllr. Lamb proposed accepting the initial track layout with Cllr. Pengelly's proposed change, seconded by Cllr. Maciejowska. Six for, one against. Motion carried.

164. Appoint a representative to Youth 2 Youth

Cllr. Patterson volunteered to be the Council's representative to Youth 2 Youth.

165. Roll out of Councillors' gov.uk email addresses

The Clerk, prior to the meeting, had sent all Councillors information on their new email addresses and how to log in and/or add to in email software. The Clerk set a deadline to fully adopt the new email address by the end of March 2025.

166. Council Office opening days during August 2024

The Clerk will be on annual leave w/c 12 August and w/19 August, but will still be monitoring emails at home. All phone messages are also emailed to the Clerk. The Council Office will reopen on Wednesday 28th August 2024.

167. Correspondence

1. Email from West Devon Borough Council:

A consultation, running until Friday 23 August 2024, focuses on alcohol Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Tavistock and Okehampton. Information about other areas where there is an issue is also welcomed. PSPO's are designed to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in an area which is having a harmful effect on the quality of life of those in the community. A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is a positive way to help prevent anti-social behaviour. It can provide a good response to some of the issues that local people and businesses face on a daily basis.

Tavistock Meadows currently has a public space protection order (PSPO) in place which supports the police to manage alcohol related anti-social behaviour. The current order provides the Police with additional powers to request someone stops drinking and to request the surrender of the alcohol. This PSPO expires on 12th November 2024 and the Council needs to decide as to whether we are extending this and whether additional areas need to be added. Two of our priorities are to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors and to respond to local challenges. This is successfully being done through joint working with the Police to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour. Devon and Cornwall Police requested in view of the expiry of the Tavistock Meadows PSPO that we extend the area for Tavistock and to create a new PSPO for the area of Okehampton. This is to assist Devon & Cornwall Police to provide an effective and consistent response to anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol across the entirety of the towns. They also requested that the PSPO's provide wider prohibitions to support them provide effective and consistent response to anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol across the entirety of both towns. Tavistock Meadows is ineffective as it only moves the issues to other areas of the town. In Okehampton, they are experiencing issues with a group of people perpetrating ASB linked to alcohol, however this is not exclusively an issue of the town centre but has migrated out into residential areas. People not following instructions within the selected PSPO areas can have their alcohol removed by Devon and Cornwall Police, be instructed to leave the area for a set amount of time and can be fined up to £1,000 when prosecuted. Please do take some time to consider the see if the current and new proposed areas are right. <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/news/2024/lets-talk-about-alcohol-public-spaces>

It was discussed that Bere Alston used to have an order, but it has now expired. Should getting a new order put in place be considered by the Council? After discussion it was agreed that the Council would not be able to submit comments by the deadline, but the Clerk to obtain further information, i.e. could other areas be included in the order and the Parish Council will discuss, at the next Open Spaces meeting, the issue of anti-social behaviour in the area and whether the Council need to reapply for an order.

2. Email from a member of the public regarding the fitness equipment:

'I have just had a first little session on the new equipment in the playing fields. Absolutely brilliant, could you please pass our thanks to the Parish Council.'

168. Questions from any members of the public present, at the discretion of the Chair.

There were no further questions from members of the public.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Signed this date 24th September 2024