

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th September 2024.

Present:

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

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

191. Apologies

Cllrs. Grose and King gave their apologies. The Committee accepted their apologies.

192. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

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

Cllr. Archer - the doctors surgery sign in the Parish Hall carpark, is obscured by an overgrown shrub. The Clerk to ask the Workman to cut back. After discussion, it was agreed that another sign be erected and should be placed on the wall of the Parish Hall's kitchen.

Cllr. Lamb also asked the foliage around the air ambulance sign at the Bere Alston recreational field be cut back.

Cllr. Wager stated that the wreaths by the War Memorial should now be removed. After discussions, it was agreed the Clerk would remove the wreaths and it will be added to the F & G.P meeting's agenda for 17th September 2024, when wreaths should be removed each year.

194. Matters Arising from the minutes from the meeting held on 9th July 2024

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

There were no matters arising.

195. Appoint Councillors to conduct audit of Open Spaces assets

It was explained that in previous years, all members of the Open Spaces Committee used to conduct an annual audit of all the Open Spaces assets. After discussions, the Clerk to send out to members, the list of assets and a date to be arranged, to undertake the audit, at the next meeting.

196. Discuss applying for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

Following the recent consultation focusing on alcohol Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Tavistock and Okehampton, it was discussed whether the Parish Council should investigate into obtaining one this Parish. After discussions, the Clerk was asked to approach West Devon Borough Council for more information.

197. Update on the Wildflower Meadow in dog field

The Group is currently working on a design for the interpretation board and will pass on the final design to the Council when completed. As this is not a Council's project, it was agreed that the Council logo does not need to be placed on the board.

They also asked whether the Parish Council would consider purchase the materials to make a more robust fence, volunteers would then help to erect it. After discussions it was agreed the Council could not finance the materials, but could offer a local contact, who could erect the fence.

198. Update from the playparks Sub-Committee

There are funds left over to purchase two additional fitness equipment. After discussions it was agreed that members of the playparks sub-committee purchase two additional pieces of equipment, which will be installed in the Down play park and by the other two pieces of fitness equipment.

199. Update on installation of rubber chippings and wooden surrounding at the Down playpark

After reviewing rubber chippings samples, the playpark sub-committee group wish to purchase 8 bags of 1000 kgs uncoloured Eco play rubber chippings, but before the chippings can be installed, the play park will need to be sprayed off and the wooden surrounding repaired. After discussions all agreed to purchase the recommended amount of rubber chippings and the jobs required before installation, to be completed as soon as possible.

200. Discuss general maintenance/repairs required at the Pavilion

A list of maintenance/repairs had been sent to the Council and to date, the referee's door has been repaired and now just needs painting, behind the Pavilion has been strimmed and Cllr. Shaw, along with Mr & Mrs. Mann, have repainted the front of the Pavilion. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Mann. Members of the adult Football team have agreed to paint the sides of the Pavilion.

Other jobs to be done include, refitting the loose front entrance's hand rail, replacing rotten part of handrail in visitors changing room and investigate leaks in the roof in the changing room and the kitchen area. Discussion took place on whether the Football sign should be up all the time, as in the past it was agreed it was taken down, after matches. It was agreed though that once the new Pavilion is build, the sign should read Bere Alston Sport Club.

201. Review of posters located at the Bere Alston recreational field

After discussions, Cllr. Patterson will visit the site and review the posters.

202. Request for emergency contact information to be placed by locked gate in the Bere Alston recreational field

A resident has requested that a contact number be placed next to the key code at the gate, in order people, in an emergency, can contact someone to get the code to gain access. Members understood in cases of emergency there would be a need to know the code, but felt it might be abused. It was therefore suggested that if an incident like this occurs again, people should call any Councillor to obtain the code. A list of all the Councillors contact numbers are listed on the noticeboard next to the field entrance.

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

Cllr. Archer and Patterson gave their report and passed the list of repairs/maintenance required to the Clerk for her to action.

204. Update on proposed meeting between the Council and allotment holders

A meeting between the Council and allotment holders will take place in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 15th October 2024, at 8 pm. The main aim of the meeting is to create better communication between the Council and allotment holders and discuss and deal with issues. The Clerk will write and distribute an agenda, prior to the meeting.

An allotment holder from Bere Alston site was present at the meeting and gave the Committee an update on a social media page they had update created for Bere Alston allotment holders to join and share information/issues. Information of the meeting has also been placed on the allotment noticeboard. They gave a list of items to be added to the agenda and discussed at the meeting.

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

Cllr. Crozier gave an update on the works that had been carried out at the Bere Alston site; a track going all the way down to the bottom of the field, has been created and the bottom right-hand side of the field, has been cleared. The cleared site showed

that only two saplings, planted last year, had survived. The Council will therefore apply for more saplings and the allotment holder can get volunteers to replant. It was again discussed that when replanted they needed to be moved further towards the boundary of the field. It is hoped that once they are planted, the trees are maintained by volunteers. Following further discussions on the now cleared piece of land, Cllr. Crozier proposed that the ongoing maintain of the land be done by the Council and kept clear for future allotments. Seconded by Cllr. Patterson.

Cllr. Grose had emailed the Clerk with concerns regarding a plot at Bere Ferrers, but the Clerk said she needed more information before proceeding with the concerns.

206. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. Update from the Play Park sub-committee
2. Update on Pavilion Maintenance/repairs

207. Correspondence

1. Email from a Bere Ferrers resident sent and forwarded from Cllr. Blackman:
 'I regularly walk through and around the playing field in Bere Ferrers and play tennis on the tennis court there. I am very saddened to see that the field has very recently been cut. This field was full of buttercups, grasses in seed and other plants. This was a haven for insects and birds and now it has been decimated by being mown within the last few days of writing this. It now just looks barren. Lots of people use this field for walking their dogs and there were parts of the field that had natural paths through it created by the regular walkers. This meant that you could walk through and around the field easily. Even if these paths were absent, it was very walkable. It was joyous seeing the field looking like a meadow. I thought that at least the council would be observing 'no mow May'. I am a strong advocate that this field should never be cut. Later on, in the summer this field is awash with yarrow and just as it is starting to flower in the summer the field usually gets cut again. This again means restricted food for insects and birds. I am asking you if there is anything you can do to stop the mowing of this field. I understand if you need to keep the 'five a side' football pitch mown but please, please can there be NO cutting of the rest of the field. Everybody in Bere Ferrers that I have spoken to has voiced my sentiments and I and lots of people are very angry and sad at the state of the field. Who cares if walkers sometimes get wet from the dew in a morning or from the rain on the long grass? As stated above, there were natural paths that had been created from walkers before the field was cut and it was a joy to walk through what felt like a meadow. I look forward to your reply. If there is anyone else, I should be contacting about this matter please let me know. If there is anything I can do please let me know in terms of getting a petition together or similar. I would be prepared to gain signatures from residents in support of NO mowing of this recreation field.'

After discussions, the Clerk was asked to reply informing them to contact the Bere Ferrers Villagers Group, who manage the field.

208. 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 9.10 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:

Dated this date 24th September 2024