

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Footpaths and Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 1st October 2024.

Present

Cllr. V. Grose	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. R. Leithall	Chair of the Council
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. J. Maciejowska
Cllr. C. Shaw	

245. Apologies

Cllr. King sent her apology. The Committee accepted her apology.

246. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

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

Cllr. Leithall received a call and email from a consultant acting behalf of the Developer for the Co-Op and their planning application to build a new Co-Op store at the entrance to Bere Alston. It was to let the Parish Council know she and a colleague plan to be in and around Bere Alston on 2nd and 3rd October during the working day, to speak to residents and conduct an ad-hoc survey to understand their shopping habits and what support or objection there is to the Co-Op's proposed new store development. They have also informed both West Devon Councillors. Once the survey has been completed, they will let the Parish Council know the results. It was discussed that those working would be unable to take part in the survey and the Clerk to ask, via Cllr. Blackman, whether they would consider organising an evening meeting.

Cllr. Dennis highlighted that fingerpost from Bere Alston to Denham Bridge was still missing. Cllr. Shaw confirmed that this has already been reported and will forward the logged number for the Clerk to chase up.

Cllr. Shaw said that a couple of allotment holders have seen rats at the site. This will be discussed further at next week's Open Spaces Committee meeting.

248. Matters arising from the minutes from the 9th April 2024

Matters Arising

Minute 662 (525 (350)) The Clerk is still in the progress of arranging a meeting with the Public Rights of Way Parish Paths Liaison Officer.

Minute 662 (355) Cllr. Grose apologised as she did not invite local farmers to attend this meeting and it was agreed to extend the invite to the next Footpaths & Environment meeting.

Minute 530 The amount of rubbish is piling up again along Denham Bridge. It was noted that it wasn't necessary local people throwing the rubbish, but it was agreed to highlight the issue in the Bere Link magazine and on social media.

Minute 669 (2) An issue with regards to the footpath which goes through the Bere Alston Bowling Club highlight is being looked into by the Public Rights of Way Parish Paths Liaison Officer.

249. Paths Partnership 2024-2025 grant

Devon County Council have given the Parish Council a £1000 grant towards the general maintenance of the footpaths looked after by the Council.

250. To deal with any Footpath issues

Cllr. Shaw has a list of footpaths which are missing their footpath number discs on posts. The Clerk explained that these discs were funded and added by the Parish Council a few years ago. After discussions, Cllr. Grose proposed using the earmarked reserves funds for the reprint for the Footpath Guide, to pay for further number discs required. Seconded by Cllr. Dennis. All agreed. The Clerk to source and purchase the required number discs.

Any missing posts on footpaths, needs to be reported on the Public Rights of Way Devon County Council website, [Home - Public Rights of Way \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/home-public-rights-of-way)

Cllr. Grose highlighted two bridlepaths with have no signs and will report to Devon County Council.

Cllr. Grose will also replace a sign she put up at Thorn Point, as people waking the Tamara Coast to Coast Way, were going the wrong way.

251. To organise the yearly Footpath Audit

Before the Council organise the footpath audit for this year, the Clerk will contact Devon County Council to enquiry whether the completed survey form on each footpath, completed in previous years, will still be required.

It was agreed that the Council need to advertise more on social media and Berelink, that residents can directly log issues with footpaths, via Devon County Council's website.

252. Update from the Lost Paths & unclassified roads sub-Committee group

Cllr. Grose walked the lost path the Committee considered having reinstated, but stated it had been a difficult walk. After discussions, Cllr. Grose proposed not pursuing instating this lost path. Seconded by Cllr. Shaw. All agreed.

253. Bere Ferrers Footpath Guide

At present the guides are sold in the Bere Alston Post Office and the Weir Quay Boatyard. Discussions took place on other places the Council could sell the guides. After discussions, Cllr. Grose agreed to lead on this and research into where else the Council could try and sell the guides.

Cllr. Lamb suggested the Clerk also get in touch with the Devon & Cornwall Railway Partnership, to ask if they could help promote the guide using their contacts and station notice boards.

254. Budget for 2025-26

The proposed budget was circulated amongst all members and after discussions and amendments, all approved the budget.

255. Update on EV car charging points in the Parish

In reference to electric car charging points being installed in the Pilgrim Drive car park, the Clerk read out an update from West Devon. They are currently in the process of reviewing the leases between both legal teams prior to signing and as yet do not have a date for installation, but it is not imagined it will happen until the end of 2024/25. Once the legal side of the leases has been sorted, West Devon will hopefully have a clearer idea of installation timeline.

Cllr. Grose did enquire whether the Bere Ferrers Social Club were interested in installing charging points, but they said no, as they did not wish to loose any car parking spaces.

256. Local Cycling and Walking Plan consultation

The consultation period on the Devon Countywide local cycling and walking infrastructure plan is now open and will close on 30 November 2024. Following the identification of key desire lines, 10 routes for improvement are proposed. The Clerk to register Cllrs. Leithall, Grose and Maciejowska to attend the online session on Wednesday 30 October, which will consist of a short presentation about the creation of the LCWIP and the proposals, followed by a question-and-answer session. It was agreed that this item should be carried over for further discussion at the next meeting.

257. Environmental Issues

None were raised at the meeting.

258. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

259. Items for agenda for next meeting

1. Local Cycling and Walking Plan consultation.
2. Invite farmers to discuss the pros and cons of how they are dealing with environment issues and Government plans.
3. Deal with any Footpath Issues.
4. Organise yearly Footpath Audit.

The next Committee will be on 5th November 2024 at 8 pm.

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

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

There being no further business the Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.48 pm.

Signed by the Chair:

Signed this date 29th October 2024