

## **Bere Ferrers Parish Council**

At a meeting of the Open Spaces committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 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	Cllr. V. Grose

### **In attendance:**

Cllr. B. Lamb	Cllr. P. Crozier
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### **261. Apologies:**

Cllr D. King and Mrs. C Metcalf, Clerk to the Council. Apologies were sent and were accepted by the Council.

### **262. Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations.

### **263. Notification of items for information at the discretion of the chair. No action can be taken on these items.**

There were no notifications.

### **264. Matters arising from the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024:**

#### Matters arising

#### Minute No 193, Signage:

Cllr. Archer pointed out that a new doctors' surgery sign still needs to be erected but first the size needs to be worked out then Tavy Signs asked to make it.

Cllr Lamb pointed out foliage around Bere Alston recreation field and Bere Ferrers notice board needs to be removed.

#### Minute No 196, Application for public spaces protection order:

Cllr. Crozier reported that Tavistock Town Council were concerned that a protection order on the Bere Peninsula would detract police involvement away from Tavistock.

The public need to report cases of bad behaviour to the police in order to build a case for intervention and not put up with anti-social behaviour.

Cllrs Archer and Patterson followed up complaints about misbehaviour in the churchyard and found no damage had been done. The Clerk to follow up.

#### Minute No 197, Update on wild flower meadow:

Request by organising group for money from the Council to buy materials for borders turned down. Cllr. Leithall pointed out the group may well have money left over in the reserves allocated to them which they might have forgotten about. He stated the council should invite the wildflower committee to attend the next Open Spaces committee to discuss matters. The Clerk to double check the money situation.

#### Minute 201, posters on play park notice boards

Cllr Patterson has removed posters and the boards are much clearer.

The minutes were adopted and approved at the council meeting on Tuesday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

### **265. Open Spaces audit date:**

Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> at 11.30 starting in the Council Offices.

The Clerk to send a list of assets to each committee member.

**266. Review of Open Spaces Receipt and payment report ending 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2024**

To be referred till a later date.

**267. Update from playparks subcommittee:**

Cllr. Pengelly asked whether the new play equipment had been ordered yet.

Cllr. Leithall stated that the Clerk needed confirmation first about the items to order.

Cllr. Grose reported that a member of the public had complained she felt no resistance when using a piece of the equipment.

Cllr. Pengelly to ask suppliers when they install the next equipment to check the existing pieces.

Cllr. Grose reported that the Carnival Committee would like confirmation we had received their generous contribution to rounders equipment. The Clerk to be asked to send an email of thanks.

**268. Update on rubber chippings and wooden surround at Down Playpark.**

Priorities were discussed concerning laying of chippings and installation of new edging.

Cllr. Shaw to ask Caroline to contact supplier in order to change the delivery date from October 21<sup>st</sup> to a week later to make sure wooden edging in place first.

Disposing of the rotten timber was discussed. Cllr. Lamb suggested that individual members of the committee take pieces to the dump.

Cllr. Shaw reported that the chipping suppliers would like payment up front. Cllr. Pengelly stated that before the council paid immediately after delivery and legally this is the only way the council can operate.

Cllr. Pengelly suggested that the money left over from playpark expenditure be kept to one side until all projects are completed. All members agreed.

**269. Update on pavilion maintenance/repairs**

Cllr. Shaw pointed out that repairs still need to be done particularly dealing with water ingress caused by two holes in the plastic roofing.

The Clerk has suggested employing a contractor to deal with these, namely Adrain Rosevear.

Cllr. Pengelly suggested we needed an expert's advice on what is needed and costs.

Cllr. Crozier suggested that the Clerk is asked to create a list of repairs that Steve could deal with and a list for an outside contractor. All agreed.

**270. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish Recreation, Play Areas, and Fitness Equipment.**

Cllrs. Patterson and Archer reported the following problems:

Sarah Park

- underlay presenting an extreme trip hazard. Hopefully new chippings will flatten this area.
- uprights to left and right of gate are rotten through.

Down Park

- A substantial square hole by the fence, churchyard side presents a trip hazard.
- Roundabout sometimes works and sometimes doesn't
- Rotting wooden surrounds around play equipment
- Safety notice can be pulled out of ground easily
- Handrail on pavilion loose
- One of the rails on a seat at the far end is loose.
- Rubble behind pavilion and garage includes an old rubbish filled water tank and a cement mixer along with other bits and pieces presenting a safety hazard.

- Pavilion gutters need cleaning

Positives include a new rubbish bin, a self-closing gate, and a clean toilet.

Cllr. Lamb suggested asking Paul Wilmott to help clear the rubbish.

The committee to log issues when conducting the audit.

Bere Ferrers inspection to be done by Cllr. Leithall at a later date.

**271. Update on application for trees on the Bere Alston allotment site:**

Cllr. Lamb is expecting a delivery of 25 trees on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November which will need to be planted within 7 days. In preparation Cllr. Lamb would like 25 sticks to be lodged in ground to indicate position of trees which must be at least 3 meters apart. Additionally, each tree needs a protective disc and a mulch surround.

The trees are a mixture of oak, rowan and birch which will capture carbon, increase wildlife, and reduce the risk of soil erosion.

The question of responsibility for the care of these trees was discussed. Cllr Leithall saw a conflict of interest between rewilders and allotment holders.

Cllr. Shaw suggested discussing the care of the trees at the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> clarifying the Council's and the allotment holders' role to ensure their survival.

**272. Routine inspection of allotments, Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers:**

On inspection of the Bere Alston allotments, Cllr. Shaw was told that the rat problem had returned. One tenant questioned whether new allotment holders were able to keep chickens as she was led to understand that they were not.

Cllr. Lamb reminded the committee that every chicken has to be registered with DEFRA so putting up the price of keeping chickens.

Cllr. Archer stated that the council should ask every chicken owner to produce a DEFRA certificate of registration.

Cllr. Crozier stated that although the Allotment Act allowed tenants to keep chickens this was only with permission from the landowner, i.e. Council.

In view of the confusion concerning whether the Council forbade new tenants to keep chickens full stop, or it was only a measure for a short time, it was agreed to add this to the next agenda for clarity.

In the meantime, the Workman would be asked to administer the rat poison again for six weeks.

**273. Request from food van to trade on Down recreation field.**

Cllr. Shaw read a letter sent to our clerk from the boatyard café asking whether they could erect a 6 by 3-meter gazebo on the field in order to serve hot drinks, cakes and cold snacks. On the two occasions they turned up to test the waters they sold a number of snacks from the carpark. The rent for setting up shop on the field would be £20.00 a session from now on.

A discussion ensued concerning possible problems and ways forward. The problems included churning up the field in the winter or during wet weather, taking up a car parking space when parking is limited especially on days there are football matches, and lack of space by the front entrance to the field particularly when the new footpath/ running track is created.

The committee recognised the need to support a local business which is serving the local community. In conclusion the committee agreed to defer feedback until suitable sites were investigated on the audit walk.

Cllr Patterson questioned why the water fountain was capped.

**274. Agenda items for next meeting:**

- Matters arising from previous minutes.
- Feedback from audit of council's assists.
- Review Open Spaces Receipt and Payment report ending 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2024
- Update from Playparks sub – committee.
- Update on installation of rubber chipping and wooden surround in Down playpark.

- Update on Pavilion maintenance/repairs.
- Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish recreation, play areas and fitness equipment.
- Feedback from allotment holders meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.
- Routine inspection of allotments in Bere Alston and Ferrers.
- Confirmation of reply to boatyard café's request.
- Water fountain update.
- Defining chicken on allotments policy.

**275. Correspondence:**

There was no further correspondence to discuss.

**276. Questions from members of the public present at the meeting at the discretion of the chair:**

No members of the public were present.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed by the chair of the committee:

Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024