

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Footpaths and Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th October 2025.

Present

Cllr. V. Grose	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. J. Maciejowska
Cllr. R. Perry	Cllr. C. Shaw
Cllr. G. Sutton	

In Attendance: Cllr. M. Patterson and Cllr. Lamb

280. Apologies

None.

281. Declaration of Interest

None.

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

Cllr. Dennis enquired about the broken litter bin in Sarah Park. The Clerk confirmed that it will be removed. The Workman is to hire a breaker to remove the concrete foundation. The breaker will also be used to break up the obsolete bench foundation in Fore Street, Bere Alston. Cllr. Dennis further requested that the concrete currently stored in the Gas Store by the Council Office also be broken up.

Cllr. Grose reported that the Bere Alston in Bloom Group had recently been awarded a Gold Award in the Britain in Bloom competition. The only negative feedback received related to the mosaic garden. Members noted that although the Council owns the site, the Bere Alston in Bloom group carries out its maintenance. The group has already been informed, via the Clerk, to remove the ivy growing up the mosaic.

283. Matters arising from the minutes from the 1st July 2025

Matters Arising

Minute 154 (680)

Cllr. Grose confirmed that Tavistock Library had declined to stock the Footpath Guide. After discussion, it was agreed that the Council should approach businesses in Calstock, as well as the Mount Edgecumbe Pub in Bere Alston, to ask if they would stock the guide.

Minute 154 (681)

The Council is still seeking a provider to engrave footpath discs and will continue to look.

Minute 155

Cllr. Grose has walked the bridleway running through a field at Leigh Farm and noted that the electric fence was not on at the time. She commented that the path was wide enough to avoid the fence but found the path difficult to walk. She will walk the route again to review the situation.

The Public Rights of Way Warden has talked to the farmer regarding the gates left open on Footpath 11. Cllr. Shaw will also review.

The Clerk confirmed that the invoice for Devon County Council's Parish Paths Partnership grant, awarded to the Parish Council, will need to be submitted by March. She is currently in the process of compiling all the finances. She was reminded that her time and volunteers' expenses for walking the paths can also be included in the invoice.

Minute 157

Cllr. Grose gave members an update following the Nuclear Energy talk at the beginning of September.

Minute 159(1)

There is no further update on the Local Cycling Walking projects for the area as this time.

284. To deal with any Footpath issues

Cllr. Grose stated that a few trees had come down but had been quickly cleared away.

Cllr. Grose asked whether gates and paths should be made passable for larger dogs. It was noted that the gates and paths should be passable for walkers.

285. To discuss Footpath 89. To be taken into Part 2

Cllr. Grose proposed going into Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Maciejowska.

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Under part 2, it was discussed that the matter was in the hands of the land owner, Archdeacon of Devon Property Department and West Devon Environmental Health.

286. Environmental Issues

Cllr. Dennis stated that an unowned piece of land by Lockeridge Road/Pounds Park Road has, in the past, been cut by residents, but asked if the Council's Workman could now carry out the work. Cllr. Grose proposed that he do so, seconded by Cllr. Dennis. All in favour.

Cllr. Grose asked whether farmers are meant to clean up the roads? It was noted that they are and if not to report to Devon Highways.

Cllr. Grose enquired whether farmers are allowed to empty their septic tanks onto their fields. It was noted that it is illegal to spread raw sewage; only treated sewage may be applied. Members were advised that any suspected incidents should be reported to Environmental Health

287. Review budget for 2026/27

After discussions and amendments, all agreed to the proposed budget.

288. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

289. Items for agenda for next meeting

Aside from the usual items, no additional items were requested to be added.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday 9th January 2026, after the Plans & Highways Committee Meeting.

290. 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 7.41 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Signed this date 28th October 2025