

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th October 2025.

Present:

Cllr. C. Shaw	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Archer	Cllr. R. Leithall
Cllr M. Patterson	Cllr. R. Perry
Cllr. G. Sutton	Cllr. E. Wager

In Attendance: Cllr. V. Grose and Cllr. B. Lamb

291. Apologies

Cllr. E. Wager sent his apology. Accepted by the Committee.

292. Declarations of interest

None.

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

Cllr. Lamb reported that, following their Gold Award win at the South West regional of the RHS Britain in Bloom (BIB) competition, a request had been made for the Bere Alston in Bloom group to be invited to a Full Council meeting to be formally congratulated by the Parish Council. All agreed.

294. Matters arising from the meeting held on 9th September 2025

The minutes have been approved and adopted at the Full Council meeting held on 30th September 2025.

Matters Arising

Minute 222 (1)

The overflowing drain at Tap Hill has been reported to Devon Highways. The Workman will also be asked to clear.

Minute 222 (2)

It was noted that the Lime Kiln is privately owned and it is the owner's responsibility to clear it. It was suggested that the owner consider erecting a sign requesting that people do not litter in the area.

Minute 223 (170)

Yellow lines will be painted on the stairs leading from Pilgrim Drive to Fore Street and following previous discussions, it was confirmed that the path will need to be closed for one day to allow this work to take place.

295. Update on Pavilion repairs

The new roof sheets had been installed; however, one sheet has been broken, it is believed by someone climbing on the roof. A replacement sheet has been ordered. After discussion, it was agreed to apply anti-vandal paint around the roof and to erect a warning sign. It was also agreed to apply some anti-vandal paint to the pole in the field, to stop people climbing it and display a sign as well.

Cllr. Shaw will enquiry with the Football Club what is stored in the lean to building located by the Pavilion.

296. Update on theft at Cemetery Hut and discussion on further implementation of security measures

The Clerk updated members on a recent theft at the Hut, which occurred between Friday 26th September and Monday 29th September, likely on Sunday 28th September. Several items were stolen, including the trailer.

Cllr. Leithall proposed going into Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Archer.

Cllr. Leithall proposed coming out of Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

Under Part 2, discussions was held regarding additional security measures. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged between Cllrs. Lamb, Shaw, the Clerk, and the Workman to implement the measures discussed.

It was suggested that a trail camera be placed on the telegraph pole that overlooks the Cemetery.

297. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish recreation, play areas and fitness equipment

Cllr. Archer's report:

The Down

- Cars were parked in the field over the weekend. The Clerk confirmed permission had been given for this.
- Holes in hedge bank roadside of play area. Rebuilding the hedge is on the Workman's job list.
- Broken fence rial by fire brigade poster.
- Portholes removed from pirate ship. Cllr. Shaw confirmed he had removed this as it was broken.
- Green Hut needs repair work. It was confirmed that this was the Junior Football Club's responsibility.
- Broken seat slat, located behind lower goal
- Toilet cistern lid not fitting properly and there is no end of the cistern chain
- Tractor tyre and galvanised sheets are still behind the Pavilion
- Lime has not been clear away

Sarah Park

- Requested the broken litter bin be removed.
- Lower fence is very wobbly. Rebuilding the fence is on the Workman's job list.
- Membrane on the slip side is coming through. The Keir Group is donating mats that will be placed underneath the slide.
- Weeds on slope side of Park
- Kick board left side of gate needs replacing

Bere Ferrers

Cllr. Leithall's Report:

Children's play equipment and fencing generally in satisfactory condition, except:

- Red-topped toadstool has a loose top due to a rusted steel attachment (previously reported).
- One cargo net has worn plastic exposing steel wire and a broken cord (previously reported).

Clerk said that members of the Bere Villagers Group will attend the next Committee meeting and these issues could be discussed then.

- The main grass field has recently been cut; however, grass inside the fenced play area, around swings, slide, table, bench, and table tennis area is overgrown. Workman to trim.
- Requested clarification on maintenance of banks within the Recreation Field; banks from car park and 5-a-side pitch are overgrown. Confirmed as Council responsibility; Workman to cut back.

298. Routine inspection of allotments, Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers

Bere Alston

There was nothing major to report.

Bere Ferrers

Cllr. Grose shared concerns over a few plots. The Clerk to contact the plot holders. There is currently two vacancies at this site.

299. Organise a date for Committee members to carry out a review of all Open Spaces assets

After discussions all agreed on a date of Wednesday 12th November at 10 am. To meet in the Council Office. Cllr. Perry stated he plans to create a map of the assets.

300. Review High Cross Cemetery fees

After discussions, Cllr. Archer proposed the fees remain the same. 2nd by Cllr. Shaw. All in agreement.

301. Agenda items for next meeting

The usual items and update on security measures.

302. Correspondence

A resident has requested the Parish Council's support in their desire to obtain a disused piece of land on Chapel Street in order to create a disabled parking space. The resident has support from Cllr. Angela Blackman and has also contacted Geoffrey Cox MP. The resident stated to the Clerk that West Devon Borough Council, the current owners, are considering selling the land as a building plot.

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to make further enquiries with Cllr. Blackman and for her to update members at the next Full Council meeting.

303. Questions from members of the public present at the meeting at the discretion of the chair

There was no members of the public present. There being no other business, the Chair thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:

Dated: 28th October 2025