

## **Bere Ferrers Parish Council**

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

### **Present:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. C. Shaw     | Chair of the Committee |
| Cllr. R. Leithall | Cllr M. Patterson      |
| Cllr. E. Wager    |                        |

In Attendance: Cllr. P. Crozier and Cllr. B. Lamb.

### **220. Apologies**

Cllr. Archer, Cllr. Perry and Cllr. Sutton sent their apologies. Accepted by the Committee.

### **221. Declarations of interest**

None.

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

Cllr. Patterson:

1. The drain at Tap Hill is overflowing. The Clerk to report to Devon Highways and ask whether the Workman could clear.
2. Asked who owned the Lime Kiln at Weir Quay. It is full of rubbish and, on inspection, also contains human waste. This has been cleared in the past but has again become an issue. The Clerk to contact West Devon Borough Council to seek advice on who is responsible for the Lime Kiln.

Cllr. Lamb:

- 1 Has forwarded an email to the Clerk from Devon FA, who are supporting Devon and Cornwall Police with the rollout of a Forensic Property Marking Programme. The scheme includes, a forensic marking kit to discreetly tag valuable items such as ride-on mowers, power tools, and grounds equipment and a high-visibility deterrent sign (provided by the police) to display on club premises. The Football Club has expressed their interest. The Clerk confirmed that she had replied to Devon FA on behalf of both the Parish Council and the Football Club to request further information, but no response has yet been received. The Clerk will chase this up.
- 2 The Tamar & Apple Group has obtained a grant from Tamar Valley National Landscape for the rejuvenation of the Orchard in Bere Ferrers. The cost of the recent skip placed there will be covered by this grant. Cllr. Lamb is due to meet with a representative from Devon County Council to show them the proposed locations of two ponds the group wishes to establish.

### **223. Matters arising from the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The minutes had been approved and adopted at the Full Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **Minute 168**

The broken litter bin in Sarah Park has still not been removed. The Clerk to action.

Cllr. Lamb expressed his thanks to the Workman for carrying out repairs to the Bere Ferrers recreation field car park, and also to Cllr. Wager for his assistance with the job. The Clerk read out an email from a member of the Bere Ferrers Villagers Group, thanking the Parish Council and the Workman for the excellent work completed on the access to the recreation field and the car park.

##### **Minute 170**

The Workman reported that it would be difficult to close off the path down Fore Street, Bere Alston, in order to paint yellow lines on the stairs, due to the high level of pedestrian traffic. After discussion, it was agreed that one side should be painted first, followed by the other side, so that the path would not need to be closed off completely.

#### Minute 174

The Clerk has reported to Devon County Council, a resident's concern regarding overgrown vegetation at the cut-through from Cornwall Street.

#### **224. Review of the Open Spaces Committee 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial report**

Nominal Code 4502 - The cost of the skip used to clear the Orchard has been paid by the Council. The Clerk will raise an invoice to the Tavy & Tamar Apple Group, as the grant they have obtained will cover this expense.

Nominal Code 4440 – Cllr. Leithall queried the high cost of water charges. On inspection, the Clerk confirmed that the sum of £820 had been coded to the wrong account and will rectify. There are currently no charges for water.

Nominal code 4500 – The allotment rent recorded under this code was for 2024–25. A separate invoice from Devon County Council will be issued for the 2025–26 year.

#### **225. Update on repairs to the Pavilion**

New roof sheets have been ordered for the Pavilion. Once delivered, the Workman will install them, which is expected to resolve all the leaks.

A member of the Junior Football Club attending the meeting, explained that they wish to obtain a shipping container to prevent theft of equipment. The Club plans to apply for a current FA grant to cover the cost, but as the grant is time-limited, the application needs to be submitted promptly. The main concern was where the container could be located, given the current planning application to rebuild the Pavilion. After discussion, it was agreed that the container should initially be placed near the rugby hut on the field. Members of the Committee will meet with representatives of the Club to confirm that this location is suitable. Once the new Pavilion is completed, the container will be relocated to a position behind the Pavilion.

#### **226. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish recreation, play areas and fitness equipment**

Cllr. Patterson's report:

##### Sarah Park

- Requested the broken litter bin be removed. Clerk to follow up with the Workman.
- Membrane on the slip side is coming through. The Clerk confirmed that once Keir has finished the project, the mats they are using will be donated the Council and placed underneath the slide.

##### The Down

- The animal seat in the playpark needs repairing.
- There are numerous holes in the recreational field. It is likely to be an animal. To be investigated.
- Reported she found no dog faeces on the field.
- Area behind the Pavilion has been tidied, but the tractor tyre is still there.

The Workman requested that, instead of repairing the broken bench at the Down now, it be relocated first and then repaired, as it will need to be moved when the new Pavilion is built. All agreed.

The Workman also requested permission to rebuild approximately 6 metres of the hedge/bank from the road into the playpark and field in order to block up existing holes. All agreed.

Issues of parking along the Down, especially on football matches days have been highlighted to the Football Clubs.

##### Bere Ferrers

Cllr. Leithall reported that the gate into the playpark has been adjusted and is better. However, the mushroom head is still loose, and the zip wire needs tightening, as older children are touching the ground when using it. The fence at the back end is deteriorating, but remains in place for now.

**227. Receive and acknowledge solicitor's letter regarding bonfire and incinerator smoke nuisance from Bere Alston allotments**

The Clerk read out extracts from the letter received. The Solicitor has asked that 'The Council a) agree to notify and consult with them if there is a move to bring back biannual communal bonfires on the basis of the previous agreement (and if this is contemplated, consider carefully how the conditions will be monitored and enforced) and, b) otherwise confirm that there be no other changes in policy regarding fires at the allotments, whether by incinerator, bonfire, or other means.'

After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk's working notes on allotments should reflect that no bonfires or incinerators are allowed, ensuring that future Clerks and Councillors are aware of this policy. The Council has already agreed, at a previous meeting, that no bonfires were allowed and had also reversed the decision to allow incinerators on the allotments. It was proposed that the Council has no intention of changing this policy at this time. A vote was taken: three in favour, one against. Motion carried.

**228. Routine inspection of allotments, Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers**

**Bere Alston**

Due to the poor weather the Clerk had been unable to conduct an inspection.

**Bere Ferrers**

The Clerk requested to go into part 2. Cllr. Shaw proposed going into Part 2, seconded by Cllr Wager.

Discussions took place under part 2.

Cllr. Wager proposed coming out of Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Patterson.

The Clerk is to write to the plot holder, informing them of the Council's decision discussed and agreed on, under Part 2.

**229. Organise a date for Committee members to carry out a review of the Open Spaces Assets**

As not all members of the Committee were present, it was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

**230. Agenda items for next meeting**

Aside from the usual items, no additional items were suggested for the next meeting's agenda.

**231. Correspondence**

1. Email from a resident informing the Council that one of their hanging baskets in the Parish Hall carpark had to be repaired as it had been knocked to the ground. It has now been repaired and rehung. They also raised concerns about a campervan parked in the car park that had been pushing against another hanging basket and this van, along with another, had been parked in the car park for 'weeks, if not months. 'Quite often there is no free spaces available for people wanting to visit the council office or the local shops, I would be grateful if you could look into this problem'.

The Clerk said that letters had been placed on both vehicles requesting they be moved. Members discussed that the main purpose of the car park is for people using the Parish Hall and because of their size and length, campervans and motorhomes are not suitable for the car park. It was agreed to add this to the F & G.P agenda for further discussion.

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

The member of the public present asked his question under item Repairs to the Pavilion.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:

Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025