

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Footpaths and Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 3rd February 2026.

Present

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

In Attendance: Cllr. P. Crozier, Cllr. Lamb and Cllr. Patterson.

525. Apologies

Cllrs. Perry, Shaw and Sutton sent their apologies. Accepted by the Council.

526. Declaration of Interest

None.

527. Items of Interest at the discretion of the Chair. No action can be taken on these items.

The Clerk confirmed that a potential safety concern, previously raised at another meeting, relating to cut-down beer cans being used as flower pots on a gate at Ward Farm on Footpath 65, had been reported to the Public Rights of Way Warden, who advised that an inspection would be carried out.

Cllr. Lamb stated that a lot of debris has been washed up along the coastline road in Bere Ferrers and it was almost impassable for vehicles. Cllr. Grose agreed to report via the Devon County Council website.

528. Matters arising from the minutes from the 14th October 2025

Matters Arising

Minute 283 (154)

Following a visit to Calstock to enquire whether businesses would stock the footpath guide, those approached were either closed or unable to do so. An article in a recent edition of MoorLink mentioned one of BF's footpaths and noted that details of local walks could be obtained from the Tavistock Visitor Information Centre. It was confirmed that the Centre do stock some of the Peninsula's footpath guide.

Cllr. Grose confirmed that efforts are still ongoing to obtain footpath engraved discs. Cllr. Dennis will ask former Cllr. Peace where the original discs were sourced.

Minute 283 (155)

Cllr. Grose reported that another tree had fallen on the bridleway at Leigh Farm, but the Warden was dealing with it. It was noted that the tree may have already been removed.

Minute 285

There was no further update on the issue at Footpath 89. Cllr. Grose reported that the drainage firm is waiting for drier weather to survey how far the seepage extends into the field, as conditions are currently too wet. Cllr. Crozier commented that this was a poor excuse. Cllr. Fife Cook is also continuing to pursue a solution.

529. To deal with any Footpath issues

Cllr. Grose has reported various trees down and other issues on Footpaths 37, 42, and 43, either to the Warden or via the "Report a Problem" page on the website. On Footpath 37, a large tree reported in November has still not been cleared, and the path is now slipping down the bank, making it very hazardous to walk. It was noted that the issue is unlikely to be resolved until the weather improves.

530. Update on the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme

The deadline to submit the footpath survey, bid form for the coming financial year, and expenditure for the current financial year is 31st March 2026. The Clerk will circulate the footpath survey spreadsheet, showing the current members' allocations against footpaths to all members and has requested that all completed audits and comments be returned to the Clerk by 20th March.

531. Environmental Issues

Cllr Dennis highlighted the poor condition of local roads and noted that, following the recent resurfacing at Drake's Statute in Tavistock, a pothole has already appeared. He also raised concerns regarding damage to the Dawlish railway and stated that a positive representation should be made to Government in support to reinstate the Bere Alston–Tavistock–Plymouth railway.

531. Update on Pilgrims Drive electric car charging points

An email has been received from the Neighbourhood Services Manager at WDBC with an update regarding the installation of the EV charger at Pilgrims Drive. 'After very, very slow progress WENEA have contacted me to state they will be commencing the civils work next week to commence the process for installation of the EV chargers. This is good news after such a long time of waiting for things to progress. WENEA will ensure there is signage and bollards in place for the effected bays and manage the process from start to finish.'

532. Correspondence

1. Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) Scheme – The Director and Energy Advisor from the Tamar Energy Community have provided information on how to use the camera and obtain follow-up advice. The camera is currently with a resident, and the Clerk will arrange for its collection and subsequent loan to other residents who are interested in borrowing it.

2. Email from the Drip Drip Tamar Friends of the River Tamar Group:

We are a community river group based in Calstock Parish. We have been sampling and testing water quality and advocating for a cleaner, safer river for just over a year now. Our group came into being from a People's Assembly back in October 2024. We now have a whole year of bacterial data and we play an active role in representing our community and regularly engage with other river groups, SWW and catchment stakeholders. As we come to set out our plans for 2026, we are once again seeking the views and opinions of our community for our priorities and direction. It seems to us that there other voices in this endeavour that we would like hear from and also to reach out in the hope of collaborating or setting the seed for other groups to emerge. We would very much like you to join us with constructive ideas and input.

After discussion it was agreed to forward this to Cllr. Perry, as he may be interested in attending.

3. The Tamar Valley Community Action for Nature Forum – Date: Saturday, 28th February 2026

Time: 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM, Location: Landulph Memorial Hall, Saltash, PL12 6PB

An invitation to attend the Tamar Valley Community Action for Nature Forum that will bring together Parish Councils, community action groups, and individuals who care deeply about nature and want to take meaningful action.

Cllr. Grose and Maciejowska expressed an interest in attending. The Clerk to forward the details.

4. Email from Devon County Council Public Right of Way:

Documentation regarding the determination of the Footpath 2 Public Path Order has been updated and is available on the County Council's website in the Have Your Say pages <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/categories/prow/>.

5. Cllr. Crozier provided an update on the Connectivity Forum organised by Sir Geoffrey Cox MP. Over 80 people attended, including representatives from 10 companies. A common theme raised was that companies often do not respond to emails. The meeting was considered productive. While the main focus was on broadband, poor mobile connectivity was also discussed. A summary of the event will be sent to all Parish Councils.

533. 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 7th April 2026, after the Plans & Highways Committee Meeting.

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

here 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 8.54 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Signed this date 24th February 2026