

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th February 2026.

Present:

Cllr. C. Shaw Chair of the Committee

Cllr. P. Archer Cllr. R. Leithall

Cllr. R. Perry Cllr. E. Wager

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

525. Apologies

Cllr. Patterson and Cllr. Sutton sent their apologies. Accepted by the Council

526. Declarations of interest

None.

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

Cllr. Archer reported that Cllr. Patterson has been informed of an incident in which a person, using the Bere Alston recreational field track, had been bitten by a dog. The matter has been reported to the Police.

Cllr. Wager provided Cllr. Shaw with a brochure relating to a commercial trailer for future consideration to replace the stolen trailer.

Cllr. Lamb reported that the benches purchased for Bere Ferrers will be installed shortly. The family of the late former Cllr. Doris Chapman has requested a memorial bench in her memory and, subject to receipt of payment, an additional order will be placed for this bench, along with a bench and table for Bere Ferrers Orchard.

Cllr. Grose said that she will replace any out-of-date items in the first aid kit for the Rounders team. She also noted that the recent Moorlink magazine listed a Ramblers' walk that included Footpath 37 as a short cut. She has emailed the Ramblers to warn them that part of the path has slipped away and may be dangerous. They have replied thanking her for the information.

528. Matters arising from the meeting held on 13th January 2026

The minutes have been approved and adopted at the Full Council meeting held on 27th February 2026

Matters Arising

Minute 454 (353)

CCTV/alarm system at the Cemetery Hut will be installed later this week. Other security measures will be completed by the end of the month.

Minute 454 (354)

The company that installed the zip wire at Bere Ferrers confirmed that two site visits had already taken place and the cost of an additional visit would be £500. It was agreed that Cllrs. Lamb and Shaw would arrange a site visit with Mr. A. Mitchell, a member of the Bere Ferrers Villagers group who has previously undertaken the tightening of the zip wire, to show them how to carry out the work.

Minute 455

Cllr. Lamb confirmed that the Tennis Club will lay gravel from the pedestrian gate at the recreational field to the court and will pay for it.

529. Discussion on the emptying and maintenance of Parish litter bins

At the recent HR Committee meeting, it was discussed requesting West Devon Borough Council empty additional litter bins within the Parish. The Clerk advised that of the bins currently emptied by the Parish, only the bin located outside Hope Cottage would be eligible for inclusion on West Devon's collection rounds, as the remaining bins are situated on Parish-owned land. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact West Devon Borough Council to enquire whether they would take on emptying the bin outside Hope Cottage.

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

Cllr Archer's report:

The Down

- New top rail required on seat opposite the swings.
- Suggested cutting out the dinosaur seat and leaving the head and tail. Cllr. Shaw to action.
- New front seat rail required on seat opposite 'Aberfoyle' property.
- Metal piping and tractor tyre behind changing rooms also old roofing sheets.

The Clerk to enquire whether the tyre belongs to the Football Club. It was agreed that a work party would be organised to load up the debris and remove it from the site.

- Bench near lower goal needs urgent attention.
- Several puddles were reported on the track and in the car park. It was noted that there had been 40 consecutive days of rainfall; therefore, little could be done until conditions became drier.

Sarah Park

- Two sections of play surrounding area need replacing.
- The old rubbish bin is being used. Black plastic covering broken

Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact Pascoes & Son to enquire whether they could be engaged to break up the concrete required at various locations around the village.

Cllr Leithall to measure each recreational field, after which quotations will be sought from contractors for grass cutting.

Bere Ferrers

- The mushroom play equipment still needs to be repaired/removed.
- The field is currently waterlogged due to the recent consecutive days of rain

Following a site visit with Cllr. Fife Cook, it had been agreed not to pursue installing warning signs at the recreational field. Instead, a fence with a gate will be installed. Cllr. Fife Cook offered to fund this from his Locality Budget, and Cllr. Lamb will prepare the costings.

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

Bere Alston

Cllr. Wager noted that, due to the time of year and poor weather conditions, no comment could be made at this time.

Via email, an allotment holder has requested for stone chippings to be spread around the roundabout at the bottom of the allotments, as the area had become hazardous for vehicles. Members discussed the matter and agreed that there was currently no significant problem, noting that the area was very wet at the moment.

Bere Ferrers

It was noted that several plots had not been cultivated for some time. The poor weather conditions was again acknowledged.

The Clerk reported that funds had been received from the dissolved Bere Ferrers Allotment Association. It was discussed and agreed that these funds to be used to hire a handyman to repair the water pipes by the Social Club, enabling plot holders to use the water collected going forward. The Clerk to action.

531. Review Allotment fees and agreement

Following discussion, Cllr. Shaw proposed the following increases effective from April 2027, seconded by Cllr. Archer.

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Plot deposit | £50 |
| Full plot | £28 |
| Half plot | £20 |
| Full plot with poultry | £30 |
| Half plot with poultry | £26 |

A vote was taken. four for, one against.

Plot holders will be notified of the rent increase when they receive their rent invoices in April 2026.

532. Discussion on sourcing grant applications for the new Pavilion

Cllr. Lamb stated that this item should have been titled "Business Case for the New Pavilion." He confirmed that the planning application has been submitted and is expected to be validated within 21 days.

The Council now needs to prepare a business case before it can apply for any grant funding. At present, the Council spends approximately £5K per year on the Pavilion running costs. Is the Council therefore prepared to continue subsidising the Pavilion going forward? All agreed the Council was.

Noted was that the management of the new Pavilion will need to be discussed at a later stage, but initially, the Council will manage the Pavilion, with a view to potentially transferring management to a community group in the future.

Cllr. Lamb stated that the approximate cost to build the new Pavilion would be £250K.

533. Discussion on request to purchase a life buoy/throw line for Bere Ferrers Quay

As a result of the recent site visit by Cllr. Fife Cook, it was agreed that he, along with the two Borough Councillors if able, would contribute towards the purchase of a life buoy and throw line. The Bere Ferrers Villagers Group have indicated which model they wish to purchase. The Parish Council will purchase the equipment, which will remain the property of the Council.

534. Agenda items for next meeting

Aside from the usual items, update on security measures at the Cemetery Hut.

535. Correspondence

1. The government has launched a public consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Devon. The consultation will run for seven weeks and will close on 26th March. The link to the consultation has been sent to all Councillors. Discussion and a Council response will be included on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting.

2. A letter of thanks from Sir Geoffrey regarding the Connectivity Forum which took place on 30th January 2026. 'My team will shortly be circulating further information to all Parish Clerks arising from our discussions, including a summary of key points, the presentation materials supplied by providers and relevant contact details. Should you require any additional information, or should difficulties with providers continue to persist, please do not hesitate to contact my office.'

Cllr. Crozier, who had attended the event, reported that it was well attended, with over 80 people and nine providers present. However, Voneus Broadband, who are currently working in the village, were not in attendance.

Cllr. Dennis had sent an email to Cllr. Crozier highlighting the poor mobile coverage in the area. This had been forwarded to Sir Geoffrey Cox, who sent a note of thanks for raising the issue.

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

There were no members of the public present. 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: 24th February 2026