

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr. B. Lamb Vice-Chair of the Committee
Cllr. R. Leithall Cllr. V. Grose
Cllr. R. Maycock Cllr. C. Shaw

672. Apologies

Cllr. P Crozier and Cllr. P. Dennis sent their apologies. Accepted by the Committee.

673. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Shaw declared an interest in the Maynard Trust.

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

Cllr Shaw reported that the trees had been removed from the Cemetery, enabling the final phase of the agreed security measures to proceed. He proposed that the container when relocated next to the Hut, be set on hardcore and supported on blocks. This proposal was agreed by all members.

675. Matters arising from the meeting held on the 24th March 2026

The minutes have been adopted and approved at the Full Council meeting held on 31st March 2026

Matters Arising

Min. 604 (540(471))

Cllr. Leithall to draft the addendum to the right of way deed for the Doctor's Surgery and forward to the Clerk to action.

Min. 640 (540 (471 (419))

The Workman to be asked to ensure the tarmac is warmed up before use. Cllr. Shaw to then organise a working party to fill in the potholes in the car park.

Min. 640 (540 (477))

The new Parish Hall doors are to be installed on 7th & 8th May.

Min. 610

The Bere Ferrers recreational field has been cut again, but again not the Orchard. Cllr. Leithall stated that the Orchard was not included in the grass-cutting quote; however, if we now wish to include it, a quote would need to be obtained.

Min 616

The graffiti on the Open Reaches property have been painted over but not the graffiti on the electrical substation building. The Clerk to contact National Grid or Gas company to request it be painted over. Graffiti was also reported on litter bins. The Clerk to contact West Devon to ask if they can get this removed.

676. To accept the April 2026 accounts for payment

An additional payment was an invoice from Countrywise Tree Care for the removal of trees/branches in the Cemetery. Total £1368.

Cllr. Grose proposed approval for all payments, seconded by Cllr. Maycock. All agreed.

677. To accept the F & G.P Detailed Receipt and Payment report ending 31st March 2026

The Clerk reported that the £50 right-of-way wayleave fee is still outstanding. The Committee commented that non-payment could result in a loss of the right of way. The Clerk is to raise this with the individual.

678. To accept the bank reconciliation ending 31st March 2026

It was noted that this was the bank reconciliation for the 2025–26 financial year. All accepted.

679. Review earmarked reserves and remaining budgets from the 2025-26 financial year

After review, all agreed to move £1,822.95 from General Reserves to EMR341 Footpaths DCCPROW. The grant to cover these costs will be issued in the next few months.

It was agreed that no other budgets needed to be moved into an EMR.

680. Review 2025-2026 Asset Register

After review, all agreed to accept the 2025–26 asset register at £1,902,262. Final approval is to be given at the Full Council meeting on 28th April 2026.

681. To accept the Council's CCLA Investment ending 31st March 2026

It was noted that the investment had decreased by £801.05 and at the end of the financial year, was now £13,308.72

682. Discuss and consider purchasing an Evacuation Chair for the Council Office

As Cllr. Dennis was unable to attend the meeting, he requested, via email, that this item be deferred to the next meeting. All agreed.

683.Update on Parish Hall Lease Extension

Cllr. Leithall stated that no further progress had been made at this stage, but the recommendation from this Committee was approved by Full Council on 31st March 2026.

It was further noted that Councillors are reminded that any connection to Beregen, should declare an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and consider whether it is appropriate to withdraw from discussion and voting.

684.To agree the process for reviewing routine equipment inspections

It was agreed that the Chair of Open Spaces and the Workman will review and report back at a future meeting. Further reporting on the trees, benches, gates, and cycle stands is noted and will be conducted later in the year.

The Clerk to check how often PAC testing is required.

685.Consider a request to have the Mosaic Garden a designated non-alcohol area

Cllr. Lamb stated that only West Devon Borough Council can implement a designated non-alcohol area. There was a non-alcohol enforcement order in place in the Parish some years ago, but it was not renewed. All agreed not to pursue the request.

686.Review CCTV Policy

The policy has been updated and now includes the two CCTV and alarm systems that have been installed at the Cemetery Hut. All agreed to adopt the policy.

687.Consider donation request from Bere Alston Primary School for litter picking equipment

The Forest School Teacher has asked if the Council could possibly provide some funding towards the purchase of litter-picking equipment. This would then be used by the children to carry out frequent litter picks to help tidy up the village. The total requested was £350.

Cllr. Angela Blackman has agreed to a grant of £200 towards the project. Therefore, the Clerk asked whether the Council would donate the remaining £150 requested. Cllr. Shaw noted that they could also approach the Maynard Trust for a donation. Cllr. Leithall proposed that, subject to a possible donation from the Maynard Trust, the Council donates £150, seconded by Cllr. Lamb. All were in agreement.

688. Consider request from Council Staff to increase mileage reimbursement rate. To be taken into Part 2.

Cllr. Lamb proposed going into part 2, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

Cllr. Maycock proposed going into part 2, seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

Under Part 2, all agreed to increase the mileage reimbursement for a period of three months, with a review to be carried out after three months.

689. Correspondence

None.

690. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. Consider purchase of evacuation chair for the Council Office.

691. Questions from the public, at the discretion of the Chair

There were no members of the public present.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 8.13 pm

Signed by the Chair

Dated 28th April 2026