

## BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of a Special Full Council held in the Council Chambers, Bere Alston on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### Present

Cllr. R. Leithall	Chair of the Council
Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. P. Dennis
Cllr. V. Grose	Cllr. B. Lamb
Cllr. J. Maciejowska	Cllr. R. Maycock
Cllr. M. Patterson	Cllr. C. Shaw
Cllr. E. Wager	

### 596. Apologies

None received.

### 597. Declaration of Interests

None.

### 598. Notifications of items of interest as the discretion of the chair. No action can be taken on these items

Cllr. Maycock - a resident on Cornwall Street is raising money for a Youth Suicide charity by running 100km in the Sahara this November and will pass on the details to members. His family is sponsoring them and wanted to make the council aware.

Cllr. Lamb - all members would have received a copy of the planning conditions for the new Sports Pavilion. Both he and Architect feel that none of the conditions are cause for concern. No members raised any questions. Cllr. Lamb will now reply to the West Devon Planning Department, who require a response by the end of this week.

Cllr. Grose – there was a comment on Facebook regarding an obstruction across the bridlepath near Leigh Farm. She has since walked the route and confirm the route is fine.

Cllr. Maciejowska attended a meeting regarding the future of the Calstock ferry. Her conclusion is that, at present, there is no role for this Parish Council; however, it may be beneficial to attend any future meetings should they arise. The group is looking to establish a Community Interest Company and intends to apply for funding.

### 599. To consider and agree the Council's response to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation

All proposal details were circulated to members prior to the meeting for their consideration.

Discussions primarily focused on the proposals put forward by Devon County Council (DCC) and South Hams District Council, Teignbridge District Council, and West Devon Borough Council (WD)

Cllr. Lamb highlighted that DCC already has established structures in place across the county, such as children's and adults' services. Therefore, any responsibilities transferred from District or Borough Councils could be integrated into this existing framework.

The cost of implementation is also a key consideration: DCC estimates £33.6 million over two years, compared to WD's proposal of £44.3 million over five years. DCC already works closely and has established relationships with other County Councils and central Government.

DCC's proposal includes representation for Parish/Town Councils on neighbourhood area committees. In contrast, under WD's proposal, Parish/Town Councils would not.

It was acknowledged that some aspects still remain unknown, and many of the questions asked in the consultation are hypothetical and cannot be fully answered at this stage.

After further discussion, Cllr. Leithall proposed that the Council submit a response, seconded by Cllr. Maycock. All members were in agreement.

Cllr. Lamb proposed that this Council support the Devon County Council's proposal. Seconded by Cllr. Maciejowska. All were agreed.

It was also agreed to submit a written response and complete the online consultation questions.

**600. Questions from any members of the public present, 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 and declared the meeting closed at 7.39 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Council

Signed this date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026