

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

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

Present:

Cllr. E. Wager	Vice-Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Archer	Cllr. R. Leithall
Cllr. M. Patterson	Cllr. R. Perry
Cllr. G. Sutton	

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

585. Apologies

Cllr. Shaw sent his apology. Accepted by the Council

586. Declarations of interest

None.

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

Cllr. Lamb reported that a Police Officer responsible for the area is reviewing the speed limit on the A386 from Plymouth to Tavistock and considering whether it should be reduced to 40/50 mph. The Officer has welcomed the views of the Council. Both Cllrs. Wager and Archer expressed that the speed limit should remain as it is, noting that reduced limits could create a backlog and that traffic is already slowed due to the traffic islands.

The Clerk reported that she had been informed, via a member of the public, of a rat infestation in the Parish Hall garden. The pest control company engaged by the member of the public indicated that continued feeding of seagulls by another resident may be contributing to the problem. The Clerk has informed WDBC's Environmental Health, who will again write to request that the feeding stops. Rat poison can be laid by the Council Workman, although Cllr. Sutton asked whether alternative methods could be considered. The areas affected by the infestation will be reviewed before a decision is made on the next steps.

588. Matters arising from the meeting held on 11th February 2026

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

Matters Arising

Min 528 (454 (354))

The demo on how to tighten the zip wire will be done when Cllr. Shaw returns.

Min 529

WDBC have confirmed that from w/c 16th March, they will empty the bin by Hope Cottage twice a week.

Several other bins over the past few weeks, have been overflowing. After contacting WDBC for clarification on the frequently of emptying schedule, they requested to know which bins were affected. After discussion, the following bins were to be highlighted:

- Junction of Broad Park Road & Drake Park
- Outside Bere Alston toilets
- Outside the car park at Bere Alston Primary School
- Junction of Alexandra Drive / Bedford Street
- Fore Street

Min 530

Pascoes & Son have conducted a site visit on the concrete required removing around the Parish and the Clerk is awaiting their quote.

Cllr. Lamb confirmed that the grant awarded for the purchase and installation of a new fence with a gate at the Bere Ferrers recreational field had been received and that the work has been completed.

Min 530

An allotment holder has again raised concerns about the condition of the roundabout at Bere Alston allotments. Cllr. Wager confirmed he had visited the allotments earlier in the day and noted that wood chippings located nearby had fallen onto the track and combined with traffic and the mud, could cause issues, but these should improve when the ground is dry. If the member of the public remains concerned, it was suggested that the Clerk arrange a site visit with the allotment holder and Cllr. Wager.

Min 532

Cllr. Lamb confirmed they are waiting on the new Pavilion planning application to be approved before progressing with the next step.

Min 533

A grant for the full amount has been submitted to Cllr. Fife Cook's Locality Fund to purchase a life buoy for the Bere Ferrers quay.

589. Review of Grass Cutting Contract quotes received

Cllr. Wager proposed going into Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Patterson.

Cllr. Archer proposed coming out of Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Wagers.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the matter would be included as an agenda item for the next F & G.P. meeting.

590. Update on security measures at the Cemetery Hut

CCTV and an alarm system has now been installed.

Cllr. Wager proposed going into Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Archer.

Cllr. Wager proposed going into Part 2, seconded by Cllr. Archer.

Updates were discussed and actions agreed on.

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

Cllr Archer's report:

The Down

- A full black bag had been left in the playpark.
- At the far end of the field by the cemetery, someone has removed the brass plaque that was on a concrete block.
- There is still a large puddle on the path.

Sarah Park

- The broken litter bin has been removed.
- No other major matters were reported

Other matters reported in previous meetings, are still on the list to be rectified. None were classed as urgent.

Bere Ferrers

- The top of the mushroom play equipment has been removed and someone is looking into whether it can be repaired. If not, it should be removed. Cllr. Lamb to look into how it can be removed.
- At some stage, the five-bar gate will need replacing.
- No other major matters were reported

Cllr. Lamb reported five wooden posts that had been purchased for the new fence/gate project, were in the end not required. These posts could be used to replace posts on the fence surrounding the playpark. Three additional posts would also be required to complete the job. It was agreed that the additional posts, at a cost of £20 each, be purchased and Cllr. Lamb would arrange for a contractor to carry out the work.

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

Bere Alston

The Clerk and Cllr. Wager will conduct a full inspection before the rent invoices are sent out in April.

Bere Ferrers

As noted at the previous meeting, some plots still show no signs of cultivation. The Clerk is to follow up. The Clerk is also to organise for someone to repair the water pipes by the Social Club.

593. Agenda items for next meeting

1. 2025-26 Open Space Finance Report.

594. Correspondence

1. Email from Bere Alston in Bloom (BAIB) who would like to 'put a few things around the village and hope that the councillors would be happy with these. The first is to place a bench at the entrance to The Down cul de sac, on the right hand side looking into the cul de sac. The large tree blocks the light for the pots that were there. The second is on Fore Street, both sides on the grass, between the benches and the kerbs, at the entrance to Marythorne Road. They are green metal, 1.2 mtr by .9 mtr. and would be planted up with perennials, summer and winter bedding plants and bulbs. The planters have a safety edge so that people wouldn't hurt themselves on them.'

Members did not object to the proposals but requested that they ensure they have the landowner's consent.

595. 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 8.30 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:

Dated: 31st March 2026