

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th April 2026.

Present:

Cllr. C. Shaw Chair of the Committee

Cllr. P. Archer Cllr. R. Leithall

Cllr. M. Patterson Cllr. R. Perry

Cllr. E. Wager

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

660. Apologies

Cllr. Sutton sent his apology. Accepted by the Council

661. Declarations of interest

None.

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

Cllr Shaw stated that the revised bus timetable issued on 5 April does not include the updated arrival time at the Mount Edgcombe pub, nor is the stop identified as a timed stop within the timetable. The Clerk to investigate this matter.

Cllr Patterson reported that she had been approached by a member of the public asking whether the Council would consider designating the Mosaic Garden as a non-alcohol area. The Police are aware of reports of people drinking in that area. It was agreed to place this item on the F & G.P Committee agenda for further discussion.

Cllr. Perry noted that the pot holes at the bottom of Cornwall Street are getting worse. He was advise to report it on the Devon County Council's report a problem website page. The large pot hole outside the Post Office was also highlighted to be reported.

663. Matters arising from the meeting held on 11th March 2026

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

Matters Arising

Min 587

Following reports of rats near the Bere Alston public toilets, rat bait has been placed by the toilet block. The resident who had been feeding seagulls in the area has been issued with a letter from Environmental Health and has since stopped this activity.

Min 588 (530)

All agreed to engage Pascoe & Sons to remove the concrete required around the Parish. It was agreed that the concrete should be broken up into small breaks and put in by the Cemetery Hut.

Min 588 (530)

A date to meet an allotment holder to discuss the condition of the roundabout at Bere Alston allotments had been arranged, but they had been unable to attend at the last minute. The Clerk to arrange another site visit.

Min 589

The contractor has started grass cutting. A query was raised regarding the Bere Ferrers recreational field, as it was felt that the grass needed to be cut shorter. The Clerk will check the contract to see what length was specified.

Min 590

The small tree and branches are scheduled to be removed by the tree contractor on Monday 21 April. Once this work has been completed, a date will be arranged for the relocation of the container.

664. Review 2025-26 Open Spaces Financial Report

The earmarked reserve (EMR) for the Wildflower Meadows Group is in deficit by £77.18. It was proposed and agreed that the Council donate this amount from general reserves in order to bring the EMR back to a zero balance.

The new Pavilion EMR is currently in deficit by £40.18. It was proposed and agreed that the Council move the funds from general reserves in order to bring the EMR back to a zero balance.

After the review all agreed to accept the report.

665. Review management agreement between the Parish Council and the Bere Ferrers Villagers Group and consider any updates/amendments

At the Open Spaces committee meeting held on 11 November 2025, the Council resolved to take on responsibility for the maintenance of the equipment in the Bere Ferrers playpark.

Following discussion, it was suggested that a formal agreement may no longer be required. However, it was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting between members of the Villagers Group and the Council to discuss the matter further, including future roles and responsibilities.

666. Update on actions/tasks required around the Parish

The actions/tasks were discussed and noted.

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

Bere Alston

Cllr. Archer reported that there was nothing of major to report.

Bere Ferrers

- There was no sawdust in the box in the compost toilet. To report to the Tennis Club/Bere Ferrers Villagers Group.
- The hump into the car park needs repairing
- The grass needs cutting down more.
- The Workman to cut the grass within the play park.
- The top of the mushroom equipment is back on, but still a bit loose.
- Climbing rope is wore aware and the metal wires are exposed.
- Zip wire tension seems fine.
- Rubber seat on the swings required a bigger washer.
- New field gate needs a new spring
- Replacing the playpark fence is in progress.
- No other major issues were reported.

Actions/tasks required to be passed onto the Workman.

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

Bere Alston

The Clerk and Cllr Wager carried out a full inspection, and letters will be issued regarding non-cultivation of plots.

An allotment holder reported that material used to fill potholes appears to have contained nails.

Bere Ferrers

As noted at the previous meeting, some plots still show no signs of cultivation. Letters to be sent to the relevant people. There are currently two vacant plots at the site. It was suggested to offer the available plots to those currently on the Bere Alston waiting list.

669. Agenda items for next meeting

1. Cemetery Report.
2. Annual Tree Report.

670. Correspondence

1. An email from the Forest School teacher at Bere Alston Primary School requesting a donation towards the purchase of their own set of litter-picking equipment. The school plans for the children to carry out litter-picking activities around the village at least once per term.

It was agreed to put on next week's F & G.P agenda.

671. 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. pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:

Dated: 28th April 2026