

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 9th June 2026.

Present:

Cllr. C. Shaw	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. M. Patterson	Cllr. E. Wager

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

95. Apologies

Cllr. Leithall, Cllr. Perry and Cllr. Sutton sent their apologies. Accepted by the Council

96. Declarations of interest

None.

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

Cllr. Wager reported that the Bere Alston sign at Pentillie Road has been completely destroyed and has been reported to Devon County Council Highways for replacement.

Cllr. Grose reported that Devon County Council Public Rights of Way will be closing Footpath 89 for a period of at least six months in order to address and resolve the sewage leak. Notices will be sent to Cllr. Grose for display at the site. The Clerk confirmed that details of the closure will also be published on the Council's social media page and website.

98. Matters arising from the meeting held on 12th May 2026

The minutes have been approved and adopted at the Full Council meeting held on 26th May 2026

Matters Arising

Min 31 (662)

The Clerk provided a 'Respect the Area' notice to Cllr. Patterson, who will arrange for it to be displayed in the Mosaic Garden.

Min 33

A date to be arranged for Cllr. Shaw and the Workman to review the condition of the Adventure Trail in the Down Playpark.

99. To review the Management Agreement for the Bere Ferrers Recreational Field between the Bere Ferrers Villagers Group and the Council

Representatives from the group were unable to attend. It was agreed to defer till the next meeting.

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

Cllr. Archer sent his apologies and provided his report to Cllr. Patterson to share with members. The Clerk to pass onto the Workman for the highlighted matters to be addressed.

Cllr. Archer wished it to be noted how spotless the Pavilion toilet is and commented that the cleaner should be commended, as the standard of cleanliness consistently goes above and beyond expectations. Cllr. Patterson suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to her. All members were in agreement.

The Clerk to arrange for Pascoes & Sons to remove the surplus concrete from around the Parish. It was agreed that the broken-up concrete would be placed at the bottom of the allotment track.

Cllr. Leithall had sent his apologies and sent his inspection report via email. The Clerk to pass onto the Workman for the highlighted matters to be addressed.

100. Update on the relocation of the Council's container to the Cemetery

The container has been successfully relocated, and members expressed their thanks to the Workman, Cllr. Shaw and Cllr. Wager for completing the work. The final tasks to be completed are the painting of the exterior of the container and the installation of electrical points.

101. To discuss and consider commissioning a mural to be painted on the side of the container in the Cemetery

Cllr. Shaw suggested that a painted mural depicting scenes from the Parish could be created on the side of the container, similar to the mural at Calstock Railway Station. He advised that he had discussed the idea with Cllr. Saxby, who indicated that she would be willing to explore the possibility of engaging artists from University of Plymouth and potentially funding the project through her Locality Fund.

Cllr. Wager noted that the container is to be repainted green and commented that, as the site is a working area, it may not be suitable for public access. He also expressed concern that a mural could encourage graffiti.

Following discussion, members agreed not to approve the proposal at this stage, but that the idea should be explored further. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr. Saxby and request that she investigate the proposal and report back to the Committee with further information.

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

Bere Alston

The Clerk requested assistance from members in installing wooden posts to mark the allotment plot numbers. It was agreed that a full inspection of all allotment plots would be carried out before the next meeting.

The condition of the allotment track has again been brought to the Committee's attention. Following discussion, Cllr. Shaw proposed that a digger be hired to scrape down the centre of the track to improve its condition. Seconded by Cllr. Patterson. All in agreement.

Bere Ferrers

It was noted that it is on the Workman's job list to trim the path and the vacant allotment plots.

It was reported that a couple of allotment plots had not been cultivated or adequately maintained. The Clerk was asked to write to the tenants concerned asking them to action.

Cllr. Wager to choose the winner of the Eon Wager Allocation Cup during July.

103. Agenda items for next meeting

The usual items, plus meeting with the Bere Ferrers Villagers Group and update regarding the container relocation and the suggestion for a mural.

104. Correspondence

1. Invoice from RTC Quarries for the purchase of 803 sub base used for the movement of the container project.
Total £3457.30 including VAT.
All agreed to the payment

2. The Local Devon Highways Officer has contacted the Clerk regarding Highway's proposed solution to fix the drainage issue at the Bere Ferrers War Memorial and requested the Council's views on the proposal.
Following discussion, it was agreed that the proposal should be considered at the Special Plans & Highways Committee meeting scheduled for 16 June 2026.

105. 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 8.34 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:

Dated: 30th June 2026