# BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chamber Bere Alston on Tuesday 13th June 2017.

Present

Cllr. P. Dennis Chairman

Cllr. H. Boot-Handford Cllr. M. Page-Bailey

Cllr. S. Hanson Cllr. D. Pengelly

**In Attendance.** Cllr. B. Lamb, Cllr. E. Wager.

**1216. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Leithall and Cllr. Maycock who were both on holiday.

**1217. Items of interest at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken on**

**these matters.**

Cllr. Lamb asked what the situation with regards Horrabridge Parish Council was and the shared mower.

The Clerk informed Cllr. Lamb that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council will be meeting Horrabridge Parish Council on Monday 26th June.

**1218. Matters arising from the minutes of the 11th April and taken as read, to deal**

**with matters arising.**

Matters Arising.

Minute – Cllr. Lamb asked if the work at the Pavilion has been completed and paid for. The

Clerk has a bill for £228.96 which is for labour and fitting the Voltage Regulator, Cllr. Lamb was under the impression we were only paying for the unit. Clerk to contact Toby Russell.

Minute 1160 (1097) Cllr. Boot-Handford reported that Mr. Westlake has been getting the

information required to fill in the forms for CASC

Minute 1160(1101) Cllr. Lamb produced a photograph and is not at all happy with the work, the

Clerk understands that this work is still not completed, Clerk to speak with Mr. Lindsay..

Minute 1166 – Cllr. Dennis visited the Bere Ferrers Playing Field with a representative from the

Villagers Association who explained they wished to site the Table Tennis table in front of the barn to the left of the picnic table. They need to level the ground and Cllr. Dennis asked that the ground be graded in as the ground rises upwards. He stated he would report back to Council tonight and if committee were in agreement the Clerk would contact those concerned and give Council’s permission, so does this committee agree to this position, all present were in favour.

**1219. Financial Statements.**

The Clerk circulated the financial statements for Recreation and Cemetery by email.

1) Recreation financial statement April – March 2016-17 finalized statement, discussions took

place, Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed acceptance of this sheet, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

2) Recreation financial statement April-May 2017-18 Cllr. Hanson asked a question on one item,

Cllr. Pengelly proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr. Boot-Handford.

3) Cemetery financial statement April-March 20167-17 finalized Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed

acceptance, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

4) Cemetery financial statement April-May 2107-18 Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed acceptance,

seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

**1220**. **Report from BARP and discussions on the surfacing material for The Down Play**

**Park.**

The Easter Egg Hunt was again successful, money raised approximately £300. They are trying

to raise £10,000 and get matched funding.

Cllr. Pengelly stated that the committee were not happy with the use of rubber chips.

Cllr. Hanson gave a resume of the rubber chips as she had found more suppliers and they have

forwarded more samples also contacts who Cllr. Hanson has been in touch asking how

successful has the rubber chip been, all those contacted were very happy with this type of

surface.

Discussions continued Cllr. Pengelly brought forward BARP’s ideas where they wish to have the

area under the ship and toddler swings covered with rubber mulch and the rest of the play area

with cheap wood chip.

It was felt that this committee is not moving forward in fact we are back to square one.

It was agreed to set up a meeting with BARP and two Councillors, Cllr. Hanson volunteered and

asked Cllr. Boot-Handford if she would be the other volunteer, Cllr. Boot-Handford agreed, they

were asked by the Chairman to come back to next month’s committee meeting with firm

proposals and costing's for the surfacing.

**1221. Dog Fouling Update.**

The Clerk informed committee that Debbie Ashton has dropped in the doggie poo-bags. It was agreed that they go in the Parish Hall, the Pub, Hope Cottage but Council needs to design a display element for the bags.

**1222. Quotes for re-instating entrance at The Down Play Park.**

The Clerk informed committee that she had only received one quote. Cllr. Wager asked if we had been in touch with West Country Utilities, the Clerk has not but can send a letter tomorrow morning. It was agreed that all quotes now go to F&GP.

**1223. To look at the safeguarding Policy.**

Cllr. Boot-Handford had drafted a copy more in keeping with this Council, as committee have not had a lot of time to inspect this information, defer to till next meeting.

**1224. To review the Bere Ferrers Villagers Management Agreement.**

Defer till next month.

**1225. Report by Cllr. Hanson on Green Burials meeting and minutes of meeting, also a**

**request from the committee for Council funding for membership of the Association of**

**National Burial Grounds.**

Cllr. Hanson – The group are very keen to set up a non-municipal burial ground, the group asked Cllr. Hanson to enquire of a solicitor about setting up a trust fund. The solicitor advised Cllr. Hanson that it is not possible to raise a trust of that model. The only way is to get a piece of land bequeathed to Council or approach a farmer to see if they would run a green burial cemetery with the group.

Cllr. Hanson explained that the group would like to join the Association of Natural Burial Grounds; the fee is £100, as this is seen as a way forward.

Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed that £100 be taken from Cemetery account for the group to join the Association, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

It was agreed that the Clerk is the point of contact for the Association.

**1226. Routine safety inspection reports for the Parish Recreation and Play Parks.**

Cllr. Hanson – Sarah Park has a clean bill of health.

The Down – still 5 rotted posts and 3 crossbars missing.

New gate is sagging, Cllr. Lamb is not at all happy with the work as the gate

has numerous cracks and splits and should have been planned and rounded

bars. The Clerk understands that the work is still not finished.

Tripping hazard between old and new area, Cllr. Hanson feels this will be

alleviated once the surface is topped up.

Roundabout – still stiff to turn, Cllr. Pengelly stated that the manufacturer has

been down and greased it, after discussions it was agreed Cllr. Pengelly

contact Rhino Play about this continuing problem.

Ship climbing frame – entrapment hazard (missing top of steps near side) Cllr.

Pengelly stated that Garry from Rhino Play has measured up the last time he

was down to get this fixed.

Cllr. Munn reported on Bere Ferrers Play park-

Comments made by the BFVG members –

Grass cutting, to ask Paul Willmott to cut the Football Pitch much shorter, also to please cut the grass before half term and before the school holidays please.

Chess table- top being removed concrete slab in good condition under, suggested to Ian Lindsay to epoxy the surface giving the table a smooth surface.

One of the benches to be repaired by Ian Lindsay.

Small slide in the field getting very rusty needs some attention.

The bird hide – a suggestion by the Kents that the hide which is mainly Willow, to cut right down and allowed to grow again. This would enable the Willow to be woven in as was previously done.

Site recommended for the Table Tennis table the lower end of the field as this was considered to be less windy.

Bins emptied.

Tennis court in good condition.

Gates in working order.

Zip slide working.

The small slide belonging to Council needs attention; it is rusting from the inside out.

**1227. Monthly inspection of Allotments Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers.**

Cllr. Page-Bailer – There seems to be a problem with the tipping of manure, it is spreading out

onto the path, Allotment Association going to look into containing it.

Mr. Endean’s plot cannot be defined. Clerk has the following letter from Mr. Endean;

I have some sixteen trees on my allotment :-

3 very old apple trees (1 was lost due to infestation and has been removed, 1 was repaired as per instructions from BFPC).

2 Apple trees 2 Pear trees 1 Damson tree

1 Cherry tree 1 Medlar tree 1 Plum tree

2 Dwarf apple trees 1 Dwarf mixed apple tree 1 Dwarf pear tree

1 Espalier apple tree 1 Honeysuckle tree 1 Magnolia

1 Elder

I also have Willow, Hazel and Sycamore which grow wild and I keep cutting down after they

have flowered in order that the pollen may be taken by the many Bee colonies on the peninsula.

Is it the intention of Council to inspect and tag all of the trees or just re-inspect those inspected by

DCC and then by Council after my carrying out the work I was told to do last year.

In line with the actions DCC, I leave the wild plants to grow and only cut them when the initial

growing and seeding season is over; I did explain this to Council last year. Since the start of the

month of June I have been unable to start cutting the allotment due to a problem with my back

which has caused me to walk bent over for the first 2 or 3 hours in the morning. I have up to the

time of this letter spent £80 getting treatment for this problem.

If Council are going to complain about the delay in cutting the allotment, can I ask if they are going

to complain to DCC over the untidy state of the verges and hedges on our highways?

Cllr. Page-Bailey stated there are 2 abandoned cars in the Orchard and a boat, polite letter

requesting an explanation.

No report from Bere Alston as Cllr. Maycock is on leave.

**1228. Correspondence.**

1) Mr & Mrs Gage – there is a tree snapped of in the wind which was a memorial to Mr & Mrs

Gage. Cllr. Wager is related to the family and has informed them, they would

like to present an Oak to replace the damaged tree.

**1229. Proposals from Committee for agenda for next meeting.**

1. Safeguarding Policy.
2. Review Bere Ferrers Villagers Agreement.
3. Award the Eaon Wager Trophy.
4. The Down Play Park Surfacing.

**1230. Questions from members of the public present at the discretion of the Chairman.**

1) Cllr. Wager – Disappointed the Cemetery is in such a bad state, also the area around the Parish Hall.

The entry into the Cemetery there are pine needles down the side, headstones need strimming around. They are very untidy.

2)The pathway to the Doctors the vegetation is growing out over the path.

After discussions it was agreed to re-instate Cemetery Inspections.

Cllr. Wager has volunteered to undertake this.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed this 27th June 2017.

Chairman…………………………….