**Bere Ferrers Parish Council**

At a meeting of the Bere Ferrers Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, Bere Alston on Tuesday 25th July 2017.

Present

 Cllr. R. Leithall Chairman of Council

 Cllr. H. Boot-Handford Cllr. S. Munn

 Cllr. D.M.A. Chapman Cllr. M. Page-Bailey

 Cllr. P. Dennis Cllr. D. Pengelly

 Cllr. S. Hanson Cllr. H. Rogers

 Cllr. R. Maycock Cllr. G.R. Reed

**1308.** **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Lamb due to holiday and Cllr. Wager due to business.

**1309. Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Haw who is the winner of the Eaon Wager Trophy. Unfortunately Mr. Fine has not returned the trophy. Chairman congratulated Mr. Haw and the Vice Chairman promised to deliver the cup to him.

Cllr Mark Page-Bailey and I attended the Southern Links Meeting held In Tavistock. I am pleased to report that there will be a TAP Funding budget available to bid for similar to last year. A full report will be given later in this meeting.

At the end of last month we had a meeting with the Devon County Council solicitor about the public liability indemnity Devon County wants Parish Councils to give, in the event activities conducted under the Road warden scheme are undertaken in non-compliance with the new Agreement issued by County. It was agreed that both our Parish Council and Devon County would consult again with our respective insurers to determine whether this particular risk can be insured.

This is the last Full Council before the August break and the normal routine of meetings will resume in September.

**1310.** **Items of interest at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken on these items.**

1) Cllr. Chapman – reported FP59 blocked due to a locked gate.-Workman to investigate.

2) Cllr. Pengelly – reported that Rhino had been down to look at the roundabout, Cllr. Pengelly had

 photographs showing drainage holes drilled in the concrete. Rhino will be contacting the

 manufacturer as they are at a loss that this piece of equipment is still not working

 properly.

3) Cllr. Dennis – reported that he had attended Juli Slaughters memorial service along with Cllr. Boot-

Handford, Cllr. Chapman and the Clerk. The Clerk reminded all present that there is a card going around wishing Mr. Slaughter all the best for the future.

**1311.** **To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 27th June as a true record**

 **and taken as read.**

 Cllr. Dennis proposed approval of the minutes seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

 **SO RESOLVED**

**1312.** **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Plans meeting held on 4th July as a true**

 **record and taken as read.**

Cllr. Page-Bailey proposed approval of the Plans minutes, seconded by Cllr. Munn.

Cllr. Page-Bailey proposed adoption of the plans minutes, seconded by Cllr. Munn.

**SO RESOLVED**

**1313.** **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 11th July and taken as**

 **read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Dennis proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Hanson.

Matters Arising.

Minute 1282 – Cllr. Reed brought up the question about Management of the Pentillie Estate as the

contract is about to run out. The committee was not keen to take this on. Refer back to Open Spaces.

Minute 1283 – Cllr. Boot-Handford asked what Council intended to do about the BAUFC cutting a

 second training pitch in the Recreation Field.

 Cllr. Dennis – the football club to be informed that they must ask permission to do anything

 in the Recreation Field.

Cllr. Dennis proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Page-Bailey.

 **SO RESOLVED**

**1314.** **To make a decision on the play park safety surface on The Down play area.**

Cllr. Hanson read the following proposals:-

**The Down Play Park Re-surfacing Specification (Rev 2)**

This Play Park is located at The Down, Bere Alston, Yelverton, Devon PL20 7HQ.

Refer to the attached layout sketch. The project should comply with BS EN 1177 requirements.

**Part 1 – “New Area”** (see attached sketch):

This area is bounded by existing edging boards. Dimensions given are approximate and should be verified by the Contractor. This area is to be fitted with resin-bound rubber mulch, after completion of the groundworks described below, which are an integral part of this specification. The existing play equipment will remain in place, and the Contractor is to ensure that it is not damaged during the works. The Contractor is to provide a quotation for:

1. Removal of existing wood chip (believed to be approximately 80 mm deep) to a separate area of the Recreation Field as directed by Council.
2. Inspection of the existing edging boards for suitability and undertaking repair/replacement where necessary. New edging board to be fitted at the boundary with the “old area”.
3. Grading the ground such as to provide a continuous fall to the finished surface for adequate rainwater drainage.
4. Laying not less than 100 mm thickness MOT Type 1 stone and tamping flat.
5. Laying and fixing a geotextile membrane (80 gm/m2 minimum).
6. Installing the rubber mulch (colour to be selected from Contractor’s standard range by Council) to a thickness of not less than 50 mm. Finished level to minimise tripping hazards at edging boards.

**Part 2 – “Old Area”** (see attached sketch):

This area is to have a layer of rubber chippings. The Vendor is to provide a quotation on the basis of supply and delivery only to the recreation ground car park. Positioning of bags and spreading of chippings will be by Council workforce as described below.

**Rubber chippings Vendor:**

1. Chippings are to be uncoloured and may be recycled (e.g. vehicle tyres) or non-recycled. If recycled tyres are used, chippings MUST be free of fabric and steel reinforcement. “Chippings to contain less than 2% by weight dust/fines (of particles less than 2mm)”
2. Total chippings required 13 tonnes, supplied in bulk bags (e.g. 0.5 or 1.0 tonnes). Vendor to confirm that the net (settled) density is approximately 0.4 tonnes/m3, equivalent to a raked thickness of 80 mm. Vendor to confirm that this thickness, when added to the existing 150 mm thickness of wood chips, will meet the critical fall height requirements of BS EN 1177.
3. If Vendor cannot supply uncoloured chippings, any colour dye MUST be polyurethane (PU) coated and baked, such as to be non-toxic, waterproof and colour run-resistant. Water-based dyes are NOT acceptable.
4. Potential vendors should be requested to provide an experience list of similar installations.

**Council workforce:**

1. Rake existing wood chips level.
2. Distribute bags evenly around “old area” using a rented tele-hoist to move bags from car park.
3. Split bags open and spread chippings to a thickness of 80 mm throughout.
4. Rubber matting (e.g. under swings) to be refitted and re-fixed on top of the new rubber chippings.

**Bid List (suggested)**

* 1. Rubber Mulch

TK Play 01805-625235 Terry Warrington

SaferSurfacing.co.uk 01513-571391 Ian Dixon

softsurfaces.co.uk 01625-445760

* 1. Rubber Chips (the following have already submitted acceptable samples)

Playbark.com 01538-751514

SaferSurfacing.co.uk 01513-571391 Ian Dixon

EcoChippings.co.uk 01977-529570 Colin Lawrence

Discussions took place.

Cllr. Dennis thanked Cllr. Hanson for all the hard work in doing the research.

Cllr. Hanson stated she had tried to set fire to the rubber mulch without much success. Wood chip is probably more combustible than this new surface.

Further discussions took place, the question arose about the 13 tonnes of rubber chip to be moved, is the extra on top of the quotes. Cllr. Hanson felt this is not going to compromise our budget as it was hoped to get volunteers to help spread it. It was suggested that the Clerk gets hold of Ray Piper as he did say he would help move the bags with his hi-abb.

BARP have agreed to meet the shortfall but wished the money spent on the rubber mulch.

Cllr. Hanson proposed that the area around the boat and swing in the new area be laid with rubber mulch and remaining areas of the play park be rubber chipped, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

A vote was taken 11 for the proposal with 1 abstention. Motion carried. Clerk to seek quotations.

Cllr. Leithall once again thanked Cllr. Hanson for all her work.

**1315.** **To approve and adopt the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on the 18th**

 **July and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Munn proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

Matters Arising

Minute 1299 – Cllr, Maycock stated that Linda Goddard should read Mandy Goddard.

The Clerk sought permission to pay the following accounts:-

1) Post Office Ltd. – BT Broadband and Telephone AC. £223.32

2) Sparling Recycling Ltd. – Empty Skip. £276.00

3) Post Office Ltd. –EDF Electric Ac Pavilion/Toilets BA. BF/Office. £200.32

4) Jewsons Ltd. - Fixing items for new bins. £38.18

5) South West Highways Ltd. –Supply Road warden equipment. £1,325.06

Cllr. Dennis proposed payment, seconded by Cllr. Munn.

Cllr. Maycock stated that the final Neighbourhood Plan should be finalised by October.

Cllr. Dennis proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Munn.

 **SO RESOLVED**

**1316.** **Internal Audit to be carried out by Cllr. Leithall and Cllr. Maycock.**

Cllr. Maycock reported that 2 individual items were selected on income and expenditure and followed right the way through. All were in accordance with regulations.

**1317.** **Report by Cllr. Reed on Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Group.**

Cllr. Reed stated this was a very full day, as it was Election Day but I eventually got to the meeting. This being my first time I found it difficult to understand, I did ask for a remembrance to Cllr. Benson as this was the first meeting after his death. I will not be able to attend the next meeting in February 2018 as I will be away, a councillor asked if someone else could attend, Cllr. Reed said he would find out.

**1318.** **Report from Cllr. Leithall on Southern Links Meeting.**

Broadband update by Matt Barrow, CDS (Connecting Devon & Somerset) Stakeholder Engagement Officer. CDS has been set up to deliver next generation broadband infrastructure to areas where the market has failed to invest.

Superfast broadband is an arbitrary definition set at 330 Mbit/sec for fibre optic to premises. Broadband supplied by optic cable is only economic to run to large towns and to communities that lie close to the cable route that run between large towns.

Technical solutions to provide broadband to premises include:-

* Fibre optic to (green) roadside cabinet, and then up to 1.2km copper wire to consumer premises
* Fibre optic to premises

The target for Broadband was planned to be phased as follows:-

* 90% of premises with access to broadband
* 95% of premises with access to broadband
* 100% of premises with access to broadband

Due to the initial scale of the project, only BT was used who won the main infrastructure contract, but it became clear that another solution was required for isolated communities.

Phase 2 Broadband

Stay in BT Framework (because, otherwise go out to full European tendering process). Divide Devon & Cornwall into 6 lots

* Lot 4 is this area (West Devon, and including Torridge & North Devon, some of mid Devon (but excluding Dartmoor)
* Technical solution provided by the company Airband which uses line of sight fixed wireless to achieve at least 30Mbit/sec data rate.

Some parishes have a bit of BT optic cable coverage and the remainder will have Airband. The Airband contract details should be finalised by end of July this year. People can go to our website to discover broadband area coverage (https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/).

Broadband Voucher Scheme

Voucher to the value of £500 can be used to purchase broadband access infrastructure involving:-

* Satellite
* Fixed wireless
* Fibre optic solution (although very difficult in practice)

However, the existing scheme closes soon, and only invoices submitted before end of September will be paid. Although thought very unlikely, the Voucher scheme might be extended.

DCC update by Simon Kitchen

TAP fund to April this year passed audit okay.

Some areas have been unable to spend and/or administer TAP funds. It has been reiterated that the TAP fund should not be used to simply replace services not now funded by Devon CC.

There has been no change to TAP funding guidelines this year, but we should expect changes next year. For instance, there is a drive to improve innovation and collaboration and wider community development. There is the opportunity to re-think about how TAP funding is granted.

There is a general view from the meeting, that there needs to be improved liaison between County grass cutters and Parish Councils.

WDBC Update by Mozza Brewer

Joint Local Plan:-

* 1,000 representations
* 2,400 comments
* Target to submit Plan for approval by end of July

Planning Enforcement requests are coming in quicker than they can be dealt with, so a 4th Enforcement now being recruited to help.

The West Devon Annual Report for 2016/2017 is now available on their website

WDBC Garden Waste Collection Service

Due to its size and close proximity of dwellings, Exeter can collect garden waste cheaper than West Devon.

Garden waste solutions benefited from a DEFRA grant that is now gone. Also, West Devon got a good deal two years ago when waste service providers were competing for business. However Councils are now in a weaker position whilst waste service provider costs have gone up, due for instance to the introduction of the National Living Wage.

For all these reasons the cost of waste services has gone up, so there is a budget gap. This week (13th July) is the last week of free garden waste collections.

For those who want to join the new scheme, it costs £40/year. The old white sacks will be replaced with new green ones that may be filled up to a maximum of 25kg/bag. It is estimated that 45% out of a total of 9,000 households will join the new scheme.

Combined Council with South Hams

Speculatively, this might justify a 25% reduction in the number of councillors, and this would save up to £4,000 in allowances per councillor lost.

To harmonise Council Tax, might require a £63/annum increase for residents in South Hams.

The Moor Otter Sculptures

Look out for any of around 100-off The Moor Otter sculptures situated along a trail around Dartmoor, painted in various styles by artists. It is planned to hold a live auction to sell these sculptures later this year to raise money for the National Park.

TAP funding Request

No requests were allowed to be brought forward to this meeting.

The meeting agreed that funding for these Southern Links meetings should be increased from £750 to £800 per year, to be taken from TAP funds.

All monies in the 2016 Tap fund were used up in this financial year. New TAP funding for this next financial year is £27,670 which is similar to last year’s allocation.

**1319.** **Report from Cllr. Musgrave on West Devon Borough Council.**

The main issue occupying the council at the present time is the proposed merger.  We are likely to support the proposal this afternoon but the outcome of the same proposal being put to South Hams Council on Thursday is more uncertain.  Sufficient to say there appears to be little alternative as we have to have a balanced budget and central government funding is being withdrawn within 2 years.

The charging for collecting garden waste continues to provoke criticisms but the suggestions of sharing and neighbour support is encouraging.  It is also significant that the take-up so far for the charged service is as was predicted.

**1320.** **Correspondence.**

1) B.A. Royal British Legion – Thanking Council for the donation towards the cost of commemorating the

Centenary anniversary. We look forward to welcoming any members of Council who wish to attend this ceremony.

2) West Devon Borough Council – New Garden Waste Service.

When West Devon Borough Council first introduced garden waste collections, the Council chose to provide the service free to residents, rather than charge. Now, due to financial cuts, the Council is no longer able to provide the service free of charge and is introducing a new subscribed service as it seeks to bridge a budget gap of £1.1 million by 2020.

**Leader of West Devon Borough Council, Cllr Philip Sanders, explains:** “We simply cannot afford to collect garden waste free of charge anymore. Collecting garden waste is discretionary, which means that the Council is not legally obliged to provide the service. However, we do recognise that many households value it and that is why we are introducing new ‘opt in’ garden waste collections instead of removing the service completely.”

“Residents can reasonably say that we can manage on less money, we have up to now, but we’ve had to start chipping away at some of the edges. This really illustrates the sort of level that we’ve got to with our budget gap, it is now so tight that we have to review things like this.”

West Devon Borough Council has a duty to collect general waste and recycling, and receives an income from recycled materials which it collects from residents. For example, glass, cans and plastic have a resale value and the Council receives recycling credits from the County Council for every tonne of recycled material.

Garden waste collections are different, since there is no requirement to collect it; the Council is responsible for the entire cost of the service and does not receive an income from collecting garden waste.

**Cllr Robert Sampson, Lead Member for Commercial Services added:** “This is not something we want to do, and it’s clearly not something our residents favour. However, we have reached a critical point where we have to make these difficult decisions.

“The new charge would balance the books and offset the cost of providing the service. By recovering the cost of collection we can keep offering the service to householders across the Borough for those residents who wish to use it.”

Once collected, garden waste is passed to Devon County Council and the waste is processed into compost at a cost. Due to legislation, the compost can only be use on the farm site where it is produced.

The compost cannot contain any other materials such as tape, polystyrene, cardboard or staples, which is why the Council has removed cardboard from the new garden waste collections.  Cardboard can still be placed in recycling containers or taken to the recycling centre.

In the new service, sacks will be green and tagged with a brightly coloured permit so that they are easily identified by crews. They will also be slightly weighted to help prevent them blowing around in windy weather. In addition, the crews will soon have the benefit of new technology in the collection vehicles which show which properties have subscribed to the service.

If there is problem, for example, a vehicle breakdown, the crew can report this instantly via the technology in the collection vehicles, which then shows the customer service team who can keep customers informed. In the longer term, the Council aims to communicate with customers through the Council’s website.

The new service begins week commencing Monday 31 July 2017.

For more details of the new garden waste subscription service, the garden waste team will be on the road visiting the following areas:

* Chagford Main Car Park - Tuesday 25 July 2017
* National Parks Visitor Centre, Princetown - Saturday 29 July 2017
* Okehampton Co-op - Thursday 3 August 2017
* Okehampton Show - Thursday 10 August 2017
* Harrowbeer Air Show - Saturday 12 August 2017
* Chagford Show - Thursday 17 August 2017

Residents who wish to sign up for the new scheme can do so at [http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cDovL3d3dy53ZXN0ZGV2b24uZ292LnVrL2dhcmRlbndhc3Rl&r=9931664309&d=4173950&p=1&t=h&h=5ac9d0d57e9f46e4072efc314775eb69). The subscription service costs £40 per year and provides four sacks and four permits per subscription.

If residents need assistance with the online form or would like to pay by phone, please ring 01822 813671

3) Devon County Council – Crowndale Recycling Centre.

Cllr Croad has forwarded me your email and asked me to respond. Please also note that Cllr Davies has taken over from Cllr Croad as DCC Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Development and Waste.

It is recognised that the Recycling Centre at Crowndale does suffer from queuing during busy periods and whilst the site is temporarily closed to compact waste and exchange containers.  Due to the old design of the site, the public have to be excluded from the site during these operations for safety. Waste has to be moved from site regularly or the site runs out of capacity and would not be able to accept further waste.

The issue of queuing on the Highway is not a simple one to fix and many ideas to reduce it have been considered over the years.

Unfortunately it is not possible for site staff to direct vehicles on the Highway as you suggest.

Over the past few years we have tried to mitigate the queuing problem as much as possible by:-

* Installing warning signage on the Highway;
* Installing a safe, fenced, queuing lane on the site that accommodates around 10 vehicles off the Highway;
* Encouraging the site contractor to load as much as possible before the site opens to the public at 9am.

However, due to the nature of the site, the facility will always suffer from some delays and queuing when some waste containers are exchanged and waste moved from site. The only realistic way to deal with this issue is to provide a new, modern facility where the public areas are segregated from the plant/container areas which allows the containers to be exchanged whilst the facility is still open to the public.  We have upgraded facilities in Sidmouth and Ivybridge over the last few years that also suffered from similar queuing/capacity issues.  DCC will be reviewing its strategy with regards the upgrading/modernising of Recycling Centre facilities later this year and the Tavistock site will be considered as part of that review. However, funds are not available at the current time for such a scheme.

With regards to West Devon charging for green waste collections, similar schemes have been implemented by other District Councils in Devon and Recycling Centres in these areas have not been inundated with additional green waste.  Most residents accept that paying less than £1 per week for garden waste collections is still more cost effective than the cost of transporting waste to the Recycling Centre themselves. As such, we are not anticipating significant issues with this.

4) DALC – News from County Association information only.

5) PCSO Greenwood-Crime report. Saturday 1st July.

1 x ABH (Neighbourhood Issue)

2 x Criminal Damage (Neighbourhood Issues)

2 x Common Assault (Domestic Related)

1 x Burglary to the Youth Hut (wasn’t a local person)

1 x Sending of a Malicious Communication (work related)

Not too bad a report, obviously the ‘yucky’ weather has been keeping a fair few people inside, re the Anti- Social driving, revving of engines and general ASB around the area this has been addressed by myself and the Youth Leader and her volunteers by WOA.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members and members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 8.56pm.

Signed this 26th Day of September 2017.

Chairman………………………………..