Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes committee held in the Council Chamber Bere Alston on Tuesday 24th October 2017.

 Present

 Cllr. H. Boot-Handford Chairman

 Cllr. R. Leithall Chairman of Council

 Cllr. P. Dennis Cllr. M. Page Bailey

Cllr. B. Lamb

**In Attendance.** Cllr. D. Pengelly, Cllr. E.K. Wager.

**1410. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Maycock due to illness.

**1411. Notice of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No decisions can**

 **be made on these items.**

1) Cllr. Page-Bailey – forwarded the three policy documents to the Clerk who has as yet not been

 able to get round to reading them. Cllr. Lamb stated that West Devon are

 arranging a meeting to discuss Code of Conduct, can we defer this item until

 after this meeting.

2) Cllr. Lamb - with reference to the bench at the top of Station Hill Bere Ferrers, it is unusable

 because of the erosion of the verge it is now much too close to the road. Cllr. Lamb

 thinks it belongs to this Parish Council. Clerk to check on the inventory if it is ours.

3) Cllr. Wager – I would like to see a letter sent to the Youth Hut asking them to get the youngsters

 to pick up their rubbish especially now there is a bin so close.

 Cllr. Dennis agrees with Cllr. Wager.

 On Saturday’s Cllr. Dennis brushes the area and the Reverend Law also brushes

 up the area outside the Youth Hut.

4) Cllr. Dennis – It was Beregen AGM yesterday, we had one interested parishioner, she is a new

 lady in the village.

5a) The Clerk – was on her way to Horrabridge via Denham Bridge today when she found a car

 reversing up from Denham Bridge, he stated that they were clearing drains with no

 signs up and they had closed the road.

b) The Clerk – with regards the road works at the top of Edgecumbe Terrace, there was a

 problem with the diversion, in the end they packed up and left the site. They will

 re-schedule for another date.

**1412. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September and taken as read, to deal with**

 **matters arising.**

 Matters Arising.

 Minute 1350– again a big thank you to Cllr. Page-Bailey for the finished letter heading.

 Minute 1354 – Cllr. Lamb contacted the Clerk of Tavistock Town Council and asked permission

 to allow of the Clerk, assistant clerk and the Chairman of F&GP to visit the Town

 Council Offices to see how the RBS Rialtas Finance system works.

Minute 1356 – Cllr. Lamb felt that as the cost of the Rubber Mulch in the play park has increased

 and we do not have the money for this we could consider going for a TAP grant.

 The Clerk explained that since the information from Soft Surfaces regarding the

 measurements being wrong and the difficulty getting the stone base for the mulch in

 without damaging the area. The company has emailed back to say they have solved

 the problem with the stone, they will remove a panel of wire between the car park

 and the play park and use motorised wheel barrows. As far as the size is concerned

 there will be no increase in the cost. Discussions took place and it was agreed that

 as long as the all in cost for the work was the same this was an attractive offer. Clerk

 to write accepting the offer.

**1413. Accounts for payment.**

Cllr. Dennis asked the Clerk to alter the email heading for the accounts to read F&GP A/C for payment October 2017.

The Clerk had circulated the accounts sheet to all members of committee by email.

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

**1414. Financial Statements.**

The Clerk had circulated the financial statements to all members of committee by email.

Cllr. Page-Bailey asked about Water Harvesting for the public toilets. It was agreed a feasibility study be undertaken as the Clerk explained that the gent’s urinal flush and the Wallgates are connected through the mains. This to be ongoing research and with possible consideration of facts if viable, then a TAP application to be considered.

Cllr. Dennis proposed acceptance of the F&GP and Toilet finance sheets, seconded by Cllr. Boot-Handford.

**1415. To accept reconciled bank statement.**

Cllr. Boot-Handford stated this was a recommendation by our Auditor. The Clerk circulated the reconciled bank statement to all members of Committee. Cllr. Boot-Handford proposed acceptance of the statement, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

**1416. Salary Review.**

 The Clerk left the room.

Cllr. Boot-Handford stated that as we have no information from NALC on salaries, we should change the date of our review to December when we should have more information.

**1417. Property inspection.**

Cllr. Dennis and Cllr. Boot-Handford carried out the inspections.

Cllr. Dennis Parish Hall all clean and tidy, fire extinguishers serviced recently.

Outside of Parish Hall pathway leading from Child Care Centre is in need of tidying up and the air vents and drains cleared of rubbish. Area outside of main hall door needs moss etc. clearing away.

Bere Alston Toilets clean and tidy, damp and wet caused by the time of year. Cllr. Boot-Handford reported green algae on walls and ceiling in ladies. Also condensation is all over walls and ceiling.

Cllr. Dennis & Cllr. Boot-Handford inspected Heart of the Village garden, Cllr. Boot-Handford reported a blue tarpaulin stuck in the far area, could seats and tables be pressure washed.

There is a blue sign by the wall at Anvil House pointing across the road but lettering faded. Clerk to ascertain what it read. Tree grids the tree by the War Memorial has some grids missing which Cllr. Dennis feels is a trip hazard. Investigate cost of replacing.

Cllr. Boot-Handford – the wooden animals in the park area should be repaired or removed, can graffiti be removed from basketball post.

**1418. To nominate a Councillor to take the vacant place on F&GP.**

Cllr. Boot-Handford called for nominations; Cllr. Dennis proposed Cllr. Wager, seconded by Cllr. Lamb, all present agreed Cllr. Wager to join F&GP.

**1419. Defibrillator monthly report and 3 monthly inspection report.**

The Clerk had received Cllr. Hanson’s report all satisfactory. The Clerk has also received Dotty King’s report on the 3 monthly inspection, all is satisfactory. No report from Bere Ferrers.

**1420. Update on the Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr. Lamb – recalls this Council appealing against some information put in the Joint Local Plan regards our Local Plan. The Clerk has booked two places at the JLP January hearing.

Cllr. Lamb, Granville Starkey and Mike Palmer to consider an invitation to meet with Phil Baker and Tom Jones or others to progress our appeal at the Joint Local Plan hearing.

Clerk to be authorised to send any letters as maybe required.

**1421. Correspondence.**

1) Devon County Council – with Halloween fast approaching we’ve put together some information

 and advice to help you reduce waste, have fun and stay safe.

2) WDBC – News Release.

**Hallowe’en Pumpkins in Horror Story**

Where does your Halloween pumpkin go after it’s carved, disembowelled and displayed?  Did you know that with your help it could end up generating electricity and enriching the soil? Now here's a scary fact: It’s estimated that 18,000 tonnes of food waste is sent to landfill each year in the UK, the same weight as 1,500 double decker buses.

 So when the witching hour has passed, compost your used pumpkin at home, or place it in your food waste caddy along with any other food left-overs and we’ll ensure it meets a fitting end.

**West Devon Borough Councillor Robert Sampson, Lead Member for Commercial Services, said:** “This Halloween you can really help us make the most of your left-over pumpkins.  Our food waste is composted in special facilities so it can be used to generate electricity and be used as a soil conditioner on local farmland.

 “You can recycle your pumpkin by cutting them up and putting them in the food waste bin.

 “In West Devon, almost 23% of food waste gets thrown away into domestic dustbins, so by composting at home or putting your pumpkins in the food waste bins, you can really help the environment and improve food recycling rates.” Why not make some lovely pumpkin pie or soup with your leftovers?  Find lots of great recipes at [https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/pumpkin](http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYmJjZ29vZGZvb2QuY29tL3JlY2lwZXMvY29sbGVjdGlvbi9wdW1wa2lu&r=10569525842&d=4911756&p=1&t=h&h=604d375b72a5dd3e1341af72ed51fef7)

3) WDBC – News Release

**One Council Consultation Closed – Thank You**
South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council would like to say a big thank you to everyone who completed the One Council consultation survey, engaged with councillors at recent events and took the time to read the material they published.

**Cllr Philip Sanders, Leader of West Devon Borough Council said**: “This is probably the biggest and most important decision we will ever make.  I can assure you that none of us is taking it lightly.  The way local services are delivered is changing across the country.  It has to, because councils just do not have the money to continue doing what they have always done.

“Thank you for telling us what you think about this proposal, now it is our turn to decide if this is the right way forward for South Hams and West Devon.”

**Cllr John Tucker, Leader of South Hams District Council Said**: “During the consultation someone said to me, ‘aren’t you asking members to vote themselves out of a job?'  Yes we are.  If this proposal goes through, there will most likely be a reduction in the number of councillors, so we are asking councillors to vote to reduce their own numbers.  But that just demonstrates to me, the severity of the decision members are facing:  Create one new council with West Devon, cut your numbers and raise council tax or dramatically cut public services.  It is not going to be an easy decision, but I know I want to put the public services first. ” The consultation results will now be collated and presented to councillors.  They will discuss the findings at their next Overview and Scrutiny meetings and then both councils are holding a special full council meeting on 31 October.  It will be at this meeting on 31 October that councillors will make their decision on whether to submit a proposal to create one new council to the Secretary of State.

4) DCC Bill Horner County Archaeologist - with regards the damaged mile stone near Quarry

 Corner.

 Just to keep you posted:

John Doswell will be collecting the loose pieces and taking them to store today, pending repairs.

I will be talking to our Highway Structures team about getting the repairs done.

I will also make sure that the stones here go on to our Highway Asset Register.

I think that the stones probably merit Listing as Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest, which would give them more protection and DCC, more recourse in future. I will discuss this with the Milestone Society and my Highway colleagues.

5) WDBC – Honey Foskett Converting Dog Control Orders (DCO’s) to Public Space Protection

 Orders.

With effect from 20th October 2014 Councils have not been able to make new Dog Control Orders and any existing ones in your area will only remain in force for 3 years from date of their inauguration.  In West Devon we have had Dog Control Orders in place under the Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties etc.) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059) since 1 October 2014 as follows:

·         Penalties for fouling of land by dogs on land open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with the exception of Forestry Commission land.

·         Excluding dogs from all land within the Council’s administrative area comprising:

o        Any fenced, hedged or walled children’s play area

o        Any fenced, hedged or walled bowling green

o        Any fenced, hedged or walled tennis court

o        Any fenced, hedged or walled skateboard or BMX park

o        Any fenced, hedged or walled putting green

o        any sporting or recreational facility pitch when sport is in play

·         Requirement to keep dogs on leads on all land which is within the Council’s administrative area (not including areas from which dogs are excluded) and which are:

o        Areas with retail premises designated as zone 1 under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 – i.e. where there are 2 or more commercial/ shop premises

o        Car parks

o        Cemeteries and Churchyards

o        Any fenced, hedged or walled pond, area of water or nature reserve

o        Marked sports fields whilst organised sport is in progress

o        Formal gardens listed as:

Letherans Lane, North Tawton

Coronation Hall Grounds, Mary Tavy

Taylors Green, Mary Tavy

Women’s Institute Garden, Mary Tavy

Recreation Ground, Mary Tavy

Village Green, Blackdown

Courtlands Play Area, Tavistock

Whitchurch Play Area, Tavistock

St Eustachius Churchyard, Plymouth Road, Tavistock

Meadows, Tavistock

Abbey Walk, Tavistock

Benson Meadow, Pixon Lane, Tavistock

St Johns Avenue, Tavistock

·    Dogs on leads by direction of an authorised officer of the Local Authority to put and keep the dog on a lead on land open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with the exception of Forestry Commission land.

We are now looking to convert the existing Dog Control Orders as they stand to Public Space Protection Orders.  This process requires us to advertise the fact that the conversion is taking place and we propose to do this on our website and by posting notices where there are already existing Dog Control signage across the district.

If you would like to comment about the way Dog Control Orders have operated within your Parish, we would be pleased to receive your views by 1 December 2017 so that we can review before implementing the new Orders.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

6) Granville Starkey – reported that his wife slipped over on one of the drain covers on the walk

 way from Pilgrim Drive to Fore Street, our workman checked if there was

 any slime or algae on them but could find nothing. Clerk to investigate who

 they belong to.

**1422. Agenda Items for next meeting.**

1. Fire Check Report.

2. General Financial Risks.

3. Internal Control Statement.

There being no further business the chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.09pm.

Signed this 31st day of October 2017.

Chairman………………...