

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chamber Bere Alston on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Present:

Cllr. E.K. Wager	Chairman of Committee
Cllr. B. Lamb	Chairman of the Council
Cllr. P Crozier	Cllr. Pengelly
Cllr. M. Flicker	Cllr. A. Spry
Cllr. R. Leithall	

**471. To meet Mr. & Mrs. Archer to discuss any ideas they wish to bring forward for the Mosaic garden and Bere Alston in Bloom.**

Firstly Mrs. Archer asked if Council would like them to carry on with the area. Cllr. Lamb confirmed Council would be happy for them to carry on looking after this area.

Mrs. Archer was concerned as she had heard that there was a suggestion to dig out the raised garden at the entrance to the Mosaic Garden. Discussions took place. It was agreed that Mr. & Mrs. Archer were solely in charge of the Mosaic Garden. Cllr. Lamb agreed we are very lucky to have two people working for us. Mrs. Archer stated a lot of parishioners were impressed with their work.

Mrs. Archer stated that the wood surround on the central raised garden was rotting and should be replaced.

Cllr. Spry – the steering group in their last meeting were prepared to pay for a new wood surround. Cllr. Lamb proposed that Mr. and Mrs. Archer would be completely responsible for the design and running of the Mosaic Garden, seconded by Cllr. Wager.

Mr. Archer wondered if we could put a notice board in the area of photos of how it was before the cottages went.

**472. To meet with an Allotment holder regards access to and from his plot. Also the getting rid of the bushes etc. having to be removed from the Recreation Field hedge due to health and safety.**

a) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Ascot with regards to the state of the track into the Allotments, as he got stuck in his 4 x 4. Mr. Ascot sent a second email stating the situation had become significantly worse.

Discussions took place. Cllr. Crozier felt that Council cannot be responsible for vehicles using the track in such inclement weather.

Cllr. Wager – we are seriously looking to extend the allotments down the left hand side, it is not Council's policy to extend the road. There is a skip in the dog exercise field which has *shillet* in it which could be used, but Council does not have a tipping license. The allotment holders should be encouraged not to use their vehicles.

b) Cllr. Wager has looked into hiring a chipper at a cost of £253 for a week, as there is still at least another 20 trailer loads at the Recreation Field. Mr. Belfield gave a resume of what happened and thanked Council for reacting so promptly. Cllr. Lamb would prefer to look at this suggestion and leave the wood dry out until such time as we can again set fire to it. Cllr. Wager pointed out that the grass will grow up though and the birds will nest in it.

Cllr. Leithall proposed that Council hire a chipper and the Workman clears the area at the Recreation Field and dumps the chippings in the allotment field, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

c) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Westlake complaining about the state of the football pitch. Members of the BAU Football Team arrived and started to complain about the dog fouling and the 2 gates in the fence being left swinging in the wind.

The representative felt that it has got to the stage where the issue is somewhat disrespectful, our pitch is the best in Devon and this reflects well on the village. This situation concerns a small element of people that go up and open the gates and use the pitch to exercise their dogs. In most areas like Plymouth, Bristol etc., dogs are not allowed on the pitches. Mr. Westlake felt there is a real issue with dog walkers out of control; they do not appear to be picking up after their dogs, or keeping them under control.

Discussions took place regards dog fouling; Cllr. Leithall felt that all people in this room agrees it is totally unacceptable for dogs to foul in the field. Cllr. Crozier had correspondence with West Devon and South Hams Dog Warden and he will be meeting with her on Thursday. The Dog Warden is happy to take this on, she has proper power to issue fixed penalty of £80, as it is an offence to leave faeces in any public place. Cllr. Flicker proposed that the pitch be fenced with wire mesh to keep the dogs off the pitch, seconded by Cllr. Lamb. A vote was taken 5 for, 2 absented. Mr. Westlake asked if the gates could be padlocked, this was agreed.

Cllr. Lamb stated that notices should be put up to explain why we have banned dogs from the pitch.

**473. Matters Arising from the minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> February.****Matters Arising**

**Minute 416.** Cllr. Lamb had not been able to investigate why the plot at Bere Ferrers Allotment is inactive. Cllr. Lamb to follow up.

**Minutes 417.** Cllr. Lamb and Cllr. Flicker visited the area and they were happy with the avenue of apple trees around the BMX track.

**474. Report from BARP.**

The group has had a meeting and when Cllr. Pengelly obtains the minutes, he will let us know what is happening.

**475. Update on road infrastructure Cemetery.**

Cllr. Lamb - we are awaiting the 1<sup>st</sup> April for a major grant. It will be necessary to tighten up the specification, could I have two volunteers to assist. Cllr. Wager and Cllr. Leithall agreed.

**476. Financial Statements**

The Clerk presented the financial statements. Cllr. Spry proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr. Pengelly.

**477. To review the Allotment agreement**

After discussions Cllr. Lamb proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

**478. Routine Safety inspection reports for the Parish Recreation and play areas.****The Down**

The play area and equipment found to be in good serviceable order.

Observations: The surface covered with rubber chips was dry and well drained despite the continuous very wet weather, apart from one area where the underlying bark chips have turned into a wet compost mulch.

**Sarah Park**

Play area and equipment found to be in good serviceable order, except that:

- There is broken glass on the road immediately in front of the playpark entrance gate.
- One of the seats on the larger swings has slight damage to the seat. The seats comprise of a pressed steel plate over moulded with a rubber encapsulate. One of the seats has more severe damage to the rubber than the others and a steel corner of the underlying steel plate is slightly exposed, however I do not think this is a significant safety hazard, but something to monitor in case it gets worse?
- In at least one position, the woven polyurethane underlay sheet beneath the rubber chippings has been exposed, rucked and pulled to poke out of the play surface. This is not a safety hazard, but is something that needs tidying and concealing by re-burying to prevent inquisitive children (or adults) tugging at it to cause more serious damage.

Observations: The surface covered with rubber chips was dry and well drained, despite the continuous very wet weather, which is proof of the effective work put in by volunteers and investment made by the Council to install drainage and re-surface this play park with rubber chipping.

**Bere Ferrers**

Cllr. Flicker – no movement on the wood chip under the zip slide until the better weather comes in.

**479. Monthly inspection of Allotment Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers.**

Cllr. Wager – Bere Ferrers end allotment plot still not worked.

Bere Alston – There seems to be very little work on the three allotments on the left as you enter the gate. These all belong to one person and only small areas have been worked.

The one on the right hand side has had no work done on it at all since taking over.

**480. Correspondence.**

1) BAUFC – Cars turning into the cul-de-sac on The Down mistaking it for the entrance to the Football Pitch.

Mr. Westlake- if the sign board is on the entrance, then they won't see it before the turning into the cul-de-sac, maybe a different location for the sign might need discussing. We've not played a home game since the beginning of January and 9 cars seems a little excessive for our away teams, as they usually all travel in 3/4 vehicles, so it's a possibility they were the youth team, as all the parents normally go to the games, so you might want to email them as well.

Cllr. Wager brought a request forward from our Workman, can we please ban the use of glass bottles at the Cemetery, as he hit one with the strimmer and it smashed into several pieces.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed this 24th March 2020.

Chairman.....