

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a virtual meeting of the Bere Ferrers Parish Council held on the 12th May 2020 by Zoom.

The following were in attendance by virtual locations;

Cllr. B. Lamb	Chairman of Council
Cllr. P. Crozier	Cllr. D. Pengelly
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. G.R. Reed
Cllr. M. Flicker	

492. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Peace and Cllr. Wager who were not able to join the meeting as they do not have equipment. Cllr. Spry who is in hospital, Cllr. Maycock, Cllr. Leithall and Cllr. Rogers due to technical problems.

493. Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 28th April.

Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

Matters arising.

Minute 485. Cllr. Lamb, Cllr. Dennis was asked to cost the price of the CCTV system. This to be added to these minutes as it was omitted. The Clerk spoke to the owner of the garages who is still keen to run CCTV from the Parish Hall complex. Cllr. Dennis to contact him as he is prepared to help with the funding.

494. To receive reports from Cllr. Crozier and Cllr. Pengelly, of the Task & Finish Group's on proposals for the use of two am of 106 monies arising from the Woolacombe Road development and to make recommendations to West Devon Borough Council on which projects this Council is supports.

Cllr. Pengelly would like to thank Cllr. Flicker and two members of BARP for all their help.

Once Council has made their decision Alexis Huggins could use our information as ammunition to back any claims.

When we get the money we will need to have another Task & Finish Group not committed to any of the items.

Discussions then took place on the following reports;

The money suggested is based on 37 houses being built but the number is certainly going to be reduced that means the money will be less.

Whatever the sum, it is going to be substantial, for the benefit of our Parish Council. We have been advised that Bere Ferrers is too far from the development.

The following projects have been put forward after discussions with fellow Councillors;

Updating/ rebuilding of the changing rooms on The Down Recreation Field.

1. Static exercise equipment for The Down and close to the Parish Hall.
2. Static exercise equipment for The Down and close to the Parish Hall
3. Re vamp of the basketball area behind the Parish Hall.
4. A contribution to the sailing Club and Gig Rowers premises at Weir Quay £5k requested.

These are all worthy projects to support; preferences would be 1 and 2 as the old Pavilion has been in need of improvement for several years. 2 give positive benefit 365 days a year. This 106 monies could propel these projects into something very worthwhile for the village.

The play parks in the village have become rather dated and worn, and with the extra children expected at the new development, will come under additional strain. The Parish Council and BARP, (Bere Alston Recreation Parks) have recently spent considerable sums of money installing new equipment, drainage and surfac-

ing. I should explain that BARP

is a charity set up by local people to improve play parks in the village. The down-side of these improvements is that more children have been using the parks which has resulted in some of the older equipment being worn, damaged, and in some cases dangerous. It is therefore proposed to spend any 106 money on refurbishing, replacing or updating some of the older equipment.

SARAH PARK

The adventure trail has become very worn with some parts missing or damaged. We would like to repair or replace as required and place a new piece of equipment (mini orbiter (pic 1)) onto the only area available between the zip wire mounting stage and the toddler swings (pic 2). The loose rubber safety surface under the basket swing gets displaced on dismount and needs regular raking, we intend to replace this with solid bonded rubber. It is also proposed to site a picnic table in this area which will give parents a much closer view of the toddler swings. (pic 3)

ESTIMATED COST

Repair adventure trail. £ 5700

Install picnic table onto concrete base. £1,400

Mini orbiter £2,200

Bonded rubber £ 5000

Parish Hall Park

This park is generally used by older residents and a shelter has recently been installed for their use which now needs repainting (pic 4). There is a tarmacked area with a basketball net on a pole (pic 5). It is proposed to install a combined basketball, 5 a side goal structure at one end. There is also a platform/ staging made of decaying sleepers (pic 6) which needs replacing or removing and landscaping.

ESTIMATED COST

Install multi use games structure £5350

replace staging sleepers. £1400

Paint shelter £ 250

THE DOWN

This park has been updated and has suffered the same as the others. The new equipment has drawn in many extra users and the older equipment has suffered through the extra use. With additional children from the new development using the park, much of this will need replacing or repair. The adventure trail, which is very popular, has become badly worn with broken and missing parts. Some of the wooden parts are showing signs of decay (pic 7) as noted in the recent ROSPA report. Much of this trail needs replacing. The multi-use item is showing signs of rusting (pic 8 background) and will need replacing or major refurbishment. The rubber pads under the junior swings are in poor condition and are a trip hazard, these need to be replaced with a bonded rubber surface. To prevent weed growth (pic 8) it is proposed to place a polypropylene membrane under the rubber chip safety surface.

ESTIMATED COSTS

Replace adventure trail steps, monkey bars and floating log. £6200

Install bonded rubber surface under junior swings. £4000

Install membrane under rubber chip surfacing. £950

Refurbish multi use slide, £175.

Sarah Park = £14,300

Parish Hall Park £7,000

The Down = £11,325

TOTAL £32,625 + VAT.

Cllr. Dennis picked up on the shelter in the Parish Hall park where the paint is peeling off Y. 2 Y. paid for the shelter with a grant from the National Lottery fund, they need to contact the supplier and complain.

Cllr. Dennis also asked what is the radius for the moneys to be spent in the area is.

Would the Parish Hall meet the criteria?

Cllr. Crozier felt Council could do a sensible job with the Pavilion eventually. Weir Quay is a different facility

Cllr. Crozier recommended Council's acceptance of the two reports with the biggest priority being one, two and three, seconded by Cllr. Flicker all in favour.

Clerk to send Council's decision to Alex Huggins.

495 Cllr. Crozier to report on recommendations from himself and Cllr. Wager on how many plots appear to be vacant and available, at Bere Alston allotments and to ask for authority on the development of new plots to meet the present demand.

Cllr. Crozier and Cllr. Wager have examined the allotments very difficult to ascertain those being worked.

Cllr. Wager and myself set out 6 more allotments at the bottom end of the field for those on the waiting list, if we need more we will come back and ask for more.

Cllr. Dennis asked if there is a clause in the agreement to evacuate those not working the plot.

Cllr. Wager will rotovate an extra 6 and would like to see a plan with these on.

A vote was taken all were unanimous.

496. Cllr. Crozier to report on large dead beech tree at The Down Bere Alston...

Cllr. Crozier stated that one of the beech trees in the avenue of trees is dead. I have spoken with the electricity authorities they have inspected it but they will not fell trees but will remove branches.

Inform the Parish of our intentions, to be cut down in September.

Will the tree be replaced by a younger tree?

Need to look at tree to ascertain why it has died.

Cllr. Lamb proposed this work to go ahead, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

Cllr. Crozier Also reported that there are two Lleylandi in the Cemetery that need to be removed.

497. To receive a report on the recent use of the defibrillator situated in Station Road. Bere Alston.

The Clerk was informed that a parishioner had a heart attack and he was treated with the defibrillator successfully and taken to Deriford. The Clerk contacted Mrs. King who went up to check that it was back in its place, she then rang Cllr. Lamb who rang me to arrange for the new pads to be collected

from my office by Cllr. Crozier and given to Mrs King who promptly sanitized the unit and replaced the pads and checked it was in working use.

498. Correspondence.

1. Ann Parsons

I am hoping you might be able to step in to help preserve the bees, butterflies etc. in the playing field. I was amazed when the banks etc. were strimmed a few weeks ago but was totally heartbroken when it was being done when I entered the field two days ago. I have been delighting in and taking photos of the wild flowers in the playing field and sharing them on Facebook, so seeing them being destroyed was indescribable. I had a word with the young man, who is lovely, and explained that the banks and edges are normally left for the flora and fauna. He said he was following instructions, but he stopped and said he'd phone to check. Imagine my dismay yesterday to discover the strimming had gone ahead. There is no strip around the field left for the wild flowers. It is strimmed right up to the hedges. And the banks where bluebells have been so beautiful were strimmed back to the soil. I have attached some reduced size images. The banks around the football pitch have been home to burnet moths over the years but they won't stand a chance this year. I can't see any reason why those banks should actually be strimmed to that extent. But plants will have a problem coming back if they are strimmed to his extent and so often.

We aren't in a city with a park to be manicured. We are in the country and it is basically a field used for walking in and to enjoy nature. I have also attached a few photos I've been sharing of the field in the past couple of weeks.

Incidentally, there is a problem with the setting of the mower. My son is an agricultural engineer and walked with me this morning on a rare day off, and explained the awful appearance of the grass following the mowing is down to it being wrongly set and being at an angle, which should be corrected. I've also attached photos of how the grass now looks. Perhaps someone could mention it to him?

I don't want to be a moaner! But this really has hit at something that is important to me and as a regular user of the field walking my dogs it is a place that I love.

Discussions took place

Cllr. Crozier All were upset by the way this was carried out, it is common practice to leave an area around the base of the hedge.

Insure better instructions in the future ask workman not to cut any more until we have instructions from the group on the areas they wish to not have cut.

Cllr. Crozier stated that the workman hit rocks in the grass and bent a blade, the mower has since been mended.

The Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the virtual meeting at 8.32 pm

Signed

Chairman.....