

Bere Ferrers Parish Council

At a meeting of the Full Council held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 26th October 2021.

Present

Cllr. P. Crozier	Chair of Council
Cllr. D King	Cllr. B. Lamb
Cllr. P. Graeme-Drury	Cllr. R. Leithall
Cllr. J. Maciejowska	Cllr. D. Pengelly
Cllr. G. Reed	Cllr. H. Rogers
Cllr. C. Shaw	

256. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. H Peace, Cllr. R. Maycock and Cllr. P. Dennis. The Council accepted their apologies.

257. Declaration of Interests

Cllr. Lamb declared he has a personal interest in minute no. 248 from the meeting for the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 19th October.

258. Notification of items of interest at the discretion of the Chair. No action can be taken on these items.

Cllr. Leithall wished to state that covid is not over, and cases are on the rise. If this was a meeting in Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland and also in several European countries, we would be wearing a mask, as it is required by law. The Government in England has taken a lighter touch and the recommendation is if you can't socially distance in a crowded room, wear a mask. I will therefore continue to wear a mask during meetings.

Cllr. Crozier stated the Council do understand the seriousness of the current situation and hopefully all those attending, would not attend, if they were unwell. At present Councils are unable to hold virtual meetings, therefore it is up to individual whether they wish to attend or not and whether they wish to wear a mask or not.

Cllr. Pengelly – due to a pothole at the end of the lane at Leigh Farm, a motorcyclist came off his bike. Cllr. Pengelly has too hit the hole whilst driving. Cllr. Crozier had previous reported this issue to Highways and will do again.

259. Chairman's Report.

Cllr. Crozier – I would first like to start with the sad news that John Reddecliff, who was a long-standing Councillor and Chair of the Council, passed away recently and please may we all stand and have a minute silence for him. A minute silence took place. Thank you and John will be greatly missed by his family.

There have been a lot of problems recently with refuse collections, which was discussed at a meeting at West Devon Borough Council today. The residents of West Devon have been very tolerant of the situation and the number of complaints received, has been relative few. If there are any miss collections, residents should leave it outside for another day and if not picked up the following day, to take it back inside. The issue is that the Council is 6 drivers down, so they would like to thank the residents of this ward for their tolerance of the situation and hopefully normal service will be resumed in the New Year.

The election of the vacant Borough Councillor for Bere Ferrers ward is due to take place on 18th November and Cllr Crozier invited the three out of the four candidates at the meeting; two of whom are on the Council, and one attending as a member of public to say a few words.

1. Isobel Saxby – I look forward to hearing what's discussed and how we continue to improve our community.
2. Cllr. J. Maciejowska – I look forward to the debate amongst as and would like to say I feel there should be energy Efficiently methods in all housing plans and insisting that any new housing built has this energy efficiently measures, stainability.
3. Cllr. R. Reed – My love for this community has grown over the 8 years I have lived here and pleased we have a cooperative spirit in this community and this is what I want to see, regardless of who is elected. This is how we should work as Councils and Borough Councillors.

260. To receive reports from District and Borough Council Report.

Cllr. Philip Sanders delivered a report from the Devon County Council:

All 60 members of Devon County have finally lost their patience with the Highways Department of Devon County Council. The Head of the Highways met with the Leader of the County Council, and because of that, there will be a series of small meetings in small groups with the Head. Having attended one of those meetings, it does appear they were not aware of what was going on at ground level and the correction information was not being feedback. There are things going on in the Contractor's organisation which are frustrating a lot of the Local Highway Officers and County members, as they cannot get any response from them. The aim of County is now to work more closely with Parishes and residents, because they know what their priorities are. Therefore, progress is being made with Highways.

The Council are doing reasonably well budget wise, but the adult and child services are suffering badly, but as these services are uncapped demand, we have a statutory duty to deal with all that is brought to us.

Care packages are available for people, but there is a lack of people to delivery these packages to people. The Council are also struggling to recruit people, for example social workers and those recruited struggle to buy/rent properties. We are therefore buying properties, which can be used to accommodate staff.

Update from the National Park – most of the staff are still working from home but are now having face to face meetings.

If anyone has any queries, Cllr. Sanders asked people contact him via phone or email.

261. To receive reports from Cllr. Neil Jury, Leader of West Devon Borough Council

Cllr. Crozier introduced Cllr. Neil Jury, the Leader of the West Devon Borough Council.

Cllr. Jury thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting tonight and for the honour of officially opening the new lift in the Parish Hall. He first liked to highlight the magnificent response of the communities, Parish and Town Councils around West Devon in regard to the Covid pandemic. We wouldn't have got through all of this, without the collective input of community groups, friends, neighbours and organisations around the Borough. He thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Borough for all the work that had been done.

Regarding the disruption of refuse collections, this is to some extent out of our control, but the Borough is working hard behind the scenes with the FCC to resolve the issue.

One result from the crisis has been that Councils have become closer to their residents and businesses. In the past, local Councils have been seen by the Government, as an irregular tier of Local Government, but Cllr. Jury now feels Councils have been recognised for the responsibility they have in delivering help to people. Local Councils are also responsible for local Planning, local economy, including the rural economy, environmental issues and all that comes together to make us responsible for the wellbeing for people who live here.

The Borough had already been working on a revised strategic plan for West Devon, and has now changed focus on one of two aspects, as result of the pandemic. Working as part of Team Devon, with the other 7 district authorities in the area and the County Council, the Devon Plan, which includes the West Devon plan, was recently published and includes what the Borough hopes to achieve in the next three years. Cllr Jury feels now there is an opportunity for create a Team West Devon, consisting of teams of parishes and towns to work closely with the Borough in delivering local projects. Therefore, if some things are missing from the West Devon plan, please highlight to the Council and it can be looked at to add in for future scoping.

Funding is still limited and approx. 95% of our funding is taken up delivering statutory duties funding. The Borough continues to work with Devon County, NHS, Care Services Police & Crime Commission, Town and Parish Councils and other government organisations to get the resources, funding delivered to the local projects that are needed.

Questions from the Councillors:

Cllr. King wanted to thank the Borough for all the help they have done for small businesses during pandemic.

Cllr. Reed - I have been a long-term advocate on Transit Tavistock and other organisations with regards to energy renewals and more specifically the railway and have been frustrated that the potential money coming from Developers, has not been

channelled effectively to getting it done.

Cllr. Jury - we are reliant on working with Devon County and Great Western Rail with regards to the rail link, but we pushing as hard as we can and not giving up.

Cllr. Lamb – one of the biggest needs in this Parish is affordable housing and there is no cheap housing available for young people. There is a house on Fore Street, in Bere Alston that has been unoccupied for 20 years. Are you able to look into this and see if it can be put back on the market?

Cllr Jury agreed with Cllr. Lamb’s comments. Projects had been started to start community housing projects, but one failed. The conclusion is that as a small District Council, we do not have the expertise of the capacity to be a property company, but the problem needs to be solved as affordable housing on offer, is not affordable for young people. Need to get empty houses back in on the market, so Cllr. Jury will look into the empty property on Fore Street and come back to Cllr. Lamb.

262. To nominate and approve Cllr. J. Maciejowska to join the Open Spaces Committee

Cllr. Lamb proposed the nomination and approval of Cllr. J. Maciejowska to join the Open Spaces Committee, seconded by Cllr. Reed. All in favour.

263. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 28th September as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. King proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Graeme-Drury.

Matters Arising

Minute 187 The design and building of the new Cemetery gates have been discussed with the Contractor.

Minute 188 Cllr. Pengelly confirmed the new Pavilion doors will be installed next week.

Cllr. King proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Reed.

SO RESOLVED

264. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Footpaths & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th October as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

Cllr. Reed propose approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Shaw

Matters Arising

Minute 198 The Ramblers Association’s lost paths project - Cllr. Reed & Cllr. Peace is working on what lost paths could be linked up with current footpaths.

Minute 199 Cllr. Peace has circulated the footpath report template to all Footpath & Environment Committee members. Reports on the footpath to be completed by early 2022.

Cllr. Reed proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

SO RESOLVED

265. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5th October as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

No matters arising.

Cllr. Reed proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

266. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Plans & Highways meeting held on 12th October as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.

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

Matters Arising

Minute 215 A site visit to a property who's application will be discussed in the next Plans meeting, took place at the weekend.

Cllr. Lamb proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

SO RESOLVED**267. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 12th October as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. King proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

Matters Arising

Minute 225 The Clerk has emailed the school regarding the laminated hands but has received no reply yet.

Minute 226 (137) Waiting on the electrician to provide a date they can fix the defibrillator on the Pavilion.

Minute 229 Highways will be clearing the gully at Bere Ferrers recreation field, Cllr. Shaw will chase Highways.

Minute 230 With regards to the hedge between Sarah Park and the doctor's surgery, Cllr Crozier has left message with Doctor's Surgery to discuss the issue of the cutting back of the hedge further.

Minute 232 Cllr. Pengelly to arrange a site visit to view and discuss the oak trees located on a Bere Alston allotment.

Minute 236 The bench at Sarah Park has now been repaired and the roundabout at the Down, is working again.

Minute 238 Cllr. Lamb stated he has applied and received trees from the Woodlands Trust. The deadline to apply is shortly, so please apply as soon as possible.

Cllr. King proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Graeme-Drury.

SO RESOLVED**268. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on 21st October as a true meeting and taken as read, to deal with matters arising.**

Cllr. Leithall proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Reed.

Matters Arising

Minute 242 (154 (70)) The snagging for the new Parish Hall lift has been completed.

Minute 242(154 (84)) The contractor said he could start the job to fix the easy access toilet in three weeks.

Minute 244 Cllr. Lamb is in the progress of cancelling the zoom contract.

Minute 246 Cllr. Reed is heading up a Task & Finish Group to update the Emergency Plan, with Cllr. King and Mr. Stuart McQueen.

Minute 250 There is £500 earmarked for a donation to the Youth. At the meeting, a decision on where to donate the money to, was not taken. If any Councillors have ideas of where they feel the money should be donated to, to let the Clerk know and it will be discussed at the next F & G.P meeting.

Minute 253 Cllr. King commented whether the Council has investigated obtaining a grant for installing hearing loop in the Council Chambers. The Clerk to follow up with Cllr. Dennis.

Minute 254 (2) The Council will not be taking up the monthly maintenance fee for the Parish Clock.

Minute 254 (3) the issue with Bankline only allowing 4 users on the account, Cllr. Lamb is still looking into this.

Cllr. Leithall proposed adoption the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

SO RESOLVED

269. To adopt the memorandum of Understanding for planning applications, between West Devon Borough Council and Parish Councils

Cllr. Reed proposed the Council adopt the memorandum of Understanding, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

270. To approve and adopt the policy for the use of the Council's credit card

Cllr. Leithall proposed the approval and adoption of the policy, seconded by Cllr. Reed.

271. Information Sharing amongst Councillors

Cllr. King commented that she receives a number of emails, which feels should be passed onto fellow Councillors for their information. At present, I forward onto the Clerk, who forwards onto all. Is there a better way of sharing information amongst Councillors?

Discussions took place.

The Clerk to investigate whether the Council could use a portal for Councillors to log in to view shared information.

272. Report on Queen's Platinum meeting

The first meeting to discuss the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 weekend took place on Wednesday 13th October and was attended by 27 people. It was agreed a committee of 15 people would preside. The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 3rd November in the Parish Hall.

273. Correspondence

- 1.) Cllr. Reed gave an update on the PPMLC (Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee) meeting he recently attended and below is the summary of the meeting:
 - Concerns were raised by Weir Quay Sailing Club members regarding a potential registration process applying to all small vessels. The actual process is confined to Jet Skis being used in Plymouth Sound and the Tamar.
 - The swim survey site is going on. Funding is available and includes fresh water, including the area above and below the stream at Lopwell Dam.
 - Under the strategic planning process, it has been agreed in principle, that the Plymouth Sound will become a marine park. The amount of money available will be £9.6 million and the marine park will run up as far as Calstock and therefore, will include both sides of Parish boundaries that are bounded by water.

- 2). Email from West Devon Borough Council:

Mobile Booster Voucher Scheme

Do you live in a rural community? Do you have poor indoor mobile coverage? If so, then this voucher scheme may be of interest to you.

Connecting Devon and Somerset have a scheme, funded through the Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership's (HotSWLEP) Growth Deal, which allows businesses and households to apply for an £800 voucher which can be used to buy a mobile signal booster from a registered scheme supplier. The booster will in turn help to improve indoor mobile coverage for the premises in question by improving 4G coverage.

It is up to the applicant to research which of the suppliers can install in their area and which one is best to go with for their specific needs. Getting in touch with the supplier directly to redeem the voucher and have the equipment installed at the premises.

To find out more from the Connecting Devon and Somerset website and to apply using their application form, please click here. (link below):

<https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/the-cds-mobile-booster-voucher-scheme-guide/>

3). Press release from West Devon Borough Council:

New funding will help local businesses and communities to get together and grow stronger

South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council are offering cash grants to local businesses to help them to bring ideas to life that will boost the local economy or community wellbeing.

The new scheme called the Community Recovery Grant, opens on 1 November 2021 and could be worth up to £30,000 to businesses in the District and Borough. It's for businesses of all sizes in the South Hams and West Devon and has been secured by the Council via the government's COVID recovery fund. The funding will give a spiralling boost to the local economy and community by kick-starting a chain of positive business activity

Business owners are invited to submit their ideas and plans to the Council, outlining what they want to do and how they will either work with other local businesses or engage with their local community. Applications that deliver greater benefits from the funding requested will be more likely to be approved. More details and an application form can be found at: www.westdevon.gov.uk/community-recovery-grant/ www.southhams.gov.uk/community-recovery-grant

Applications will close on 30 November 2021. A thorough application with clear benefits for the community will be more likely to receive funding than one submitted quickly. It is anticipated that most grants to be awarded will be valued between £2,000 and £10,000. However, grants up to £30,000 will be considered for exceptional and innovative schemes that can show a wide range of benefits for the local economy and community.

4). Email from the Electoral West Devon:

I just wished to advise you that it is that time of year again when West Devon Borough Council will be sending out canvassers to all properties within the Borough who have not yet returned a Canvass Form about Electoral Registration.

This is an annual process. There will be six canvassers in total (three of which will be our Mobile Locality Officers) and they will be trying to contact those households who have not returned information that we have requested under Electoral Registration legislation.

I have advised the police that they will be calling on households but also just wanted to let you know in case you have any contact from concerned residents. The canvassers will be carrying ID and will be delivering forms and not taking information at the doorstep, unless it is offered to them.

This is a statutory process which needs to be completed in advance of publishing the new Electoral Register on the 1st of December.

5). The Clerk read out an email from Great Western Railway giving advance notice of rail improvement work in the area:

Saturday 20 November and Sunday 21 November

Work will take place between Plymouth and Liskeard. Buses will replace trains between Plymouth and Liskeard, and on the Tamer Valley Line to Bere Ferrers, Bere Alston, CAIstock and Gunnislake.

274. Questions from public

1). What was the results of the traffic survey undertaken on the corner of The Down in August 2021?

Cllr. Crozier – another survey was done last week, to back that survey up and we are waiting on the results, which should be at the next meeting.

2). When will the next footpaths meeting be?

The Clerk confirmed the next meeting would be in January 2022, but the exact date has yet to be confirmed.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.21 pm.

Signed this 23rd November 2021.

Signed by the Chair: