

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 12th April 2022.

Present:

Cllr. D Pengelly	Chairman
Cllr. P. Crozier	Chair of the Council
Cllr. D. King	Cllr. R. Leithall
Cllr. P. Graeme-Drury	Cllr. C. Shaw

458. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Maciejowska. The Committee accepted her apology.

459. Declaration of Interest.

No interests were declared.

460. Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chairman. No action can be taken on these items.

Cllr. Graeme-Drury brought up the issue of business flyers being posted on telegraph polls. Flyers are allowed if in the interest of the community and not commercial flyers. The Clerk to contact the person who had put up the flyers and ask them to be removed.

Cllr. Shaw brought up that a member of the public enquired about the unkempt outside appearance of the Doctor's Surgery. It was noted that there is nothing the Council could do, but ask that the person contact the Surgery directly.

Cllr. Graeme-Drury brought up the issue of pot holes along the road from Weir Quay to Hewton House. It was discussed that members of the public can report pot holes via the Devon Highways website (www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/). A link to this website to also be put on the Council's website and social media page.

461. Questions from the member of public present at the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair.

Mrs McQueen, a representative of Bere Alston in Bloom wished to speak to the Committee with regards to the phone box on Station Road. After conducting research, they found that in 2021 Ofcom banned BT from removing phone boxes, where mobile phone coverage was poor. Secondly, BT will supply anyone who requests it, a telephone box repaint kit. Bere Alston in Bloom will therefore apply for this kit, repaint the box, clean the inside and outside of the box and ensure it is accessible for all to use. Cllr. P. Graeme-Drury thanked the group for taking on this project.

The Committee confirmed to Mrs McQueen, that the Council, via West Devon Borough Council, had informed BT they wanted to keep the phone box operational.

462. Matters Arising from the minutes from the meeting held on 8th March 2022

Matters Arising

Minute 410 The replacement of the water pipe at the Bere Alston recreational field has been completed.

Minute 413 The realignment in the dog field has been done. The hired digger will be taken down to Bere Ferrers to complete a few jobs required there.

Minute 416 The Clerk thanked Cllrs. King and Shaw for undertaking the inventory of the Opens Spaces assets.

463. Detailed Receipts & Payment Report ending 31 March 2022

Discussions took place regarding the report. Cllr. Leithall wished further clarification on certain items which shown an overspent against the budget. The Clerk explained that for certain items where no budgets had been set, the funds had been taken from an earmarked reserve, but it would show as an overspend on the budget. Therefore, the biggest variances on the report are where money has been taken out of an EMR reserve, so those figures should be discounted. Cllr. Leithall asked if there was a way to account for the correctly.

The Clerk to enquire how this could be done with the Finance software provider and present the report with further explanation at the next meeting.

464. Rospa Play Safety Inspection Reports

The majority of issues highlighted on the reports were advisory and there were no urgent matters to deal with.

The Clerk will put a list together of all fixes that are required, for the Workman to work through.

The Clerk to also ask the Workman to conduct a weekly visual check of all play equipment and report back to the Clerk any issues. Councillors to continue conducting their monthly inspections of the playparks.

465. Replacement of Sleepers at the Basketball court

This will be deferred to the next meeting, to allow Cllrs. Crozier, Pengelley and the Workman to conduct an inspection and review the findings in the Rospa Report.

466. Issues of recent vandalism

Cllr. Crozier highlighted the recent acts of vandalism in Bere Alston, which has resulted in the toilets now being closed at 3 pm to avoid any further issues.

On the 4th April, 10 black bags of litter, broken glass and drug paraphernalia were collected.

All incidents have been reported to the Police and Cllr. Crozier has requested a meeting with the local Police Community Support Officer, between himself, the Clerk and the Council's staff to discuss these issues further.

467. A reserve schedule for emptying the bins

Discussions took place whether all the Parish's bins need to be emptied every day. Some bins, for example Pilgrim Drive will need to continue being emptied daily, due to the excess rubbish left every day. Discussions took place whether further notices and letters need to be sent to residents around Priglim Drive, or whether it should be removed.

The Clerk to discuss further with the Workman.

468. Routine safety inspection reports for the parish Recreational and Play areas

The safety reports had been sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

469. Inspection of allotments at Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers

All invoices for the 2022-23 rent have been sent out to allotment holders.

470. Correspondence.

1. The Clerk read out a letter from a resident who was concerned about the state of the low wooden fence in the Parish Hall Garden, placed to prevent children falling into the space next to the Hall.

Cllrs. Crozier, Pengelly and the Workman to inspect the fence.

2. Email from West Devon Community and Voluntary Services:

We are planning a Community Wellbeing event at Bere Alston Parish Hall, 2 – 5 pm on Tuesday 17 May. I've attached the poster. I would be very grateful if you could circulate the poster and this message to all the members of Bere Ferrers Parish Council – we would very much welcome their involvement and attendance at the event if at all possible. If any of them might wish to reserve a table to promote a particular local group or activity, please ask them to contact me for a booking form. I will shortly be emailing all groups that I currently know about, but there may well be some that are new to me.

Why a Community Wellbeing Event and what exactly is the Transitions Project?

Knowing what services are available locally is not as easy as you think. It makes life much easier and much more enjoyable if you can talk to representatives of the groups and services face to face.

This is why the Transitions Project has been organising Community Wellbeing events across Torridge and West Devon to help and encourage local people to find out about their local community groups and services. These free events are designed to help residents gather useful information, to provide inspiration for them to take up new activities, to make new friends and also to offer an opportunity to have their voices heard. By bringing community groups and services together under one roof, our aim is that we might also strengthen local connections and encourage networking.

Transitions is a partnership between West Devon CVS (see www.westdevoncvcs.org.uk) and Wiser£Money (see www.navigatecharity.org.uk) It is funded by the Community Fund to provide free and confidential money and debt advice across the rural settlements of West Devon and Torridge for those unable to access mainstream advice, and to work with community partners to improve rural communities' financial wellbeing and reduce social isolation.

At the event, we will produce a directory for everyone to take home; this will include contact details of all the services represented at the event, which we hope will cover a wide range of both statutory agencies and voluntary organisations relating to many issues and interests, including up to date advice on energy costs and digital inclusion, as well as promoting leisure interests.

The Council to discuss further at the next Council meeting.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.44 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Dated this date 26th April 2022