



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 17 April 2013 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllrs F Benbow, M Huxtable, M Prowse, A Ridd-Jones, R Steele, G Tribe and Miss S Wyatt.

In attendance: 12 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, PCSO Gareth Woolway, PCSO Warrick Lansdell, Parish Clerk

In the absence of Cllr Shapland the Chair was taken by Cllr Benbow.
Best wishes were extended to Cllr Shapland for a speedy recovery.

160. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Shapland, Mrs P Kellaway, and Mrs V Worms

161. Police Report

It was noted that recent vandalism had been reported to PCSO Gareth Woolway. PCSO Warrick Lansdell introduced himself. Before becoming a PCSO he had been a Special Constable.

During the past month four calls had been logged: 1 missing person; 1 suspicious vehicle; 1 domestic incident; 1 breach of bail conditions. No crimes had been reported in the parish. Speed checks had been carried out in the area. He explained that there had been a change in procedure in carrying out checks. There had been an increase in thefts from farms in North Devon.

162. Public Participation

objections were expressed over the planning application for a wind turbine at Friendship Farm. It was felt that the site was unsuitable, being close to Exmoor National Park and on a ridge of land. It was also felt to have a detrimental effect on neighbouring properties. It was noted that the applicant had again not consulted with neighbours who would be affected.

A suggested questionnaire regarding the Torridge and North Devon Local Plan had been produced. It was strongly felt that parishioners should be aware of the consultation and its implications, and that the interests of the parish should be included.

Cllr Benbow assured parishioners that the council shared the same objectives. The proposed growth rate over the life of the Plan was roughly the same as had occurred during the past six years. It was important that the parish retained the same level of control,

It was reported that the interactive sign near the entrance to Furze Park Road had been turned again. An enquiry to be made if it was possible to securely fix the sign so that it could not be moved.

The state of the road to Barnstaple was raised. It was reported that the matter was being pursued by the Rural Alliance and Cllr Edgell. It was noted that the road probably received heavier usage than the A39, but as it was only a 'C' class road it was lower down the priority list for maintenance.

163. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 20 March 2013

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

164. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 20 March 2013

DCC had advised that no decision had yet been made to replace Collard Bridge, or finance found. It was estimated that it would cost £250k to replace. Should the decision be made to replace the bridge, work would not commence before 2014.

Cllr Prowse reported that a suitable gritter had been found, at a maximum cost of £475 +VAT. In trials it had been found to be very efficient. It was thought that this would be a great help in the village, especially on the estates. Cllr Prowse was authorised to proceed with its purchase.

Min. 156. Cllr Steele reported that the oak trees had been replanted.

Min. 151. Trustees of the Recreation Ground had met that evening, and had looked at additional planting, together with allowing the grass to grow longer.

165. Planning

1. Applications:

55514 Extension to dwelling to form dependant relatives annexe Copse Hill, Bratton Fleming.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

55545 Outline application for erection of one local needs dwelling with detached garage together with alterations to access & erection of detached garage for Castlemoor garden of Castlemoor Bratton Fleming

It was noted that the application was similar to a previous application, which had been for an open market dwelling.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

55546 Erection of one 50kw wind turbine (height 34.2m, height to hub 24.6m blade diameter 9.6m) Friendship Farm, Bratton Fleming

Cllr Ridd-Jones declared an interest and left the meeting while the application was considered.

It was noted that there was very little difference to the previous application.

It was resolved to recommend refusal due to the size of the turbine, and its position on a ridge, which would have a detrimental visual effect on the area. It was noted that the applicant had again not consulted or informed the nearby residents, who would be affected by the turbine.

2. Decisions – Approval:

55173 Extension to zoo grounds together with construction of animal enclosures at Exmoor Zoological Park, Twitchen Lane, Bratton Fleming

166. Correspondence

1. DCC had advised that Part-night lighting would soon be implemented. Due to the heavy workload, work has behind schedule.
2. The Share the Road Campaign requested permission to join the national 20s Plenty Campaign. This was agreed.

167. Highways

It was reported that a request from Exmoor Zoo and the Station Inn for the A399 road closure for repairs to be carried out in November & December was being considered by Highways. It was reported that the road edge on the Rye Park road was dangerous in parts, with a 60cm ditch.

168. Website

Mr Laurie had reported that he had renewed the domain name until 2014. The new 10 page site would go live in May, with 2 pages allocated to the parish council. Thanks were extended to Mr Laurie for his work.

169. Local Plan

It was reported that the recent Rural Alliance meeting had looked at the immediate issues. It was noted that the time for responses to be submitted had been extended to 1 June. Parishes could now decide if it did not feel that a development boundary was appropriate. The suggested 10% growth over the lifetime of the Local Plan equated to 46 houses, approximately the same as at present. Current applications would be included. The Rural Alliance had arranged a Housing Needs survey in all of the parishes, which formed the basis of aspirations. It was noted that much of the Bratton Fleming chapter in the existing Local Plan still applied.

170. Reports

1. County Councillor’s Report

Cllr Edgell reported that he considered it vitally important that highway issues were pursued.

2. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Prowse reported that there was little more that the parish could do to assist with the provision of a new village shop. It was agreed that Mr cotton be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting.

3. Composting Group

It was reported that expenses during the month had been £70.40 for diesel. Receipts had been £276.83 for 5.265 tonnes material removed during February. The balance stood at £18311.01.

4. Woodland Group

It was reported that Mr A Kellaway had reinstated the clapper bridge.

The woodland had been judged on 4 April for the competition held as part of Devon County Show. The judges had been impressed with what they had seen and considered the woodland well looked after. They had been impressed with the recent planting and work carried out on the paths.

The planting around the pond would need keeping in check, and thinning out would be necessary in the future.

5. Chairman’s Report

None.

171. Finance

1.	Payments	
1.	DALC subscription	£209.69
2.	Parish Clerk’s salary & expenses	£115.68
3.	NDC licence for allotments	£ 10.00

The three accounts were agreed for payment.

172. Items for the next Agenda.

Local Plan; Shop.

173. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15 May 2013.

Annual Parish Meeting at 7:00pm, to be followed by Annual; Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Signed

Date

Date