



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

Present: Cllrs T Shapland (Chairman), F Benbow, M Huxtable, Mrs P Kellaway, M Prowse, R Steele, G Tribe and Miss S Wyatt.

In attendance: 18 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, PCSO Gareth Woolway, Parish Clerk

30. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Ridd-Jones and Mrs V Worms

31. Police Report

PCSO Gareth Woolway reported that 12 had been logged from Bratton Fleming during the past month: 1 complaint against the police; 1 animal incident; 2 missing persons; 2 road related; 2 personal anti social behaviour; 2 thefts; 1 admin call; 1 highway disruption. Four crimes had been reported: 1 hunting wild mammals with dogs; 1 theft

32. Public Participation

Concern was expressed over a planning application for a solar park at Capelands Farm. It was considered to be too big and close to the existing park, it was thought to be out of keeping with the landscape and in an Area of Great Landscape Value which should be protected. No consideration appeared to have been given to the cumulative effect of the development so close to another array. It was claimed that the quoted level of employment was vastly overestimated.

The landowner stated that the development was on grade 4 agricultural land which was not overlooked. No new gateways would be created and any trackway would be temporary. Part of the plans included the reinstatement of old hedges.

Mr Kellaway reported that some of his sheep had been attacked by dogs. It was agreed to put an article in the Bratton Fleming News stressing the importance of keeping dogs under control at all times. The Footpaths Group would put notices on gateways

Cllr Steele drew the council's attention to an anonymous letter written in 2008 requesting more information on the work of the Millennium Green and Woodland Group. The Chairman reported that regular reports were placed in the Bratton Fleming News.

33. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 19 June 2013

Min. 18 was amended to read 'Portimore Arms,.

The amended minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

34. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 19 June 2013

No response had yet been received from SW Ambulance Trust regarding the defibrillator cabinet.

Min. 17. Cllr Steele had contacted the LEA regarding the school being at maximum capacity. The LEA had advised that there were no plans at present to expand the school, but it did anticipate an increase in children within the catchment area within the lifetime of the North Devon Plan.

It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for the council to become involved in matters relating to the school unless support was requested.

Min. 22.2. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the neighbours of the footpath, who were unhappy with it being diverted over their property.

Cllr Miss Wyatt to contact the footpath warden, enclosing photographs, to establish what could be done without encroaching neighbouring land.

35. Village Shop

Mrs Parker reported that ownership of the shop had not changed. It was hoped to install a new shop front, meaning that notices would no longer be displayed in the window. She hoped it would be possible to use the noticeboard that was currently in the Millennium Green, which was underused.

Cllr Steele expressed his pleasure that the shop would continue.

Cllr Prowse reported that the shop owners were willing to work with the shopkeeper.

36. North Devon Local Plan

A number of problems had been raised by the planners, which were now being looked into. Several potential development sites had been registered with North Devon Council. Cllr Prose reported that Bratton Fleming was the only rural community with an average age less than the North Devon average. He was hopeful that the draft Plan would be available in time for the September meeting.

37. Parish Website

Cllr Steele had spoken to Mr Laurie, who had confirmed that the website would be available soon.

38. Village Hall Sound System

Three microphones were in use at the meeting, and appeared to be working satisfactorily

39. Planning

1. Applications –

55778 Erection of agricultural building for storage of haylage, tractors & agricultural machinery South Thorne, Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

55798 Erection of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic panel array together with access tracks, power stations, substation & associated ecological & landscape enhancements land at Capelands Farm, Bratton Fleming

Cllr Mrs Kellaway declared an interest and left the meeting while the application was considered.

The main concerns centred on the cumulative effect the development would have, being close to an existing solar array, and the impact on neighbouring parishes as well as Bratton Fleming.

Cllr Benbow proposed that the application be recommended for refusal. Seconded by Cllr Huxtable, and carried 4 votes to 3.

55998 Conversion of outbuilding to form additional living accommodation Moorland Cottage Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

2. Decisions – approval:

55165 Approval of details in respect of discharge of condition 7 (ground clearance & construction), 11 (proposed private road reconstruction & widening, private turning head, footways, footpaths, verges, sewers, drains, service routes, car parking construction) & 15 (soft landscape) attached to planning permission 49970 at 3 & 4 South View, Bratton Fleming.

55589 Retrospective application for siting of one mobile home to serve as a dwelling in association with the established motor related business at Highlands Stowford Bratton Fleming

55774 Extension & alterations to dwelling at Hillside, Bratton Fleming.

55787 Erection of a conservatory & alterations to dwelling at Buckle Down, Bratton Fleming.

3. Withdrawn

Application 54079 for a wind turbine at Haxton Down Farm had been withdrawn.

4. Appeal

Notification had been received that the Planning Inspectorate had dismissed the Appeal against the refusal of outline planning consent for a dwelling at Parsloes

5. Certificate of Lawfulness

Cllr Huxtable declared an interest and left the meeting.

Legal Services at North Devon Council had received an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of a former agricultural building as a dwelling house at The Leat, Parsonage Farm, Bratton Fleming.

Councillors had no knowledge that that would assist.

40. Correspondence

1. Philips Smith & Dunn advised that Exeter Diocese had registered the Glebe field under the SHLAA report. It was noted that although a right of way to the field existed across council owned land, this was for agricultural use only.
2. North Devon Council had advised that the council had not used the money allocated under the TAP fund for 2012/13. This would be added to the 2013/14 allocation. To be discussed at the next meeting.
3. A letter had been received by a parishioner at Treefield from Highways stating that it would not be possible to install a crash barrier at Sentry Cross.

41. Highways

It was reported that no action had been taken on the road between the Treatment Works and Rye Park where the road edge had eroded.

Concern was expressed over poor visibility at Four Cross Way for traffic from Bratton Fleming joining the A399. This was partly due to overgrown vegetation and insufficient visibility splays.

Concern was expressed over the lack of “Slow” signs either side of the narrow old railway bridge above Loxhore Cross

Matters to be reported to Highways.

Concern was expressed over Station Road being blocked by vehicles owned by parents taking children to school in the morning and collecting them in the afternoon. Chairman to speak to the head teacher.

It was noted that verges owned by NDC were cut 5 or 6 times per year, whereas others which came under the responsibility of DCC were only cut twice yearly.

42. Reports

1. County Councillor’s Report

Cllr Edgell reported that the further reduction in funding was very serious. Cuts had now totalled £100m over three years.

As an example the cost of highway maintenance was £64m per year, whereas there was no only £30m per year available.

Many people still believed that South West Highways was part of DCC, whereas it is a private contractor. It was very important that the work of SWH was up to standard.

2. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Prowse reported that a great deal of time was being spent looking at the council budget. NDC had seen a reduction of 45% in its funding, with the situation now very serious. Staff savings had amounted to £1.8m. With waste and recycling being one of the most expensive departments, it was a potential area for savings. The current cost for collecting green waste was £360k per year.

3. Millennium Green

Cllr Prowse reported on the Millennium Green AGM, when it had been agreed to set up a Friends of the Green’ group. He was planning to write an article for the Bratton Fleming News. The play equipment and fence would be repaired shortly. New bark had been ordered, A work party was being planned for the autumn.

4. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland reported that income during the past month had been £518.70 for 9.865 tonnes material removed during June, Expenditure had been £39.98 to Mr Williams for 3 water containers for flower beds. The balance stood at £20735.86

5. Woodland Group

Cllr Shapland reported that the Woodland Group had won £30 as first prize in the Devon County Show woodland competition.

Cllr Steel proposed that the Group follow the advice of the SW Woodland Officer. There was no seconder.

6. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported that the trees at the bottom of the village needed attention.

43. Finance

1. Payments

1.	Mr S Shapland – grass cutting	£ 40.00	Cheque No. 876
2.	Parish Clerk’s salary & expenses	£115.98	Cheque No. 877
3.	Mr G Bayard – audit	£ 15.00	Cheque No. 878

The three accounts were agreed for payment.

44. Items for the next Agenda.

TAP Fund; Web site.

45. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21 August 2013

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date