



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 21 August 2013 at 7:30pm.

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

In attendance: 23 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, Parish Clerk.

46. Apologies

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

47. Police Report

None – Police officer not present.

48. Public Participation

The Chairman explained that letters to the council should be received seven days prior to meetings. This was to ensure that they could be circulated to councillors in time for them to study them before the meeting. Although letters of objection to a planning application on the agenda for the meeting had been received late, some that day, all had been copied and passed to councillors.

Concern was expressed over Planning Application 56097. The site was considered wrong for such an application. Concerns also included the access and the risk of flooding for neighbouring properties from the soakaways. It was reported that a previous application had been refused at appeal. It was also thought that the application should include five affordable homes, not four, as the application was for 8 new dwellings and alterations to an application recently approved.

In response to a question it was reported that the draft Local Plan should be available within the next couple of weeks.

Problems with drainage at the Recreation Ground were reported, which affected neighbouring properties. The Chairman explained that this was being addressed.

It was agreed to make enquiries regarding possible funding from solar parks.

It was stated that it may be possible the White Hart, which was currently on the market, could be registered as a community asset. This was agreed.

It was noted that access to the Glebe field was across parish council land, and was restricted for agricultural use only. It was agreed to inform NDC. It was also stated that the plan attached to the SHLAA application was incorrect as it included land owned by Bracken House.

The applicant for Planning Application 56097 outlined the application and hoped that the parish council would find it acceptable. It was noted that a recent housing survey had found that there was a need for social and open market housing in the village.

49. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 17 July 2012

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

50. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 17 July 2013

Min. 34. No response had been received from the SW Ambulance NHS Trust regarding the defibrillator cabinet.

Cllr Miss Wyatt reported that she had contacted the Footpaths Warden, who had suggested a short barrier across the end of the path, and re-hanging the gate on the other post. Plans were circulated to councillors. This was agreed.

Min. 41. Highways had advised that it was not DCC policy to erect new signs unless absolutely necessary. It was considered that the absence of a centre white line was sufficient to warn drivers of the narrowness of the road. It was agreed to enquire the legal position should an accident occur

Cllr Shapland had spoken to the headteacher regarding inappropriate parking in Station Road.

51. Village Shop

A report had been received from Cllr Prowse:

Following the last Parish Council meeting he had contacted Andy Burke at Slee Blackwells and told him that the sale to Steve Cotton would not now go ahead, and to see what outstanding costs for which the council would be liable. Following advice from Sles (who were anxious that the Parish Council should not be exposed to costs it could not recover) he had approached Steve to ask him to cover the likely costs.

Andy Burke had written saying he has paid Mitchelmores (the Church solicitors) costs of £840 the land registry £8 and has charged the Parish just the balance he held of £126+vat.

It was resolved to write a letter of thanks for the work undertaken.

Councillors were reminded that the council had also paid the District Valuer £950 in this matter.

52. Planning

1. Applications –

56097 Erection of six dwellings & two flats (plots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9) & alterations to one dwelling (plot 1) together with associated highway & landscaping works, land adjacent to & to the south of Beechcroft Bratton Fleming.

Cllr Huxtable declared an interest, and left the meeting while the application was considered.

Cllr Mrs Kellaway declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussion.

Seven letters of objection had been received from parishioners. As these were received late, the Chairman outlined the concerns raised.

Cllr Benbow proposed that a site meeting take place before making a recommendation. This was agreed for Monday 26 August at 6pm.

2. Decisions

1. Approval:

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

56059 Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission 51698 in respect of partially re-routing internal track & fencing at land adjacent to Four Way Cross Bratton Fleming

2. Refusal:

54508 Erection of 1 wind turbine (height 78m, hub height 50m, blade diameter 56m) & associated infrastructure (revised heritage statement) at land at Knightacott (OS 6539ne) Bratton Fleming

53. Website

There was no update as to how much longer it would be before the website was available. Chairman to speak to Mr Laurie.

It was agreed in principle that the council should pay for developing the website.

54. TAP Fund

It was suggested that fast broadband may be a project that would qualify for the TAP fund. It was agreed to invite a representative from Wildwestnet to the next meeting.

55. Correspondence

1. NDC advised that the next Parish Forum would be held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre on Wednesday 9 October at 7pm.

2. Confirmation of a road closure had been received from DCC affecting the A399 between Friendship Cross and Blackmoor Gate, 4 – 29 November.

Cllr Benbow reported that access to the livestock auction on 4 November would be accommodated, but that this would not be possible for the auction on 18 November.

It was resolved to request that access to the auction be accommodated as approximately 3000 sheep were expected to be sold. The long diversion would cause serious animal welfare concerns.

56. Highways

It was reported that there were still problems with the drain near the Sports Club.

It was agreed to request a further 3 tonnes salt, in small bags, to replace that which had been used.

The gully on the Rye Park road had not received attention. Highways had advised that it was being inspected.

It was reported that there was a pot-hole outside Hillside.

There were numerous pot-holes on the road between Chelfham and Loxhore Cross.

57. Reports

1. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Edgell reported on the funding cuts affecting Devon County Council. There had been a freeze on Council Tax for the past three years, and would remain frozen for another two.

Government grants to councils not increasing Council Tax had been reduced from 2% to 1%. It would be necessary to increase Council Tax in the future.

Cllr Edgell distributed petition forms requesting that the government treat rural communities more fairly. At present rural communities receive 50% per head less than rural communities.

2. District Councillor's Report

A report had been received from Cllr Prowse:

Millennium Green – He had dropped off materials to Ron Cockbill who had undertaken to carry out repairs to play equipment and the palisade fencing. His help had saved the Trust hundreds of pounds. A delivery of bark was awaited, which should be any day.

Local Plan – The 'draft chapter' should be available in the next couple of weeks. The planners have been talking to County about the School and its future needs, there will be a paragraph and policies reflecting this.

3. Composting Group

During the past month £518.40 had been paid to a contractor for work carried out during the past year.

Receipts had been £264.47, an update for material removed between April and June.

The balance stood at £20481.93.

4. Woodland Group

Cllr Shapland reported that an article on the Woodland had been submitted for the next edition of the Bratton Fleming News.

5. Chairman's Report

None.

58. Finance

1. Payments

1.	Mr S Shapland – grass cutting	£ 40.00	Cheque No. 879
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2.	Parish Clerk's salary & expenses	£118.08	Cheque No. 880
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The two accounts were agreed for payment.

59. Items for the next Agenda.

Burial Ground; Local Plan; Rural Fair share Petition.

60. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 September 2013

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:35pm.