



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 18 September 2013 at 7:30pm.

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

In attendance: 7 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, PCSO Adam Berry, Parish Clerk

65. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Steele and Mrs V Worms

66. Police Report

PCSO Adam Berry introduced himself as the new PCSO for the area, replacing PCSO Gareth Woolway who was training to become a regular police officer.

During the past month one crime had been reported: 7 sheep stolen from a field.

During the same period 7 calls had been logged: 3 relating to a road traffic collision on 17 September; 2 reports of dangerous driving; 1 incident reporting a fallen tree in the road; 1 incident regarding a broken down lorry.

Vehicle speed checks and other traffic operations were still a priority for the area. It continued to be areas patrolled by traffic units and was something that was on the agenda for future operations.

67. Public Participation

1. It was reported that planning application 56201 had been submitted to reinstate an earlier application.
2. It was requested that a contribution to a new footpath at the top of the village should be requested as a condition of application 53201 being approved. Also that a height limit be placed on the conifer hedge.
3. In answer to a query it was reported that it had been reported at the Rural Alliance meeting that the Local Plan had slipped, and was approximately two months behind schedule. It was now due to be published in November, when a further consultation period would be held.
4. The applicant considered that the parish council's response to planning application 56097 were misleading with regard to instances of flooding of neighbouring properties. He did not believe that the development site was responsible. This was disputed by another parishioner, who considered the response accurately reflected the concerns raised at the site meeting. It was agreed that the council's response should stand.

68. Approval of Minutes of the meetings held 21 and 26 August 2013

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

69. Matters Arising from Minutes of meetings held 21 and 26 August 2013

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| Min. 48 | A response was awaited regarding any grant from the solar park. |
| Min. 53 | Cllr Shapland had spoken to Mr Laurie regarding the website. Work still ongoing. |
| Min. 55.2 | Cllr Benbow reported that he had been advised that it would not be possible to accommodate auction traffic during the A399 road closure. |
| Min. 57.2 | Cllr Prowse reported that the bark should have been delivered, but was still awaited. |

70. Planning

1. Applications –

- 55756 Prior Approval Application in respect of erection of storage building for machinery & feed at land at Chelfham (SS6036)

Cllr Prowse reported that evidence existed of the original gateway to the site, where material had been tipped.

The Environment Agency had approved tipping at the site.

- 56201 Outline application for erection of dwelling land adjacent The Fairway, Bratton Fleming

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

It was resolved to recommend approval.

Cllr Benbow proposed that a contribution to a footpath be made a condition should the planners approve the application. Seconded by Cllr Tribe. All in agreement.

- 56231 Erection of garage / carport / store with bat loft over - amendment to condition 2 (approved plans) & compliance with condition 5 (bat roost & owl box) attached to planning permission 50598 (conversion of a redundant agricultural building to form one unit of holiday accommodation) Rye Park Barn Bratton Fleming

Cllr Prowse declared a personal interest and left the meeting while the application was considered.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

2. Decisions – Approval:

- 55998 Conversion of outbuilding to form additional living accommodation at Moorland Cottage Bratton Fleming
- 55800 Erection of one agricultural building (sheep shed) at field OS 5157 (264500,138601) Button Lane Bratton Fleming

71. TAP Fund

It was agreed that the provision of high speed broadband in the parish could be a suitable project for the fund, working with Loxhore or Stoke Rivers

It was hoped that Tim Newman would be able to attend the next meeting to explain the service offered by Wildwestnet.

72. Burial Ground

It was noted the Richard Smith, on behalf of the Diocese of Exeter, had expressed a willingness to negotiate the parish council acquiring some of the Glebe field, when more details were available. There was still approximately 10 years space available at the churchyard. The possibility of a Green burial site also to be considered.

73. Local Plan

Cllr Prowse reported that the process was behind schedule due to heavy workload being experienced by the planning department. Approximately 4000 representations had been received for Chapters 1 and 2, which were almost complete.

Chapter 3, covering the rural area, is also much bigger than anticipated. He would ensure that an early draft would be made available as soon as it was completed. It was expected that the draft plan would be published in December, when there would be a 6 – 8 week consultation period.

74. Rural Fair Share Petition

Completed Rural Fair Share Petition forms were handed to Cllr Edgell.

75. Correspondence

1. Planning and Environment School. Barnstaple Town Council were running another Planning and Environment School on Saturday 12 October. Cllr Shapland expressed a wish to attend.
2. Road Closure. Highways advised a road closure between Loxhore Cross and Borough Farm, 17 September – 9 October, to enable works to be carried out to the retaining wall.
3. Code of Conduct Training. NDC had arranged two Code of Conduct Training Sessions for councillors on 2 October.

4. Bus Service. A revised bus service during the A399 road Closure had been received from DCC. It was agreed to seek confirmation that the service would operate from Sentry Cross.
5. Collard Bridge. Despite a report in the North Devon Journal that Collard Bridge was to be rebuilt, DCC had advised that no decision had yet been taken. The decision as to whether funding would be made available to replace three bridges in the county that had been lost would be made on 9 October. If funding was made available work would not take place until the next financial year.
6. Other periodicals and circulars were noted.

76. Highways

Cllr Benbow agreed to conduct a risk assessment to enable the Share the Road group to conduct speed checks.

It was reported that Share the Road were encountering difficulties in obtaining responses from Highways to enquiries regarding road marking etc through the village. Cllr Edgell to investigate. It was agreed that suitable storage would need to be found for the storage of salt.

77. Reports

1. County Councillor's Report

Nothing to report, due to have just returned from holiday.

2. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that NDC had raised objections to the proposed Atlantic Array, whereas Torridge District Council had voted not to object. The final decision would be made by the government.

He felt that if the Array was approved, the area should receive some benefit.

A great deal of time was being spent at looking at the budget, and how the necessary savings could be achieved. Unfortunately this involved looking at what services the council could reduce.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland reported that receipts during the month were £331.07 for 6.115 tonnes material removed in August. The balance currently stood at £20813.00.

4. Woodland Group

Concern had been expressed over the safety of a tree at the top of Rectory Drive. The area had been cordoned off and the tree would be felled when weather conditions permitted.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that although the Village Hall had been unsuccessful with its grant application to the Community Council of Devon, work would soon commence on converting the upstairs room into a flat with the money it had available. Sources of funding were still being explored. It was confirmed that the parish council's offer of a maximum of £10,000 still stood.

It had been suggested that the community facilities in the village enter the appropriate section of the Britain in Bloom Competition. This would undoubtedly involve a lot of work, and someone to organise. Anyone interested should contact Cllr Shapland.

Cllr Mrs Worms had expressed concern that, for health reasons, she had been unable to attend meetings.

It was resolved to grant her dispensation on health grounds, to enable her to continue her valuable work as a parish councillor, although unable to attend meetings at the present time.

Cllr Benbow reported that the ground rent for Fawn Lodge had increased from £750 to over £900, although the decision of whether or not to charge rent was determined by the school.

It was resolved to write to the school governors to ask them to revisit the rent position. The increased rent was unaffordable by the Pre-School, which could be forced to close. It was considered that one of the main reasons for the school's success was its relationship with the pre-school and the intake the school receives from it.

78. Finance

1. Payments

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| 1. Parish Clerk's salary & expenses | £116.28 | Cheque No. 874 |
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The account was agreed for payment.

79. Items for the next Agenda.

TAP Fund, Pre-School; Wildwestnet.

80. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 23 October 2013

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date