



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 23 November 2013 at 7:40pm.

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

In attendance: 15 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, Parish Clerk

81. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Prowse and Mrs V Worms.

82. Police Report

None – Police officer not present.

83. Presentation from Wild West Net.

Mr Tim Newman introduced himself and explained that the system marketed by Wild West Net operated in a similar manner to normal wi-fi, but over longer distances. The system delivered 20 Mb/s, and had already been installed in over 150 homes in north Devon. The cost was £25 per month for domestic installations, with an installation fee of £100. This would operate a maximum of 7 computers. The system relied on 'line of sight' for connection, so it was necessary to be able to see an existing customer.

84. Public Participation

1. It was reported that the drain at the top of Mill Lane was blocked.
2. Concern was expressed that trees were being sold despite uncertainty over the country of origin. This could cause serious problems with biodiversity.
3. It was reported that there was an increase in deer poaching. Farmwatch meetings would take place at Lynton Town Hall on 7 November and Shirwell Village Hall on 22 November.
4. Concern was expressed over the planning application for overhead power lines for the proposed solar park at Capelands. The parish council was urged to refuse the application.
5. Concern was expressed that last minute amendments had been made to the planning application for the development behind Beechcroft. It was proposed that surface water should be piped to a ditch in the adjoining field, through tanks. This would have a serious impact on Bracken House and the Community Woodland. It was noted that the parish council was not being consulted on the amended plans.
6. It was reported that some of the gardens at Church Close were still very untidy, and that only about 30% of the hedge between Church Close and Homer close had been cut. It was agreed to contact North Devon Homes over the matters.

85. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 18 September 2012

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

86. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 18 September 2013

- Min. 69.48. No response had been received regarding any Community Benefit resulting from the construction of the solar park.
- Min. 69.53. It was reported that website work was ongoing. **It was resolved** to impose a deadline of the end of the year for the website to be completed. If the site had not been completed by that date, an alternative designer be approached.
- Min. 77.5 Cllr Benbow reported that the ground rent for the Pre-School had been resolved. The school had agreed that the rent would not be increased.

87. Planning

1. Applications –

- 56330 Retention of a pre-fabricated storage building, dno substation, communications aerial & site security (cctv cameras) within the solar farm land adjacent Four Cross Way, Bratton Fleming

The Chairman reported that two letters of objection had been received.

It was resolved to recommend refusal. It was considered that the structures were out of keeping for a rural location. If it was necessary to retain additional structures on the site, it was agreed that they should be designed to be in keeping with the local architecture, or at the very least should be adequately screened so as not to be visible from the road.

56446 Erection of 33kv overhead lines Capelands Farm Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend refusal. Should approval be given, it was agreed to request that the power lines be placed underground to lessen the detrimental visual impact of the whole development.

2. Decisions – Approval:

56231 Erection of garage / carport / store with bat loft over (amended description) at Rye Park Barn Bratton Fleming

56329 Approval of details in respect of discharge of condition 4 (ground contamination) attached to planning permission 49970 at 1 - 4 South View Bratton Fleming

3. Notice of Appeal

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

4. Application 56097

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

It was noted that the Planning Dept did not consult parish councils over what it considered to be minor amendments.

Due to the nature of the amendment to this application, and the potential impact on nearby properties, **it was resolved** to request that the parish council be consulted before any decision was made.

88. TAP Fund

Cllr Benbow proposed that the TAP fund could be used to enable a biodiversity audit to be carried out in the village. It was understood that a single parish could use the Fund, although the amount received would be reduced.

Cllr Benbow read a letter that he had sent to the parish council. In it he noted that biodiversity had been standardised, under BS 42020, and PAS 2010:2006 accreditation introduced for practitioners. **It was resolved** to dispense with all retrospective biodiversity issues, and in future only use advisers who had PAS 2010:2006 accreditation.

It was resolved that a Biodiversity Audit should be carried out. Cllr Benbow to make enquiries.

89. Pre-School

Already covered under item 85.

90. Correspondence

1. A letter of resignation had been received from Cllr Ms Wyatt, due to her forthcoming move away from Devon. Cllr Ms Wyatt was thanked for all that she had done in serving the parish, both as parish councillor and in other capacities.
2. A letter had been received from the Village Hall Committee requesting dates of bookings for 2014. It was agreed to continue holding meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, but at the later time of 7:45pm.
3. DCC had advised two road closures:
Twitchen Lane (road leading to Exmoor Zoo) 4 – 6 November, for patching works.
A399 Stowford Cross – Friendship Farm, 6 – 8 January, for drainage works.
4. DCC Libraries were conducting a review of the mobile library service. It was proposed to cut stops with under three members, and to reduce the service to other stops, including Bratton Fleming, from 2 weekly to a 4 weekly service. If approved this would take effect from 31 March 2014.
5. Heathwatch Voices Issue 2;

91. Highways

It was reported that a finger was missing on the signpost at Button Hill Cross. Clerk to report to Highways.

Japanese Knotweed was also reported at Button Hill Cross.

Cllr Benbow reported that DCC were unwilling to accommodate the Blackmoor Gate market with the A399 road closure. Although Besshill had originally been assured that signage would be provided during the road closure, DCC had advised that it would not be providing any signs. It was agreed to request Highways provide appropriate signs.

92. Reports

1. County Councillor’s Report

Cllr Edgell reported on the recent Parish Forum meeting at the Civic Centre.

Government funding to DCC would be cut by a further £100m, meaning that non statutory services would have to be seriously reviewed, including highway repairs. At present there was only about 50% funding available to maintain the county’s road network.

He was hopeful that funding would be found to enable Collard Bridge to be replaced.

2. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Prowse had sent a report that publication of the Local Plan had slipped again.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland reported that receipts during the past month had been £420.13 for 7.76 tonnes material removed in September, and £4331.20 for 80 tonnes bulk material.

Payments had been £35.20 for diesel, and £15000 to the Village Hall Flat Project.

The current balance was £10529.13.

4. Woodland Group

Cllr Shapland reported that the dangerous tree in Old Rectory Drive had been removed.

It was agreed that nothing should be done to the Laurel, which would be included in the Biodiversity Audit.

5. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported that the defective defibrillator had been replaced by one in good working order.

The cabinet had been inspected at the same time, and measures put in place to replace the keypad with a simple handle.

The seat on Benton Road had been damaged, possibly when the grass had been cut. It was thought that the seat had been installed by Sustrans.

93. Finance

1. Completion of Audit

The Clerk reported that the audit had been completed, with no issues being raised.

2. Receipt: 50% Grant & Precept £6976.16

3. Payments:

1. Bratton Fleming Village Hall	£107.25	Cheque No. 879
2. Grant Thornton – audit	£120.00	Cheque No. 880
3. Parish Clerk’s salary & expenses	£134.26	Cheque No. 881

The three accounts were agreed for payment.

94. Items for the next Agenda.

Biodiversity Audit; Relocation of Defibrillator; Seat on Benton Road.

95. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20 November 2013

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date