



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 20 November 2013 at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Cllrs T Shapland (Chairman), F Benbow, M Huxtable, Mrs P Kellaway, M Prowse, A Ridd-Jones, R Steele, G Tribe and Mrs V Worms.

**In attendance:** 11 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, Mr A Gibbs, Parish Clerk

**96. Mr A Gibbs – Bratton Fleming Scout Group**

Mr Gibbs explained that the Cubs catered for children aged 7½ - 10½, who undertook a variety of activities. The group relied on the goodwill of the leaders to keep costs low. There was a reluctance in increasing costs as many family budgets were already stretched.

Five young people had expressed an interest in forming a Scout Group, catering for the 10-14 age group. People had come forward offering their service as leader.

He appealed to the Parish Council for financial assistance in order to purchase new equipment in order that a Scout Group could be formed. The main need was for new tents. He was grateful for help in the past from the Composting Group.

Cllrs Edgell and Prowse stated that they were willing to assist with funding.

**97. Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

**98. Police Report**

A report had been received from PCSO Warrick Lansdell.

During the past month incidents reported to the police were:

Suspicious circumstances – Wheel nuts loosened on Land Rover; Information re Firework display; Domestic Incident; Various Reports due to severe weather/highway disruptions; Complaint Re Driving of Recovery Vehicle.

During the same period three crimes had been recorded: Attempted Burglary; Threats to kill; Production Class B Drug.

Other information / operations:

There has been a recent spate of rural burglaries and shed thefts so please ensure all sheds and garages are left secure when unattended. Targeting unattended farm land.

Oil tanks are often targeted this time of year so please ensure they are as secure as possible.

Insecure trailers have been targeted by thieves in the area. Please ensure trailers that are left unattended are secured using wheel locks etc.

PCSO Adam Berry has conducted speed monitoring throughout Bratton Fleming area in order to gather information to assess the risks. He will be continuing to do so in the near future.

**99. Public Participation**

1. Concern was expressed over blocked drains and uncut hedges between Button Hill Cross and Quarry House. Water was being forced to run down the road instead of in the water tables.  
The Chairman reported that it was believed that the drains were being blocked deliberately, which was an offence. If caught the person responsible could be held liable for costs of damage caused to properties.
2. The drain at the top of Mill Lane was still blocked.
3. The edge of the road near Ridge Gate was damaged. It was noted that work on this stretch of road was planned for 6-8 January.
4. Water was flowing across the road at Button Hill Cross due to a blocked drain.
5. Haxton Down Lane was in a very poor condition. It was understood that DCC would maintain this road.

**100. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 23 October 2012**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

**101. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 23 October 2013**

Website. Mr Laurie was hoping to complete the new website by the end of the year.

Salt. It was noted that the 3tonnws of salt in bags had not yet been received.

Cllr Benbow left the meeting.

**102. Planning**

**1. Applications –**

56415 Erection of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic panel array (4 rows, 50kw) Exmoor Zoo Twitchen Lane Bratton Fleming

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

**It was resolved** to recommend approval.

56595 Erection of one dwelling, land adjacent to Little Garth Bratton Fleming

**It was resolved** to recommend approval.

56097 Land adjacent Beechcroft

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

It was understood that the planners considered the application to be too large, and were unlikely to grant approval. The applicant had been asked to withdraw the application and reapply with a smaller scheme.

It was agreed not to comment further on this application.

Cllr Mrs Worms left the meeting.

**2. Decisions – Approval:**

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

**3. Recommendation by North Devon Council – Refusal:**

56446 Erection of 33kv overhead lines Capelands Farm Bratton Fleming

**103. Biodiversity Audit**

Cllr Benbow reported that he had not received a response regarding a Biodiversity Audit being carried out in the parish. An audit was required in order that the council could identify sensitive areas, particularly when responding to planning applications.

**104. Relocation of the Defibrillator**

Cllr Tribe proposed that the defibrillator be moved to the shop, where it would be more readily accessible, and less likely to become vandalised. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Kellaway.

Cllr Steele proposed that it should remain in its current position. No seconder.

Six councillors voted in favour of the defibrillator being moved.

It was resolved that, as the Ambulance Service had been unable to source a new handle for the cabinet, to request that a new cabinet be supplied.

**105. Damaged Seat on Benton Road**

No response had yet been received from Sustrans who it was believed had placed the seat on Benton Road.

**106. Correspondence**

1. Highway Budget Review from DCC.

2. Road closure Watersmeet Road Lynton – Watersmeet 6-17 January.

**107. Highways**

It was reported that the hedge above the bus stop was in need of cutting. Highways to be informed.

**108. Reports**

**1. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Edgell reported that a great deal of work was being done in preparing the DCC budget for next year.

A meeting would be held at Shirwell Village Hall on Friday regarding deer poaching in the north Devon and Exmoor area.

**2. District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Prowse reported that cuts in staff were being made in the Planning Dept at NDC.

The timetable for the Local Plan had slipped again. This was partly due to over 4000 representations being received. The Plan had identified 60 settlements. North Devon and Torridge District Councils had a duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, in this case Cornwall. This was causing further delays.

He was hopeful to have an early draft of the Bratton Fleming chapter soon.

**3. Composting Group**

Cllr Shapland reported that payments received during the past month was £212.23 for 3.92 tonnes material removed during October. He said that the group needed more volunteers to Help with the chipping etc.

During the past 17 years 2165.71 tonnes of material had been removed from the site. The cost of operating the scheme totalled £11483. A total of £66557.89 had been donated to village organisations.

The balance stood at £10741.36.

**4. Woodland Group**

Cllr Shapland reported that he was looking to arrange another work party.

He had not yet received an application form for next year's Devon County Show Woodland Competition.

**5. Chairman's Report**

Cllr Shapland reported that work at the Village Hall to convert the first floor into a flat was continuing, and that as much would be done as possible with the finance available.

**109. Finance**

**1. Setting of 2014/2015 Budget**

The Clerk circulated a draft budget for 2014/2015. This was agreed.

**2. Setting of 2014/2015 Precept and Grant**

It was noted that the council would receive a maximum of £1031 in Parish Grant for the next financial year, compared with £1500 this year. This was due to North Devon Council having to make additional savings.

Cllr Prowse proposed the Precept remain the same as in 2013/2014. This was agreed.

**3. Grants and Donations**

**1. Bratton Fleming Scout Group**

It was agreed to give the Scout Group a donation of £500.

It was noted that the County Councillor had awarded them £600 and the District Councillor £400 from their Community Grant funding.

**2. Millennium Green**

A request for a grant had been received from the Millennium Green Trustees for help towards maintaining the Green.

Cllrs Prowse, Ridd-Jones and Shapland declared an interest and left the meeting while the application was considered.

It was agreed to maintain the grant at £1500.

**3. St Peters Churchyard**

An application for a grant towards the cost of maintaining the burial ground had been received from St Peters Church.

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

It was agreed to make a grant of £600.

**4. Poppy Appeal**

It was agreed to make a donation of £100.

**4. Payments:**

**1. Since the last meeting**

Bratton Fleming Village Hall - Grant Towards Building Costs £10000.

**2. New Payment**

Parish Clerk's salary & expenses                    £115.68                    Cheque No. 883

Mr S Shapland – grass cutting                    £ 20.00                    Cheque No. 884

The two accounts were agreed for payment.

**110. Items for the next Agenda.**

Street Lighting; Burial Ground.

**111. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 December 2013**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared meeting closed.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....