



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 19 February 2014 at 7:45pm.

Present: Cllrs T Shapland (Chairman), F Benbow, M Huxtable, M Prowse, R Steele and Mrs V Worms

In attendance: 6 parishioners, PCSO Adam Berry, Parish Clerk

141. Encompass Southwest presentation.

The Chairman introduced Shelagh Otway from Encompass Southwest. She explained that the organisation had been in existence for 1½ years, and was previously known as the Barnstaple Poverty Action Group. They were working to alleviate poverty, and was aimed at the over 55s living in North Devon. They gave assistance with form filling etc and helped those in need to be aware of various benefits.

It was planned hold sessions in the nurses room at the Village Hall fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons 1 – 4pm, commencing 19 March.

142. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs P Kellaway, A Ridd-Jones, G Tribe and County Cllr R Edgell

143. Police Report

PCSO Adam Berry reported that during the past month 7 incidents had been logged for Bratton Fleming: 2 road traffic collisions; 3 highway disruptions; 2 domestic incidents.

During the same period two crimes had been reported: 1 criminal damage – window smashed; 1 domestic related assault.

144. Public Participation

1. The parish council was thanked for its work in attempting to ensure that potholes were repaired, and drains cleared. It was noted that many drains still needed clearing, and that some were completely covered.
2. It was reported that some of the gardens in Church Close were still in a poor condition, and that the hedge between the houses and Homer Close had not been cut.

145. Co-option of Parish Councillor

The Clerk reported that Mr Brian East had been the only applicant . It was agreed to co-opt Mr East as Parish Councillor.

146. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 15 January 2014

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

147. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 15 January 2014

It was noted that Devon was merging its archives with Somerset. Cllr Prowse reported that NDC was looking to help keep the North Devon Record Office. It was agreed to send a letter to DCC urging the retention of the North Devon Record Office.

- Min. 128. It was noted that the parish council had not made a decision on the location of a burial ground.
- Min. 130. It was agreed that only one councillor should be responsible for submitting items to be posted on the parish website.
The Clerk would be responsible for submitting agendas and minutes. Cllr Benbow would submit other items.
- Min. 132. SW Ambulance Service had apologised for the fact that their locksmith had not yet changed the lock on the defibrillator cabinet.
- Min. 136. It was agreed to send a letter to the planning department regarding the run-off of surface water onto the highway.

148. Planning

1. Applications –

56835 Demolition of existing barn and erection of new staff room at Exmoor Zoological Park, Twitchen Lane, Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

56851 Retrospective application for construction of agricultural workshop/restroom/toilet facilities at The Old Racecourse Farm, Benton Road, Bratton Fleming.

It was resolved to recommend that temporary approval be granted, for a period of 2 – 3 years.

56869 Extension of time limit for implementation of planning permission 51771 (Extension of time limit for implementation of planning permission 45911 – extension to dwelling & formation of site reception & games room at Greenacres Farm Touring Caravan Park, Bratton Fleming.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

2. Decisions – Refusal:

55546 Erection of one 50kw wind turbine (height 34.2m, height to hub 24.6m blade diameter 9.6m) at Friendship Farm Bratton Fleming

Cllr Prowse reported that applications on the ridge, and close to Exmoor National Park was contrary to the Local Plan.

149. Correspondence

1. Royal Mail had advised that the post box at Bratton Cross would be replaced week commencing 24 February.
2. Highways advised that the work scheduled between Collard Bridge Cross and Goodleigh Cross had been postponed.
3. South West Highways confirmed that work would commence on the road between Oxenpark and Chelfham on 24 February. The road would be closed between 9.30am and 3.30pm. it was agreed to place notices advising the times of closure in the notice boards.
4. Highways advised that all scheduled work had been put on hold for the rest of the financial year. This was to enable teams to concentrate on damage caused by the bad weather.
5. North Devon Council had advised the next Rural Seminar would be at Bishops Nympton Village Hall on Friday 11 April 10.00am – 1.30pm. the keynote speaker would be Nick Harvey MP, who would be speaking on the Rural Fair Share Campaign.
6. Notification had been received on the public consultations on the future of the Adult Social Care Day Services, Adult Residential Care Services and the future of Youth Services in Devon.
7. The new timetable for the mobile library service had been received. With effect from 31 March the library would be calling every fourth Monday 12.40 – 1.25pm.
8. It was reported that Collard Bridge was scheduled to be rebuilt later in the year. Parishes would be consulted on the design of the new bridge.
9. Other items of correspondence were noted

150. Biodiversity Audit

Cllr Benbow reported that details of the diy audit had been received. This would be circulated to councillors for consideration at the next meeting.

151. Local Plan

It was noted that misinformation was circulating the parish. The draft copy of the parish chapter was the opportunity for the parish council to correct any inaccuracy. It was stressed that it was not a public consultation, this would take place later in the year. It was important that chapter three was read together with chapters one and two.

With regard to any proposed development on the Glebe, it was noted that the parish council would have a substantial input.

It was noted that the proposed level of development over the coming twenty years was the same level of growth that had taken place in the past twenty years.
Cllr Steele proposed that there should be a referendum on the proposals. There was no seconder.

152. Highways

It was reported that the interactive road sign opposite the shop was repeatably being turned, rendering it useless. It was agreed to enquire if it could be relocated.
It was reported that the mud on the road near Loxhore Cross had resulted in the road becoming slippery. It was noted that the Enforcement Officer had visited the site.

153. Reports

1. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Prowse reported that a Budget meeting would be held the following week. It was being proposed not to increase the Council Tax. He noted that government grants had been reduced from £14m to £10m, with a £1m cut being made next year.

2. County Councillor’s Report

None – County Councillor not present.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland reported that there was a great need more volunteers if the scheme was to continue. There were now only three volunteers. It was hoped that more people would come forward.

Receipts during the past month had been £352.99 for 6.52 tonnes material removed in December.

Payments had been £65.20 for additional Christmas trees; £349.57 for new signs; £212.60 for the workers dinner; £6000 unlimited loan to the Village Hall.

The balance stood at £3541.18.

4. Woodland Group

Cllr Shapland reported that the entry for the Devon County Show Woodland competition had been accepted.

Some work had recently been carried out by volunteers.

5. Chairman’s Report

Cllr Shapland reported that the Village Hall Flat was almost complete, with decorating in progress, it was hoped to let the flat in March/April.

154. Finance

1. Payments

Parish Clerk’s salary £ 115.08 Cheque No. 892

The account was agreed for payment.

155. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Biodiversity Audit.

156. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19 March 2014

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date