



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 16 April 2014 at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Cllrs T Shapland (Chairman), F Benbow, B East, M Huxtable, Mrs P Kellaway, M Prowse, R Steele, G Tribe and Mrs V Worms

**In attendance:** 4 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, Parish Clerk

**170. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Ridd-Jones.

**171. Police Report**

A report had been received from the police. During March there had been five incidents logged for Bratton Fleming: 2 domestic incidents; 1 incident of dangerous driving (A399); 1 incident of a drunk male lying in the road near Bratton Cross; 1 RTC between Blackmoor Gate and Bratton Fleming, car in field on its roof (all occupants are safe and well).

During the same period three crimes had been reported: 1 Burglary (from shed); 1 Harassment; 1 Drink drive

Everyone was asked to be extra vigilant and if anything suspicious is seen to report it to the police on 101.

Motorists were asked to ensure that vehicles were left secure. There had been a case of a vehicle being stolen in the Loxhore area due to it being left insecure with the keys in the ignition.

**172. Public Participation**

1. It was reported that there had not been any improvements to the overgrown gardens at Church Close. Clerk to contact North Devon Homes again.
2. Cllr Benbow reported on an energy saving presentation given at the recent Rural alliance meeting. Copies were available in pdf format. Advice was available to those in fuel poverty. He had completed the relevant training for the scheme.
3. Cllr Steele suggested that it may be possible for the parish council to erect solar panels in what was believed to be a parish quarry near Four Cross Way. Cllr Prowse warned that proposed changes in feed-in tariffs for stand alone solar parks would make them less attractive. Councillors to view the site before the next meeting.
4. Potholes were reported on Benton Road, near the bottom of Old Rectory Lane and outside Carpe Diem. Clerk to report.
5. It was reported that the faulty streetlight in Homer Close was now working, but since the repair being carried out the Homer close lights were now on all day.
6. It was reported that the footpath at the back of the bus shelter needed weeding.
7. It was reported that there had been an increase in dog fouling recently. It was believed that one dog was responsible. A watch was being kept to ascertain the time of day that this occurred in order that the dog warden could be informed.
8. It was reported that nothing had yet been done to repair the hole in the road opposite the shop, despite warning signs being in place for several months. Clerk to make enquiries.

**173. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 19 March 2014**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

**174. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 19 March 2014**

Min. 1610 The Clerk reported that the Agenda and draft Minutes of meetings were sent being sent to Mr Laurie for inclusion on the website as soon as they were completed.

Cllr Prowse reported that the Local Plan would be presented to the meeting of the Executive on 22 April, and to the full council at its meeting on 30 April. If approved a six week public consultation period would commence in late May.

**175. Planning**

**1. Applications –**

57128 Retrospective application for the conversion of barn to form carer's accommodation for dependent relatives South Stowford Farm Bratton Fleming

**It was resolved** to recommend approval.

57174 Erection of permanent agricultural workers (managerial) dwelling The Old Racecourse Farm Benton Road Bratton Fleming

**It was resolved** to recommend approval, subject to all the requirements for an agricultural workers dwelling being met.

**2. Decisions**

**a. Approval:**

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

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

**b. Refusal:**

57001 Removal of condition (3 ) attached to planning permission 36081 to allow for use as a separate unit of accommodation at Oxenpark Bratton Fleming

**3. Notification of Appeal**

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

**176. Burial Ground**

To be considered at a later date in conjunction with the Local Plan.

**177. Biodiversity Audit**

Cllr Benbow reported that he had been in contact with Brookside Ecology with regard to employing their services for a Biodiversity Audit. Their response was awaited.

**178. Correspondence**

1. DALC Newsletter – April 2014
2. Healthwatch Voices – Issue 4

**179. Highways**

It was reported that the potholes reported at the last meeting had not yet been repaired. Clerk to report again.

Cllr Edgell reported the current position regarding the number of pothole repairs outstanding in the county. DCC had recently received £7m from the government to assist in pothole repairs.

It was agreed to contact Highways to enquire if the lengthsman programme had been reinstated.

**180. Reports**

**1. District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Prowse reported that the Local Plan should out for public consultation shortly.

North Devon + had received £5m funding from central government.

The area of North Devon that qualified for Assisted Area Status had been increased.

A working party had been formed to try to secure the future of a Record Office in North Devon. This included the North Devon Athenaeum and the Museum Service. He was optimistic that public access would be maintained, possibly at the North Devon Museum.

North Devon Council was looking to maximise the use of its own buildings in order to rent office space.

**2. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Edgell reported that a great deal of time was being spent on examining where savings could be made.

Public consultation on the future of its Care Homes and the Youth Service was in progress.

**3. Composting Group**

Cllr Shapland reported that receipts received during the past month had been £636.69 for 11.76 tonnes material removed during March. Expenses had been £48 for two additional safety helmets.

The balance stood at £4558.80.

**4. Woodland Group**

Cllr Shapland reported that the judges for the County Show Woodland Competition had visited the woodland on 8 April, and appeared to be impressed with what they saw.

**5. Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman reported that the Village Hall Flat Open Day had been successful. The project had been completed just under budget. There had already been a few viewings.

Councillors expressed their appreciation to all concerned in the project which would help to secure the future of the Village Hall.

**181. Finance**

**1. Payments**

DALC subscription	£211.73	Cheque No. 895
Philips Smith & Dunn	£300.00	Cheque No. 896
Bratton Fleming Village Hall - hire	£107.25	Cheque No. 897
Parish Clerk’s salary	£116.28	Cheque No. 898
Bratton Fleming Village Hall – hire Jan-Mar 2014	£ 48.75	Cheque No. 899
North Devon Council – allotment rent	£ 10.00	Cheque No. 900

The six accounts were agreed for payment.

**182. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.**

Suitability of quarry near Four Cross Way for Solar Energy; Local Plan.

**183. Date of Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council Meetings: Wednesday 21 May 2014**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.