



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 20 January 2015 at 7:30pm.

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

In attendance: 14 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, Parish Clerk

122. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs V Worms

123. Police Report

A report had been received from PCSO Adam Berry.

Three incidents were logged during December: 1x Hit and run incident in Station Road; 1x RTC, and 1x Suspicious males seen- officers spoke to males and they were all in order.

During the same period four crimes were reported: 3x Fuel theft; 1x criminal damage to vehicle.

The police were continuing to monitor and enforce the speed limits in the area.

Everyone were advised to be aware that this was the time of year which was a prime time for fuel tanks to be broken. Any suspicious behaviour should be reported.

Drivers were asked to consider the weather conditions when driving during the winter, if the road conditions worsen due to poor weather please reduce speed whilst driving and please do not attempt to pass through any flood water that is likely to be impassable.

124. Public Participation

1. Concern was expressed that the value of neighbouring properties would be affected if planning application 58644 was granted approval. It was considered that the access driveway was unable to cope with an additional dwelling. It was hoped that the parish council would have a site visit before making a decision.
The applicant stated that the owners of neighbouring properties had been made aware of the possibility that the plot could be built on. The plans that had been submitted had been drawn to take the other properties into account.
2. The council was handed £400 which had been raised towards the cost of new play equipment on the Millennium Green, in memory of Jonathan Pople.
Cllr Prowse reported that he was donating £500 from his Community Grant. A questionnaire would be circulated throughout the parish in order to determine what improvements should be carried out.
3. DCC was thanked for work carried out to the drain outside Valley Cottage. It had been accepted that flooding had been caused by years of neglect to the roadside channel.
It was noted that there was a grating on the edge of the woodland which should take the water under the road.
4. It was reported that a streetlight at Grange Hill had not been working since Christmas. The fault had been reported, but nothing had been done. Faulty light to be reported again.
5. Complaints were received regarding problems caused by inappropriate parking outside the school, with cars being parked on pavements and on the Village Hall car park.
6. A request had been received from the Snow Warden for bags of dry salt. Request to be passed to DCC again.

125. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Ridd-Jones declared an interest in Planning Application 58612

Cllr Benbow declared an interest in item 131.

126. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 17 December 2014 and 2 January 2015.

The minutes of both meetings were agreed and signed as a true record.

127. Matters Arising from Minutes

- Min. 106.4 No response had been received from North Devon Homes regarding the newly erected fence in Furze Park Road.
- Min. 111.2 It was noted that an Emergency Plan had been prepared some years previously, and was therefore in need of updating.
- Min. 120. It was noted that not all councillors had been aware of the site meeting on 2 January.

128. Planning

1. Applications –

- 58612 Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwellinghouse (use class c3) and associated operational development class mb(b) building 1 Greenacres Farm , Bratton Fleming.

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

It was resolved to recommend approval.

- 58644 Outline application for erection of dwelling, land at Mill Lane Bratton Fleming.
It was agreed to defer making a recommendation until a site meeting had been held. This was arranged for 9.00am on Saturday 24 January.

2. Decisions

1. Approval:

- 58438 Listed building application for internal alterations at Shorland Old Farm.

2. Refusal:

- 58365 Prior approval application for change of use from agricultural building to one dwelling at The Barn, Barton Grounds Mill Lane Bratton Fleming

3. Appeal Decisions - Dismissed:

- 57279 Conversion of loft space, View Farm
57001 Removal of Condition 3 to allow use as a separate unit of accommodation, Oxenpark.

129. Correspondence

1. A letter had been received from a resident at Treefield expressing concern over the number of accidents at Sentry Cross, requesting the erection of a barrier and signs. It was noted that the school buses picked up at this point, meaning the children had to cross the road on the bend. It was agreed to contact DCC, noting that Cllr Shapland was willing to meet Highways on site.
2. A request for financial assistance had been received from Barnstaple CAB. It was noted that they already received funding from DCC.
3. A draft agreement had been received from NDC passing ownership of the chipper to the parish council. Cllr Shapland stated that he was not happy with the agreement as it stood, and that a clause was necessary to ensure that any parish borrowing the chipper was responsible for any damage caused while in their possession. It was felt that it may be necessary for a solicitor to act on behalf of the parish council. The purchase of the chipper from NDC was also considered.
4. Other items of correspondence were noted:
Devon Senior Voice; Healthwatch Voices; clerks and Councils Direct.

130. Highways

Concern was expressed that notification was only given to parishes in which road closures were due to take place, not neighbouring parishes which would be affected. Prior to the present closure of the A399 only Brayford Parish Council had been notified. Although a number of locations along the stretch of road between Brayford and Aller Cross need repairs, only one section is currently receiving attention. It was felt that the recent number of road closures in North Devon would not be tolerated in South Devon. It was agreed to send a strong letter of complaint to DCC.

Cllr Edgell reported that additional funding for pothole repairs had been secured by DCC, but this would need spending in the current financial year.

131. Solar Energy

Cllr Benbow reported on a plan that had been prepared for the quarry at Little Bray Lane. He believed that the costs had been underestimated. Before anything further could be done it would be necessary to obtain the support of the parish. It would also be necessary to obtain evidence that the parish council owned the land. Cllr Huxtable considered it necessary to employ the services of a solicitor. It was agreed to obtain the views of parishioners through the next edition of the Bratton Fleming News. Cllr Benbow to prepare an article for inclusion.

132. Biodiversity

Cllr Benbow reported that no response had been received regarding the cost of preparing a Biodiversity Audit. He would endeavour to obtain a quotation from an alternative company.

Cllr Steele suggested placing a Bird Feeding Station in the Community Woodland. There was no objection to this, but no agreement could be made without the costs being known. Cllr Steele to obtain full costs for consideration at the next meeting

Cllr Steele left the meeting.

133. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that the District Council would leave the Civic Centre by April. The work on Lynton House to accommodate some departments was almost complete. Devon County Council were hoping to be out of the Civic Centre by July.

Work on converting some of the Barnstaple car parks to Pay on Exit was complete. The council was looking at converting the cattle market car park next.

Planning consent had been obtained to allow the Pannier Market to be used for a wider range of events.

The Environment Agency was preparing a study to defend parts of Barnstaple from flooding.

2. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Edgell reported that a series of meetings were being held to consider the budget for the next financial year, which would be the tightest for many years.

3. Composting Group

Payments during the past month had been £316 for the village Christmas trees and £100 for a gazebo for the Village Hall, which was also available to other groups.

Receipts had been £455.28 for 8.16 tonnes material removed from the site in December.

4. Woodland Group

Cllr Shapland reported that work on the hedge had been completed. The hedges in the Woodland and Millennium Green had been cut, together with some of the brambles. The laurel had began to encroach into the woodland and would need to be cut back.

5. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

134. Finance

1. Payments

1. Parish Clerk's salary & expenses	£125.29	Cheque No. 930
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The account was agreed for payment.

135. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Biodiversity; Superfast Broadband.

136. Date of next meetings: Saturday 24 January and Wednesday 18 February 2015

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.16pm.