



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 7:30pm.

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

In attendance: 26 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, Parish Clerk.

157. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Ridd-Jones and Mrs V Worms.

158. Police Report

No report had been received from the police.

159. Public Participation

Concern was expressed more farm land would be taken for the proposed solar park, when it was government policy for solar arrays to be placed on roofs of commercial properties and brown field sites. The site at Knightacott was also the source of the water supply for nearby dwellings. It was noted that the current solar parks in the parish provided more electricity than was consumed in Bratton Fleming.

It was considered that more solar arrays would adversely affect the tourist and farming industry in the area.

The proposed Community Benefit had been calculated to just 40p per head of population in the parish per year.

Concern was also expressed over the narrow lane leading to the site, and the poor visibility at the junction with the A399.

Complaints were received over loud music at 4am on 22 February. the police and Environmental Health had been informed, but the police were unable to act as a license for music had been issued. It was understood that the music came from a legal rave at Shirwell.

It was noted that the overgrown hedge up Grange Hill from Sentry Cross reduced visibility on the junction.

Objections were received to the planning application for a dwelling in Haxton Lane. It was noted that it was very similar to the previous application which was refused. The new application would still require access for four vehicles along the narrow lane. It was considered that the proposal would have an adverse affect on an unspoilt valley, and was outside the natural boundary of the village.

Complaints were received over the amount of rubbish outside the White Hart, which was on the highway. The Chairman offered to contact North Devon Council.

Concern was expressed over the planning application for a dwelling adjacent to The Fairway, which would overlook neighbouring properties. It was also queried whether a two storey house was appropriate in this location

160. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Huxtable declared an interest in planning applications 58900 and 58986.

Cllrs Benbow and Mrs Kellaway declared an interest in planning application 58895.

161. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 18 February 2015

Min. 152. was amended to read shrubs, not trees.

Min. 153.2 was amended to read three years, not five.

The amended minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

162. Matters Arising from Minutes of the last meeting.

Min. 152. Cllr Steele proposed that the hide on the Community Woodland should be open for everyone to view the birds on the feeding station. There was no seconder.

It was noted that the trees adjacent to the Station road allotments were subject to a Tree Preservation Order. It was agreed that the council would have no objection to the owner cutting back the overhanging branches.

163. Planning

1. Applications –

58895 Erection of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic panel array together with biodiversity enhancements Land at Knightacott Cross, Bratton Fleming.

It was resolved to recommend refusal of the application. The council supported the view that agricultural land should not be used for solar arrays. Concern was also expressed over the effect that work in the field could have on the water supply to nearby properties, that were served by springs on the site.

58900 Outline planning permission for one dwelling & associated annexe with some matters reserved Land off Haxton Lane, Bratton Fleming

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

It was resolved to recommend refusal, it being noted that apart from the proposed dwelling being repositioned lower in the valley, the application differed very little from the previous one.

The council was concerned that the junction of the access lane with the main village street offered no visibility for vehicles exiting the lane due to buildings on both side of the lane, and the junction being on a bend. The access lane was also very steep and narrow with little, if any, room for vehicles and pedestrians to pass for most of its length.

58931 Listed building application replacement of four white painted wooden windows with same style windows Town Tenement Farm, Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

58986 Erection of one dwelling with detached garage land adjacent to The Fairway, Bratton Fleming

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

It was agreed to hold a site meeting before making a response. Site meeting to be held the following Monday, at 5.30pm.

2. Decisions None.

3. Notice of Appeal

Application 56097: Erection of five dwellings & two flats, land adjacent to Beechcroft.

164. Correspondence

1. A timetable for the forthcoming parish council election had been received from North Devon Council, together with application forms for anyone wishing to stand for election.
2. DALC newsletters

165. Highways

1. It was reported that the street light at Grange hill was still not working. Fault to be reported again. Also to report that some lights in Furze Park Road were lit all day.
2. Repeated flooding was still occurring at the Sports Club.
3. It was reported that the water tables had been cleaned on the Barnstaple road. The debris had been deposited on roadside verges whereas previously this had not been allowed.
4. It was reported that the A399 was now open.

166. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

None – Cllr Prowse not present.

2. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Edgell reported that the TAP Fund was continuing as far as DCC was concerned, but it was not known if North Devon Council would continue.

Local councillor grants were continuing, with each councillor being allocated £10k to support local projects.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland reported that no payments had been made in the past month A receipt of £4711.97 had been received for 90 tonnes of material removed in February. Payment for an additional 26.4 tonnes of material had not yet been received. The balance stood at £9022.06.

4. Woodland Group

Cllr Steele reported that the feeding station had been erected near the hide. A number of volunteers had come forward to look after the feeders.

It was agreed to reimburse Cllr Steele for the £81.06 spent on the feeders, and to fund it for three months.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reminded councillors that their term of office would come to an end in May, and those wishing to stand again would need to submit their applications. He was hopeful that some younger parishioners would be interested to stand for election.

167. Finance

1. Payments

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| 1. | Came & Co – insurance renewal | £598.32 |
| 2. | Parish Clerk's salary & expenses | £115.08 |
| 3. | Mr R Steele – bird seed etc | £ 82.06 |

The three accounts were agreed for payment.

168. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Biodiversity; The White Hart.

169. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15 April 2015

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.52pm.