



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 15 April 2015 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllrs F Benbow, B East, M Huxtable, M Prowse, R Steele and G Tribe.

In attendance: 12 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, Parish Clerk.

In the absence of Cllr Shapland, the Chair was taken by Cllr Benbow.

170. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs P Kellaway, A Ridd-Jones, T Shapland and Mrs V Worms.

Cllr Mrs Worms, who was not seeking re-election, sent her thanks to the parish council for the support shown to her during her time as councillor.

It was agreed to send Cllr Mrs Worms a letter of thanks for her work for the parish during her time as parish councillor, and to all other councillors that were standing down.

171. Police Report

A report had been received from PCSO Adam Berry.

During March six incidents had been logged for Bratton Fleming: 3 Domestic Incidents; 2 Highway Disruptions; 1 concern over suspicious male.

Two crimes had been reported: 1 theft of fuel from a motor vehicle; 1 I criminal damage to vehicle, which later turned out to be accidental.

172. Public Participation

1. The Village Hall was holding an Open Day on Saturday 18 April 10am – 1pm.
2. A letter had been received to councillors regarding a planning application considered at the last meeting. The writer expressed his appreciation in receiving a response from councillors before the forthcoming elections.
3. In response to questions Cllr Prowse explained the changes to the draft Local Plan, which was subject to a six week consultation period. There had not been a change in site in Bratton Fleming, but there had been a change in the wording. The Planning Inspectorate was not accepting the wording 'maximum' or 'approximate' in relation to the number of dwellings. It had therefore been necessary to change the wording to 'minimum'.
Cllr Edgell explained that North Devon still could not demonstrate the availability of a five year housing land supply.
It was noted that due to a change in legislation, some smaller rural developments would not provide any affordable housing, only those with more than ten dwellings
It was agreed that the parish council should oppose the change in wording, as this was not what the parish had agreed.
Cllr Benbow explained that the parish council did not propose a development site in the village, but did not oppose the site selected by North Devon Council.
4. Concern was expressed over the lack of street lights at night, which was being blamed for the increase in theft, especially fuel.
It was understood that one street light was being left on for the benefit of one parishioner.
5. It was explained that the site meeting to consider planning application 58986 had not taken place due to the lack of councillors to form a quorum, despite two attempts.
6. Concern was expressed over the danger of children exiting the Recreation Field via the kissing gate at Sentry Cross. It was agreed that the Recreation Ground Trustees should consider the situation after the next parish council meeting.
7. It was noted that there was an increase in litter in the village, especially at the top of the village. Cllr Prowse to investigate the possibility of providing a bin at Sentry Cross.
8. A letter was read from Cllr Shapland pointing out inaccuracies in a report in the recent Bratton Fleming News.

173. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Huxtable declared an interest in planning application 58986.

174. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 18 March 2015

Min 166.4 was amended to record that £81.06 had been spent on the bird table and other items.

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

175. Matters Arising from Minutes of the last meeting

Cllr Prowse expressed his concern over planning application 58895 in respect of the water supply for the dwellings at Knightacott. He had sought legal advice and as a result was unable to call in the planning application to be considered by the planning committee. It was agreed that the parish council should request that the application was called in.

176. Planning

1. Applications –

59045 First floor extension, 20 Homer Close Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

59089 Removal of agricultural occupancy attached to ni 6261 to allow full residential occupancy Barton Bungalow Bratton Fleming

Cllr Prowse explained the background to the application the Agricultural Tie did not appear on the searches when the present owner purchased the property, due to the way in that it had been recorded. When a planning application was submitted for the property the planning officer was also unaware of the agricultural tie.

It was resolved to recommend approval, due to the special circumstances relating to the application.

2. Decisions

1. Refusal:

58900 Outline planning permission for one dwelling & associated annexe with some matters reserved at land off Haxton Lane Bratton Fleming.

2. Appeal Decision – Dismissed:

58145 – Hilltop Field, Grange Hill, Bratton Fleming.

177. Correspondence

1. Letter from a parishioner regarding a recent planning application – circulated to councillors to respond individually.
2. NDC had advised a public consultation to the changes to the North Devon Local Plan.
3. Healthwatch Voices Spring 2015.
4. Came & Co. newsletter.

178. Highways

Subsidence was reported to the edge of the road near New Mills, which had not been coned off. It was not known if this had contributed to two cars leaving the road in recent weeks, ending up in the river.

A pothole at Sentry Cross was reported.

Both to be reported to Highways.

179. Award of Grass Cutting Contract

An advertisement had been placed in the North Devon Journal for tenders for grass cutting for the coming five years. The only tender received was from Steve Shapland, at a cost only slightly above that at present.

Mr Shapland's tender was accepted.

180. The White Hart

Cllrs Prowse, East and Benbow had met the White Hart Group on three occasions, with another meeting planned for the following week. New legislation meant that it was now a material issue. The Planning Officer would also be attending the meeting.

The owner had repeated his position in that he was not willing to sell the property.

The White Hart had been included in the Local Plan, which unfortunately had not yet been approved.

181. Biodiversity

Cllr Steele confirmed that there would be no cost to the parish for cutting the overhanging branches at the Station Road Allotments.

It was noted that a biodiversity Audit had been carried out at Weare Gifford by the Devon Wildlife Trust.

182. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that the Civic Centre was almost empty. Front of House staff were now located at Lynton House, with everyone else at Brynsworthy.

The council was very concerned at the loss of the North Devon Record Office, and the transfer of most of the documents to Exeter.

He thanked colleagues for their support during the past 28 years that he had been District Councillor. He hoped that he would be able to continue to serve the area after the forthcoming election.

2. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Edgell reported that as things were very quiet at DCC at the present time, he had nothing to report.

3. Composting Group

During the past month payments had been £30 for diesel. Two grants had been made to the Short Mat Bowles Club, for £193.50 and £500.00

Receipts had been £1250.04 for 26.4 tonnes material removed in February. Payment for 12.32 tonnes removed in March was still awaited.

The balance stood at £9548.60

4. Woodland Group

The judges would be visiting the woodland the following day in connection with the Devon County Show Woodland Competition.

5. Chairman's Report

Cllr Benbow thanked Cllrs Prowse and Edgell for all their help and support to the parish council.

183. Finance

1. Payments

1.	DALC – subscription	£213.75	Cheque No. 937
2.	NDC – license for rent of allotments	£ 10.00	Cheque No. 938
3.	Local World Ltd (NDJ advert)	£ 49.50	Cheque No. 939
4.	Parish Clerk's salary & expenses	£115.70	Cheque No. 940
5.	Bratton Fleming Village Hall	£ 99.45	Cheque No. 941

The five accounts were agreed for payment.

184. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

The White Hart; Biodiversity Audit.

185. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20 May 2015

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm.