



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 17 June 2015 at 7:30pm.

Present: F Benbow (Chairman), B East, P Freeman, M Huxtable, M Prowse, T Shapland G Tribe.

In attendance: 15 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, Parish Clerk.

18. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Kellaway and Mrs P Kellaway.

19. Public Participation

1. Mr Williams reported that the raised flower beds were beginning to rot from the inside and would need replacing before next year, at an approximate cost of £750. He requested financial assistance towards the cost of replacement. This was agreed in principal. The flower beds had originally been instigated by the Gardening Club, but had later been taken on by Mr Williams, but he felt unable to continue. Mr Williams was thanked for his work in maintaining the beds..
2. It was agreed that there was a need to get the ball rolling to get some new play equipment for the Millennium Green. It was understood that the were volunteers willing to become involved. Cllr Prowse reported that the Millennium Green Trustees were meeting the following week to decide what should be done.
3. Mrs Freeman express her dissatisfaction on not receiving an acknowledgment to her application to be considered for co-option. She felt that the other candidate for co-option was very able to become a councillor, and wished to withdraw her application. She was still willing to assist in any working group and would be willing to stand for co-option in the future should there be a vacancy.
4. A request was received for a cycling event in the village for young people, in the form of a hill climb from the Sports Club to the Recreation Field. Marshals would be required at all road junctions if the request was approved. It was agreed that the parish council would support the event which could take place in September 2016.
5. It was reported that a cycle-dross event had taken place at West Buckland School and that the organisers were looking for new venues. If all were in agreement, the Sports Club would be very suitable as a venue.

20. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman explained the need to declare an interest on agenda items.

21. Co-Option of Parish Councillor

Following the withdraw of the application from Mrs Freeman, there was just one application, from Ms Nicola-Kaye Henry.

It would not therefore be necessary to arrange for a special meeting to consider the applications.

Cllr East proposed that Ms Henry be co-opted. Seconded by Cllr Shapland. All in agreement.

Cllr Ms Henry took her seat on the council, and completed her Declaration of Acceptance,

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ms Henry and thanked her and Mrs Freeman for their interest in being co-opted as parish councillor.

22. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 20 May 2015

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

23. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 20 May 2015

Min. 4. Cllr Shapland reported that the amount left over from the Jubilee celebrations was £270.80, more than he thought, This had been passed to the new Festival Committee. This was in addition to the £250 from the parish council.

Min. 11 .Cllr Benbow reported that he had contacted Devon Ecology Ltd who quoted £328 per day to carry out a biodiversity survey, which would take three days. It was noted that there was work that the parish council could do through DCC. It was hoped to have a proposal in time for the next meeting.

24. Planning

1. Applications – None

2. Decisions - Approval:

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

59139 Conversion of loft space (including dormer windows) to form additional living accommodation together with internal alterations at Hartland View Bratton Fleming

25. Correspondence

1. Emergency Plan. An enquiry had been received from DCC whether Bratton Fleming had an Emergency Plan. It was noted that the present Plan would need updating. To be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

2. Workshops. In answer to a question from a parishioner, it was noted that no approach had been received by the parish council regarding an extension of the site. It was noted that an approach had been made to DCC, who own the land, some time ago. It was known that there were those in the village who would be interested in occupying a unit. It was agreed that there was a need to debate the position with NPS.

3. Planning. Concern had been expressed that the parish council was not being fair by only seeing planning applications just prior to the meeting. Clerk to advise councillors of planning applications received.

26. Highways

It was reported that some of the grass in Furze Park had not been cut. It was noted that DCC were only cutting grass where safety was an issue – road junctions etc.

It was possible for the parish council to take on the responsibility of cutting the grass.

Concern was expressed over the speed of some quad bikes in the village.

27. Sign for Benton Road

Cllr Huxtable reported that some people were having difficulty in finding Benton road due to the lack of a sign. It was agreed to contact Highways to enquire the possibility of a sign.

28. Parish Council Assets

A list of known assets of the parish council was circulated to councillors. It was noted that there may be other items to add.

29. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that the Conservatives had taken over at the NDC Annual Meeting, and had formed the Executive together with a few Independents.

He had been unsuccessful in ensuring that cross party working would continue. He was no longer on the Executive of NDC, but Cllr Edgell was.

Pressure was on to ensure that the council had a five year housing land supply, which it currently did not.

A meeting was planned for Friday with the White Hart Group and Hannah Harrington to see how the new legislation may help prevent the White Hart from being developed.

2. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Edgell reported on the Boundary Commission Review of Devon, which would see Bratton Fleming moving to the enlarged Combe Martin Rural ward. Parishes in the east of the proposed Combe Martin ward were unhappy with the proposal as they looked to South Molton and had no contact with Combe Martin.

It was agreed to respond, opposing the proposed changes.

Cllr Edgell reported that his grant to the Youth Club was 'in the system'.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland reported that there were now 12 volunteers in the group, who attended at different times.

Receipts had been £533.82 for 9.86 tonnes material removed during May, and £120 for the use of the chipper in Combe Martin.

Payments had been £120 expenses incurred in loaning the machine to Combe Martin, and £15 to Mr Williams for petrol.
The balance stood at £10014.04

4. Woodland Group

Cllr Shapland reported that the woodland had been successful in winning first prize in the Devon County Show woodland competition. The judges had been very impressed by the hedge laying done by Mr Symons, and the general way in which the woodland was being managed. They stated that it was very noticeable that earlier comments had been noted and acted upon.

The judges had been very critical over the introduction of the bird feeding station, which would encourage squirrels which fed on birds eggs and caused serious damage to hardwood trees. It was strongly recommended that the bird feeders were removed as soon as possible.

Cllr Shapland had made enquires to Fawn Lodge, who would be pleased to have the bird feeding station in their garden.

Cllrs Benbow and Prowse declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion relating to Fawn Lodge.

It was agreed that it would be unwise to ignore the advice of the judges, and that the feeding station should be removed as soon as possible and moved to Fawn Lodge.

A request had been received for a new footbridge in the woodland, to be placed near the stepping stones, which would enable everyone to use the circular path. To be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that hew was encouraged by the increase in community spirit in the village, demonstrated by both the Festival and Youth Club restarting, and the School sports Club which took place at the Sports Club.

He proposed that the parish council should revert to not meeting during August. This was agreed.

30. Finance

1. Payments

1.	Mr G Bayard – Internal Audit	£ 25.00	Cheque No. 945
2.	Parish Clerk's salary & expenses	£116.03	Cheque No. 946
3.	Mr S Shapland – grass cutting	£ 24.00	Cheque No. 947
4.	Bratton Fleming Village Hall – hire	£ 32.50	Cheque No. 948

The four accounts were agreed for payment.

31. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Emergency Plan; Biodiversity Audit; Grange Hill Units; New Bridge for the Community Woodland.

32. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15 July 2015

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:00pm.