



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 16 September 2015 at 7:30pm.

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

**In attendance:** 10 parishioners, County Cllr R Edgell, Parish Clerk

**59. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ms N Henry, A Kellaway and M Prowse.

**60. Public Participation**

1. Concern was expressed that the minutes were not posted on the notice boards as soon as used to be the case.
2. The council was thanked for clarification regarding approaches made for additional industrial units. Originally the parish was led to believe that the units would be available for local people to rent and that the site would not be enlarged.  
The council was requested to oppose any enlargement of the site unless a requirement is proved by local people.  
The chairman explained that the Industrial Unite were an agenda item as two of the occupiers had requested an enlargement to accommodate their growing businesses. Cllr Edgell reported that any planning application would be considered by DCC as owners of the land, and not by NDC.
3. It was noted that the list of council assets had not yet been made available to the public.
4. concern was expressed on money being spent on the Community Woodland and the Millennium Green. The chairman explained that this had previously been dealt with.
5. Neighbourhood Plan.  
The chairman explained that this had been considered at a recent Rural Alliance meeting which had been attended by NDC Planners.  
The government had put an increased emphasis on parishes developing Neighbourhood Plans, although no financial assistance had been offered.  
The registration of a proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Bratton Fleming was now ready to submit. It was likely that grant funding would be available.  
The Chairman stated that he would be asking for volunteers to form a steering group.
6. North Devon Local Plan. Following a recent court case the government's recent decision to limit the inclusion of affordable homes on developments of more than 10 dwellings had been overturned. This meant that the Local Plan had to be amended to take the ruling into account. It was also necessary for North Devon Council to identify sites for wind turbines.

**61. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Mrs Kellaway declared an interest in item 71 – Grange Hill Units.

**62. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 15 July & 19 August 2015**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

**63. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 15 July & 19 August 2015**

- Min. 36. It was confirmed that it was Hogweed, not Giant Hogweed that was presenting the parish.  
DCC had advised that it no longer carried out any spraying on noxious weeds. It was noted that anyone wishing to carry out any spraying would need to have the appropriate licence.  
. No response had been received from the railway company.  
It was confirmed that the fencing and swing parts for the Millennium Green Play Area had been ordered.

**64. Planning**

**1. Applications –**

**59819 Extension to agricultural building Higher Stowford Stowford Barnstaple**

It was resolved to recommend approval.

**59835 Variation of condition 2 application 58986 - increase the size of the detached garage The Fairway Bratton Fleming**

It was resolved to recommend approval.

**2. Decisions**

**1. Refusal:**

59531 Prior approval application for change of use from barn to dwelling (class qa) at barn at Hilltop Field Grange Hill Bratton Fleming Barnstaple

**2. Approval:**

58104 Erection of permanent agricultural workers (managerial) dwelling at The Old Racecourse Farm Benton Road Bratton Fleming

58182 Outline application for demolition of commercial garage/workshop & erection of 4 dwellings at White Hart Garage Bratton Fleming

59397 Demolition of existing & erection of new dwelling at Chumhill Bratton Fleming

59517 Extension & alterations to dwelling together with erection of raised decked area (amended plans) at Flowerdown Benton Road Bratton Fleming

59561 Change of use of annexe to holiday accommodation at Rye Park Bratton Fleming

**65. Correspondence Received**

1. DCC – Say No to Junk Mail. It was agreed to request a pack of leaflets and letterbox stickers for use by parishioners.
2. DCC – Details of a Devon Highways Parish & Town Council conference to be held on 21 October at Bradford and Cookbury Village Hall.
3. DCC – Urban Highway Grass Cutting. It was agreed to register an interest in cutting grass currently cut by DCC, depending on financial help being available,
4. DCC Highways – Members Information Pack.
5. DALC newsletter – September 2015.
6. Clerks and Councils Direct.

**66. Highways**

Concern was raised over the frequency of flooding outside the Sports Club. Cllr Edgell to speak to Mr Sables at DCC, together with the length of time temporary traffic lights had been in place at Nadrid on the A399.

Concern was also expressed over the repeated flooding of the road between Chelfham and Skew Bridge and the safety of road users on this stretch of road. It was noted that it was often the police that erected warning signs at times of flooding, not DCC.

**67. Emergency Plan**

Item deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr East offered to update the existing Emergency Plan.

Cllr Edgell to make enquiries into the availability of road salt for use by the Snow Warden.

**68. Additional Bridge in the Community Woodland**

It was reported that the span of a bridge near the stepping stones would need to be much larger than had been envisaged. This would mean that any bridge would need to be placed further upstream.

**69. Biodiversity Audit**

Deferred to the next meeting to allow Cllr Benbow the opportunity to speak to the company concerned.

**70. Millennium Green Play Area - update**

It was confirmed that new fencing and replacement parts for the swings had been ordered.

**71. Grange Hill Units**

Already covered under Public Participation.

**72. Allotments**

Cllr Shapland reported that the Haxton Lane Allotment holders had enquired into the possibility of being self sufficient, similar to the Station Road site. This would mean that they would be responsible for maintaining the site. The composting Group would be willing to help financially. It was noted that the group would still be answerable to the parish council, as owner of the site. Concern was raised whether the parish council insurance would still cover those working on the site. Clerk to make enquiries.

The request was agreed in principle, subject to adequate insurance cover being in place.

**73. Reports**

**1. District Councillor's Report**

None – District Councillor not present.

**2. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Edgell reported that £1.5m was being made available from central government to carry out improvement studies on the A361 North Devon Link Road. The next was due to be carried out at the Portmore roundabout.

He was pleased to support the provision of a new classroom at the school. It was noted that the base was now in place.

**3. Composting Group**

Cllr Shapland reported that payment received had been £982.52 for 17.12 tonnes material removed from site in June 2015, and £85.09 April-May adjustment.

In July 10.5 tonnes of material had been removed for which a payment of £1119.11 had been received. NDC had admitted that this had been an overpayment. This would be rectified over the coming months. During August 3.56 tonnes had been removed for which no payment had been received, as this would be taken from the overpayment.

There had been no expenses. The balance stood at £12200.76

**4. Woodland Group**

Cllr Shapland reported that work may be needed on the Haxton Lane hedge due to erosion. A site meeting had been arranged to determine what work needed to be carried out.

**5. Chairman's Report**

1. The Chairman reported that the current Standing Orders had been emailed to all councillors.
2. Phase 2 of the Superfast Broadband rollout was to be retendered by interested parties. No commitment had been made regarding speed or expected date. Bratton Fleming was included in phase one of the rollout.

**74. Finance – Payments:**

1.	Mr S Shapland – grass cutting	£ 72.00	Cheque No. 955
2.	DALC – training	£ 30.00	Cheque No. 956
3.	Alvian Ltd – playbark	£2754.00	Cheque No. 957
4.	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£ 115.08	Cheque No. 958

The four accounts were agreed for payment.

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

Emergency Plan; New Bridge for the Community Woodland; Biodiversity Audit; future of the White Hart – update.

**76. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 21 October 2015, at 7:45pm.

There would be a meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust after the parish council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:05pm.