



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 21 October 2015 at 7:45pm.

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

In attendance: 11 parishioners, Parish Clerk

77. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr R Edgell,

Cllr Ms Henry had tendered her apologies to another councillor prior to the meeting, but the message had not been picked up.

78. Public Participation

1. In answer to a query, it was reported that the gate at the Recreation Field would be discussed at a meeting of the Trustees after the parish council meeting.
2. It was reported that the bus shelter had several slates missing. Cllr Prowse offered to look at the shelter, noting that he had a quantity of slates.
3. It was reported that the hedge between Homer Close and Church Close was partly cut last year, and that the work needed to be completed as it was blocking light to some properties in Church Close. It was agreed to ask North Devon Homes to complete the work. Cllr Prowse offered to clarify to owner of the hedge in the Homer Close play area.
4. It was reported that there was an increase in dog fouling on the Millennium Green. Some owners were also not controlling their dogs creating a potential danger to other users, some of whom had been knocked over. It was agreed to put an article in the Bratton Fleming News.

79. Declaration of Interests

Cllrs A Kellaway and Mrs P Kellaway declared a personal interest in the proposed development at Grange Hill.

80. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 16 September 2015

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

81. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 16 September 2015

Cllr Shapland reported that no action was necessary at present regarding Hogweed in the Community Woodland.

It was noted that DCC were no longer spraying Japanese Knotweed. Although it was possible to have the weed sprayed, it could only be done by someone who help the relevant licence. In response to an email from a parishioner it was noted that the land identified was in different ownership. It would be necessary to compile a list of affected sites before employing a contractor to deal with the problem.

It was noted that the laurel in the Community Woodland had been cut back.

No further problems with cars parked in Station Road had been reported.

Cllr Prowse reported that the fencing for the play area in the Millennium Green had been delivered, as had the swings and bark. It was hoped that work on the fencing and bark would start the following week.

The suitability of the bark for a play area was raised. Cllr Prowse advised that the bark was the same as used by NDC, but that he would request confirmation from the supplier.

The timing of Minutes and Agendas was being addressed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The clerk would compile a list of assets for the next meeting. It was noted that council assets were defined as being items being the property of the parish council that could be sold if necessary.

Cllr East reported that it would take a few months to update the Emergency Plan. Together with Cllr Freeman he would be attending a meeting on Emergency Planning.

No response had been received on the availability of road salt

A response from the insurance company regarding the Haxton Lane allotments was still awaited.

81. Planning

1. Applications –

60016 Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling (class q(a))
Hill Top Field Grange Hill Bratton Fleming

It was noted that the previous application had been refused as the agricultural building had been considered unconvertible to a dwelling.

It was resolved to recommend refusal.

59807 Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use of stables as one dwelling Kipscombe Bratton Fleming

It was not possible to make any recommendation due to councillors having no knowledge of the use of the buildings.

Cllrs A Kellaway and Mrs P Kellaway declared an interest in the following item. Cllr Mrs Kellaway left the meeting while the plan was being considered.

A preliminary plan had been received that day of the proposed entrance to a development at Beara Down Farm.

It was agreed to defer making a response until the next meeting on account of the lateness of receipt of the proposal, and that it had therefore not been included on the agenda.

2. Decisions

1. Approval:

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

59819 Extension to agricultural building at Higher Stowford Stowford Barnstaple

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

82. Correspondence

1. A request for contact details of \Snow Wardens had been received from DCC. It was agreed that the should check if Mr Adams was willing to continue before replying.
2. A letter had been received from Barnstaple Town Council regarding the future of the North Devon Record Office. Although no details were available it appeared that there would be a shortfall of £30k per annum to retain the office in Barnstaple. It was hoped that town and parish councils would be able to contribute towards the shortfall. It was agreed to await further details.
3. Notification of the next Parish Forum on 11 November had been received from NDC. Clerk to circulate agenda when received.
4. Landsense had advised that they would be commencing extracting timber from Stoke Wood shortly. Concern was expressed on how this would be carried out. Clerk to request further details.
5. Email from a parishioner regarding Japanese Knotweed in the parish. Already dealt with under item 81.
6. Email from parishioner regarding council assets. Previously dealt with under item 81. There appeared to be some confusion as to what constituted a council asset.
7. DALC Newsletters. It was noted that parish councils were recommended to register under the Data Protection Act, at an annual cost of £35.00. this was agreed.

83. Highways

It was noted that the Barnstaple road would be closed the following week from Chelfham to Collard Bridge Cross for fencing work to be carried out.

Cllr Benbow reported that the A399 would be closed near Brayford for 15 weeks from 8 January 2016. This would be the eighth consecutive year that the road would have been closed somewhere along its length.

The Rural Alliance would be contacting Mr Heaton-Jones MP regarding the repeated closures and the impact it had on local businesses.

84. Emergency Plan

Already covered under item 81.

85. Additional Bridge in the Community Woodland

Cllr Shapland reported that the lower side of the stepping stones was considered to be the best site for a new bridge. A quote of £2000 incl VAT had been received for supply and installing a bridge. This was agreed. It was agreed that the parish council should finance the bridge.

86. Biodiversity Audit

Cllr Benbow had received a quote for £1800 + VAT from Greenecology for conduction a biodiversity audit and to explain everything to the school.

It was considered that there were other commitment on the parish council's finances at present.

It was agreed to defer the audit until a more suitable time.

87. Future of the White Hart - update

Cllr East reported that he had attended a meeting recently with the owner and Community Group. the outcome had been confusing. He had contacted the owner to request a meeting, which had been accepted. A date had not yet been set.

The owner had requested contact details for someone to cut the road hedge. It was agreed to suggest Mr Bament.

88. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that leaders of local authorities in Devon and Somerset had written to the government requesting devolution. He was sure that a lot more would be heard about this in the future there were concerns that North Devon would be under represented.

Work on the Millennium Green play area should be complete within the next few weeks.

The Trust was looking at what other work was needed.

Concern was expressed over car park charges in Barnstaple, where it was thought excessive to charge only a hourly rate, with no concession for those only wishing to park for 30 minutes. It was agreed to write to NDC with the council's concerns.

2. County Councillor's Report

None – County Councillor not present.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland reported that payments made during the past month had been £42 for 60 litres diesel, £25 for chipper repairs, £1121.09 for chipper parts, and £1500 to the Community Woodland for hedge repairs.

Material removed during September amounted to 2.92 tonnes. No payment had been received due to an earlier overpayment.

The balance currently stood at £9512.67.

4. Woodland Group

Cllr Shapland reported that a site meeting had been held to inspect the hedge in Haxton Lane where tree roots were being undermined. Following the meeting Mr Symons had started work, but he was unable to fell the larger trees. The Composting Group had made a donation of £1500, which was hoped to cover the cost of the work.

Out of control dogs were becoming a problem, with dogs being let off the lead both in the Community Woodland and Millennium Green. As a result parishioners had been knocked over, fortunately with no serious harm being sustained.

It was agreed that both the woodland and Green were for the use of everyone, not just dog walkers, and that dogs should be kept under control at all times. It was agreed to highlight the problem in the Bratton Fleming News.

5. Chairman's Report

1. The Chairman reported that the Bratton Fleming Neighbourhood Plan application had been submitted a few weeks earlier. Up to £8k funding was available. The next stage would be to form a steering group, which would include representatives from neighbouring parishes and the Rural Alliance.
2. The Bratton Fleming Sports Club AGM would be held the following evening.
3. An Energy Fair would be held in Barnstaple Pannier Market on 1 November.

89. Finance

1.	Receipt: NDC 2 nd 50% Precept & Grant	£6578.83	
2.	Payments		
1.	Bratton Fleming Village Hall	£ 32.50	Cheque No. 959
2.	Grant Thornton – External Audit	£240.00	Cheque No. 960
3.	Mr S Shapland – grass cutting	£ 48.00	Cheque No. 961
4.	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£116.34	Cheque No. 962

The four accounts were agreed for payment.

90. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Beara Down Farm development.

91. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 November 2015 at 7:45pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:25pm.