

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked councillors who had supported the proposal for a pv system to be installed on the roof of the village hall. The work had been completed and the system was generating electricity.

As no road salt/grit had had been supplied by DCC for use by the Snow Warden, he suggested that the council should purchase 0.5 tonnes in 25kg bags. This was agreed. Cllr Edgell offered to make enquiries into the supply by DCC.

The next Rural Alliance meeting would be at Loxhore village Hall on 8 March.

135. Finance

1. Payments since last meeting

1. Eco Exmoor	£1782.90	Cheque No. 967
2. P Baker - energy assessment	£ 190.00	Cheque No. 968

2. Payments this meeting:

1. Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£ 124.67	Cheque No. 969
2. Eco Exmoor	£5348.70	Cheque No. 970

The two accounts were agreed for payment.

136. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

None.

137. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17 February 2016

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

131. Highways

It was reported that Benton Road between Ditch End and the Bratton Fleming sign was in a very poor state.

There was some confusion over the length of time that work on the A399 near Brayford would result in the road being closed or open under the control of a convoy system. The current signage differed from earlier notifications received.

132. Emergency Plan

A poster was now on display at the shop advising the availability of ‘Message in a Bottle’. 300 bottles had been provided free of charge by Barnstaple Lions.

Cllr East and Freeman would be meeting shortly to progress the Plan, and would be reporting back at the next meeting.

The second draft was now complete.

133. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Benbow reported that he had not progressed the Neighbourhood Plan as much as he had hoped. He was currently seeking advice, and would report back at the next meeting.

134. Reports

1. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Prowse reported that discussion on devolution were continuing with neighbouring authorities.

The District Council was currently preparing a new Corporate Plan. Cllr Prowse considered that there were a number of things omitted which should have been included.

The Local Plan was being revised to include recent requirements. It was suggested that there should be no restricted areas for wind turbines.

It was agreed to request that the A399 ridge which ran alongside the Exmoor Nation Park boundary should continue to be protected from all wind turbine development.

The District Council’s finances were being examined to determine where future cuts would have to be made, but this was becoming increasingly difficult.

2. County Councillor’s Report

Cllr Edgell reported that the Council Council was looking at the need to make a further saving of £750,000.

The council had made an overspend on Childrens’ Services of £4 – 5m. This had arose by the council budgeting for caring for 573 children at a cost of £1000/per week/per child. The actual number of children in care was currently 708.

During the past five years there had been a reduction in staff of 3000. In addition 100 properties had been sold raising £25m. it was anticipated that further sales would raise £29m this and next financial year. The sale of four sites will net a further £26m.

Scott Mann, MP for North Cornwall had introduced a Private Members Bill, which was due to get its second reading on 5 February. It proposed allowing Town and Parish Council’s to agree local speed limits, by introducing higher or lower limits to those already in place. This was something that the parish council had been asking for for a long time.

It was agreed to write to Mr Mann in support his Bill, and re request Peter Heaton-Jones to offer his support.

3. Composting Group

Receipts on November for 9.84 tonnes removed from site was £544.06. No claim had been submitted for December, this would be included with the January claim.

The balance stood at £10452.36.

4. Woodland Group

No report received.

Cllr Freeman stated that he would be interested to know the response to the Sports Club questionnaire that had been circulated. He considered that all groups should be contacted, not just those that use the Sports Club.

129. Planning

1. Applications:

60428 Notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (class c3) and for associated operational development barn adjacent Barton Bungalow Bratton Fleming

It was agreed not to submit a response due to the uncertainty of the suitability of the building to be converted. It was agreed that the planners should determine the application according to current planning policy.

60545 Extension to dwelling Bay Tree House Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

60495 Prior approval for change of use from agricultural building to one dwelling (class q(a)(b)) land at Lower Stowford Bratton Fleming

It was agreed not to comment on the application, and for it to be determined under normal planning policy.

60435 Retrospective application for erection of garden studio The Old Stables Knightacott Bratton Fleming

Cllr Prowse declared a personal interest and did not take part in the discussion.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

2. Decisions

1. Approval:

60461 Application for a non material amendment to planning permission 55798 to allow amended design & layout at Capelands Farm Bratton Fleming Barnstaple

2. Applications Withdrawn

60154 Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling (class q(a)(b)) at Pennyall Farm Mill Lane Bratton Fleming

60155 Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling (class q(a)(b)) at barn at Lancey Brook Mill Lane Bratton Fleming

3. Notice of Appeal:

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

130. Correspondence

1. Road Closure. DCC had advised that the road between Goodleigh Cross and Collard Bridge Cross would be closed 15 & 16 February, and controlled by traffic lights 17-19 February for drainage work. The road would then be closed again 9am – 3pm 29 February – 3 March for fencing work. The map that accompanied the Road Traffic Order however, indicated that it was the road between Goodleigh village and Goodleigh Cross that was due to be closed. The Clerk had sought clarification as the Bratton Fleming-Barnstaple road was the diversion route while the A399 was closed. He had been advised that the Order was incorrect and that the map was the correct one, and that the A399 would remain open. Further clarification was being sought.
2. Barnstaple Town Council was holding a meeting to discuss future funding of the North Devon Record Office at 6pm on 28 January in the Taw Room at the Civic Centre. No councillors indicated a wish to attend.
3. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine – January 2010.
4. Healthwatch Voices – Winter 2015/16



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 20 January 2016 at 7:45pm.

Present: Cllrs F Benbow (Chairman), B East, P Freeman, Ms N Henry, M Huxtable, A Kellaway, Mrs P Kellaway, M Prowse, and G Tribe.

In attendance: 13 parishioners, Cllr R Edgell (DCC), Parish Clerk

124. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Shapland.

125. Public Participation

1. It was reported that the container housing the chipper at the Recreation Ground had been broken into. Nothing was thought to have been stolen, although it had been necessary to replace the padlocks.. The police had been informed.
2. It was explained that plans to replace the gate to the Recreation Ground at Sentry Cross had been put on hold until it was known what was happening with regard to the proposed development at Beara Down Farm.
3. The work to the play area on the Millennium Green was almost complete. The Trustees would be holding a meeting soon to consider future work.
4. Parishioners stated that they were not always able to hear everything that was being discussed without the use of the sound system.
5. With regard to the proposed development on the Glebe field, those councillors that were serving on the council when the lower field was developed were asked why they had changed their minds regarding the upper field. In 1998 the parish council had been against development of the upper Glebe field. It appeared that the proposed development at Beara Down had been pushed aside in favour of the Glebe field.
6. A request was received for new 'No Dogs Allowed' signs to be placed at the entrances to the Recreation Ground, where there had been an increase in dog fouling.
7. A request was received for minutes and the next agenda to be posted within 10 days of a parish council meeting.
8. A request was made for all groups to hold public meetings at which members of the public should have the opportunity to join the group.
9. An enquiry was received into a road closure on the Barnstaple road, which did not happen.
10. The Festival committee were proposing to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday this year, but were uncertain when this should take place. It was noted that most celebrations appeared to be taking place over the weekend of 11-12 June. In response to a request the council agrees in principle to make a donation towards the costs.
11. An enquiry was received as to whether the parish council would need to declare an interest when the Glebe field planning application was submitted, as the council owned the land across which the development would need to be accessed. Clerk to seek advice.

126. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Prowse declared a personal interest in planning application 60435.

127. Approval of Minutes of the meetings held 16 December 2015 and site meeting 6 January 2016

Minute 111 was amended to record that the four letters of objection had been received for planning application 60296 not 60222as stated.

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

128. Matters Arising from Minutes of the meetings

Min. 115. Notices seeking volunteers to be involved with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan had not yet been posted. Cllr Benbow explained that he was seeking clarification on the correct procedure.