



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 15 June 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: 12 parishioners, Parish Clerk

16. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Shapland and Cllr R Edgell

17. Public Participation

It was reported that 'Sudden Oak Death' had been confirmed in a number of gardens in the village containing rhododendrons. Where this disease was discovered that affected plants were to be cut down and burnt on site. Parishioners were urged to keep a close watch on plants in their gardens, and report any suspected cases.

Objections were raised on planning application 60296. Concerns were that mature trees had already been felled, the proposed dwelling would be the fourth served by a private driveway which was against county policy, and that Mill Lane was unlit with no footpath. It was also stated that the felling of trees resulted in the site being very exposed, the proposal would result in over development of the site and that the proposed materials were not in keeping with the adjacent listed buildings. Poor visibility at the site entrance, and at the junction of Mill Lane with the main village street also caused concerns. Councillors were requested to make another site visit before submitting a recommendation.

The applicant explained that the current proposals were the result of comments received from the parish council and neighbours arising from the previous application. Adequate off-street parking had been provided and the position of the dwelling moved. It had been known for many years that the site would be developed at some time. He did not consider that the proposed dwelling would result in an overall increase of traffic.

It was reported that the pond on the Community Woodland was becoming congested and would need clearing.

A parishioner reported that Japanese Knotweed was growing at Bratton Cross, and that he would like to see 'wildlife' on every parish council agenda.

It was reported that the hedge outside Beechfield was overgrown, making it difficult for pedestrians to pass. It was agreed to write to the occupier.

18. Declaration of Interests

Cllrs A Kellaway and Mrs P Kellaway declared an interest in planning application 61261. Cllrs Benbow, Kellaway, Mrs Kellaway and Prowse declared an interest in agenda item 13.1 Request for grant to Bratton Fleming Sports Club.

19. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 18 May 2016

Min. 3.3 was amended to read 'from the un-adopted section of the road'

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

20. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 18 May 2016

Min. 3.3 It was agreed that whilst the parish council had no opposition in principle to a new entrance to the site, advice should be sought from the District Valuer. This was agreed. Mr Thorne to be advised.

The Devon Air Ambulance Trust had visited the village to view three possible sites for night-time landing. Their decision regarding suitability was awaited.

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to the ladies involved in the recent Street Party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

21. Planning

1. Applications:

60296 Erection of dwelling (amended plans) (further amended plans) at land adjacent Barnfield Cottage Bratton Fleming

It was noted that Highways considered the road access to be unsuitable and the the Conservation Officer was opposed to the application. The plans indicated that the proposed dwelling encroached onto the sewer running across the site.

It was reported that a Highways Engineer had conducted a Safety Audit on the junction and considered the proposed work would provide an improvement for all road users.

Cllr Freeman proposed that the application be recommended for refusal. Seconded by Cllr Huxtable.

Cllr Ms Henry proposed an amendment that a site visit be made before making a recommendation. Seconded by Cllr East.

Seven councillors in favour of the amendment. Two councillors in favour of the original proposal.

It was agreed to hold the site meeting at 5.30pm on Monday 20 June.

60946 Conversion of barn to form one unit of holiday accommodation Rye Park House Rye Park Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

61157 Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to one dwellinghouse (class q (a) & (b)) Oxenpark, Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

61261 Erection of one temporary agricultural workers dwelling together with erection of one agricultural bulding Beara Down Farm Bratton Fleming

Cllrs A Kellaway and Mrs Kellaway declared an interest and left the meeting while the application was considered.

Three letters of support had been received.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

2. Decisions

1. Approval:

60545 Extension to dwelling (amended plans) at Bay Tree House Bratton Fleming

22. Correspondence

1. A letter had been received from two youngsters in the village requesting a skate park be provided.
It was noted that whilst the council had no objection to the request, a skate park could be expensive to build, and that it would be necessary to know the level of support.
It was agreed to invite the young people to the next meeting to discuss their request further.
2. Highways had advised that there would be a temporary 30mph speed limit on the A399 between Friendship Farm and Stowford Cross 16-20 June for surface dressing.
3. Details had been received of the new TAP Fund. Noted.
4. Notification had been received of a new Community Wildlife Fund. This was noted.
5. A letter of thanks had been received from the Church Council thanking the parish council for the grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard.
6. DALC – June newsletter. Noted.

23. Gate to Recreation Ground

A quotation for safety improvements to the gate to the Recreation Ground at Sentry Cross for £500 had been received, and had been circulated to councillors. This was agreed.

It was noted that work could not start immediately due to it being necessary to remove some of the hedge, possibly disturbing nesting birds. The work would be carried out in September.

24. Rhododendrons

It had been confirmed earlier in the meeting that infestation had been confirmed in the village.

It was agreed to place an article in the next edition of the Bratton Fleming News advising parishioners to keep a close watch on their gardens.

25. Allotments

It was noted that allotment holders in Haxton Lane had not been charged. It was agreed that this should be rectified immediately, with invoices not being backdated.

26. Highways

Concern was expressed over the continued high speed of traffic through the village. It was noted that the introduction of a 20mph speed limit may be possible without the need of additional traffic calming. This was something that could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Some potholes had been repaired, but not all. It was noted that the online map for reporting potholes was not interactive, in that it did not show how many times a particular pothole had been reported, or when the first report was made. It was agreed to request this additional information be shown.

It was reported that since logging work started opposite Riversmead, water had been running across the road. To be reported to Highways.

27. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that the new Leader Programme was directed to Enterprise and Rural Economies, which could help the local area.

The North Devon Local Plan had been submitted to the inspector for approval.

The government had recently won its case at the Court of Appeal over the size of developments qualifying for affordable homes. This meant that there was no requirement for the provision on smaller sites.

This was the first year that there was to be no government contribution towards the provision of social housing.

A meeting was being held on 27 June when it would be known which stretches of the Link Road were proposed for improvements.

2. County Councillor's Report

None – County Councillor not present.

3. Composting Group

None.

4. Woodland Group

None.

5. Chairman's Report

Cllr Benbow reported that the Neighbourhood Plan survey had gone live, and that up to the end of the previous week 50 responses had been received.

Printed copies were available from the shop for those without computers, and copies given to the school and pre-school.

28. Finance

1. Request for Grant – Bratton Fleming Sports Club

Cllrs Benbow, Prowse, Kellaway and Mrs Kellaway declared a personal interest and left the meeting while the request has being considered.

A request for a grant had been received from Bratton Fleming Sports Cub for help towards the cost of staging a firework display in November. The total cost was expected to be £850, with a 50% down payment. Other organisations were also being approached.

Cllr Freeman proposed a grant of £500. Seconded by Cllr Ms Henry. All in agreement.

Cheque No. 994

2. Payments:

1. Clerk's Salary & Expenses £115.08 Cheque No. 993

The account was agreed for payment.

29. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Skate Park; Wildlife

30. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21 July 2016

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Signed Date

Chairman

