



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 7:45pm.

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

In attendance: 6 parishioners, Cllr R Edgell (DCC) Parish Clerk

145. Recycle More Presentation by North Devon Council

North Devon Council had been unable to find anyone to give the presentation at this meeting. Item deferred to the April meeting.

146. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Kellaway.

146. Public Participation

An enquiry was made into the possibility of a wildlife pond on the Millennium Green. It was noted that the proposed site for a pond had been identified at the landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance, and was therefore unavailable for a pond. Mr Steele advised the meeting that he was willing to offer his advice on the construction of ponds which would encourage wildlife. He reminded the meeting that councils had the responsibility of promoting wildlife, and gave suggestions on how this could be achieved.

It was noted that the judges in the woodland competition considered bird feeding stations a bad idea in the woodland as they encouraged squirrels. It was also noted that the woodland had been planted to the maximum capacity allowed.

It was noted that the woodland sign at the allotments was inaccurate, and needed replacing.

147. Declaration of Interests

None.

148. Co-option of Parish Councillor

No applications had been received. Vacancy for a Parish Councillor to be readvertised.

149. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 15 February 2017

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

150. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 15 February 2017

Min. 137.1 A site meeting with the planners had been requested by the owner of the White Hart. Cllr Prowse would be attending.

151. Planning

1. Applications:

62591 Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 57459 (erection of new dwelling) to allow amended design land adjacent to Sentry Cottage Bratton Fleming

It was agreed to recommend approval.

2. Decisions – Approval:

62359 Associated works in conjunction with certificated exempted campsite, hard standings, electrical supply & ancillary building at Kipscombe Bratton Fleming

62391 Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission 55798 for alterations to vary camera heights, addition of comms antenna, small additional safety handrail & soft landscaping at Capelands Farm Bratton Fleming

3. Withdrawn

62455 Erection of four dwellings together with alterations to & refurbishment of existing building to include managers flat, community pub & community post office and tea rooms/shop (amended description) at the White Hart Bratton Fleming

152. Correspondence

1. Mr Lee from NPS had requested permission to give a presentation to the council on plans to develop the Beara Down Farm site, where it was proposed to build up to 10 new dwellings. It was agreed to request more information on the proposed development prior to the meeting.
2. A letter had been received requesting action be taken over the abandoned car on the White Hart car park. It was noted that as the car was on private land there was little that the police or parish council could do. It was up to the landowner to take action to have the car removed. Cllr Prowse offered to bring the matter to Mr Milton's attention.
3. The following items of correspondence were noted:
Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2017
Healthwatch Voices – Winter 2016/2017
Northern, Eastern and Western Devon NHS – Public events

153. Highways

Concern was raised over the cost of replacing the street lights and columns throughout the village. It was considered that replacing the columns was not necessary and a waste of taxpayers money. It was noted that the flooding opposite New Mills was probably caused by the grill inside the hedge becoming blocked.

Concern was expressed over the poor road surface in Bear Street, a section of road that was resurfaced a short time ago. It was noted that South West Highways had lost the DCC contract for road repairs. The contract had been won by Skanska, who would be taking over in the new financial year.

154. Display of Minutes

It was agreed to lower the notice board in the bus shelter opposite Town Tenement to enable easier reading of the notices. This would be done when repairs were carried out to the roof.

155. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that negotiations had started with the Diocese of Exeter regarding the siting of the new shop. Volunteers were ready to commence work as soon as an agreement had been reached over the covenant.

A letter from the Composting Group had been a large contribution in the argument against DCCs proposal to cut recycling credits by 50%. The reduction would now be phased in over the next few years.

The council's Executive had made the decision to remove Pay on Exit at some of Barnstaple's car parks, and revert to Pay and Display, as from May. Letters of objection had been received from parishioners over the decision, which had not been discussed by councillors.

The planning application for the lighting column for the night-time landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance had been submitted. The consultation period would end before the next parish council meeting. Although the parish council was unable to submit a formal recommendation, Cllr Prowse proposed that a letter stating the council's full support of the application should be submitted. This was agreed.

It was hoped that the keys to the two theatres would be handed back to NDC the following week. Parkwood Leisure would run the theatres on behalf of NDC in the short term, with tenders being invited to run the theatres from next year.

2. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Edgell reported that in addition to the standard 1.99% increase in DCCs portion of the Council Tax, the council had agreed a further 3% to cover adult social care. This was in line with that allowed by central government.

It had been estimated that it would cost £68m annually to maintain Devon's roads to the present standard, whereas there was only £30m available, with priority being given to A, B and strategic C class roads. Lobbying by Cllr Edgell had been instrumental in a further £2m being allocated for rural roads, plus £0.5 for drainage. He was hopeful that some of this would be used locally.

DCC Cabinet had agreed on Monday to phase in the reduction to recycling credits, being reduced to £50 per tonne in August, and to £25 per tonne over the next three years. At the last HATOC meeting a report had been requested on the consequences of last year’s closure of Goodleigh Road. This was due to be presented at the next HATOC meeting on 31 March. Representations were needed on how the road closure was handled. Cllr Benbow stated that he was hoping to attend.

Cllr Edgell thanked the Composting Group for the invitation to their recent celebration of 20 years. He was very impressed on what had been achieved, and the amount of money raised for the community.

He was very sorry not to have the chance to be County Councillor for the parish after the May election. He had been pleased to be able to award grants for various projects over the past years, and wished the parish success for the future.

Cllr Edgell was thanked for everything that he had done for the parish during his term as County Councillor.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland reported that payments made had been:

Trimming Community Woodland hedge £156.00; Parts & Repairs to Chipper £1323.42; Diesel £36.00; Taking Chipper to Combe Martin £100.00; Composters’ Dinner £592.55; 20th Celebration refreshments £455.00; Site work & moving large pile compost £1243.00
Payments received had been £5110.00 for 87.56 tonnes material removed November/December 2016; £485.55 for 8.32 tonnes material removed from site in January 2017; Hire of Chipper – Combe Martin £120.00
The balance stood at £14249.30.

About 40 people had attended the recent celebration to mark the 20th anniversary of the Group. During the past 20 years residents had recognised the value of the scheme, which had been highlighted recently with NDCs recent announcement of forthcoming charges for green waste collections.

4. Woodland Group

The judging of the Woodland for the Devon County Show Competition took place on 7 March. The judges had been pleased with what they saw, and highlighted a few points including thinning which would soon need to be carried out.

5. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported that, as explained at the presentation the previous month, Eagle Community would like to work on community projects. He was keen to use them to carry out some of the work on the roads not now undertaken by DCC. In order to facilitate this, he would like to arrange a meeting with Highways to determine what was possible to be done.

The Chairman congratulated the Composting Group on the achievements to date, and on the recent celebrations held at the Sports Club.

156. Finance

1. Payments:

1. Bratton Fleming Village Hall	£ 55.00	Cheque No.1026
2. Clerk’s Salary & Expenses	£ 115.08	Cheque No.1027
3. Understanding Date (Neighbourhood Plan)	£1000.00	Cheque No. 1028

The three accounts were agreed for payment.

157. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Co-option of Parish Council; DAA Landing Site; Eagle Community

158. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19 April 2017

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed.

Signed
Chairman

Date