



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 19 July 2017 at 7:45pm.

Present: Cllrs F Benbow (Chairman), B East, Mrs N Catmore, M Huxtable, Mrs P Kellaway, and G Tribe,

In attendance: 6 parishioners, Cllr Mrs Davis (DCC) Parish Clerk

34. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs L Miller, A Kellaway, M Prowse and T Shapland

35. Public Participation

1. Request for Skatepark. A request was received from a young resident of the village for skateboarding facilities to be provided. At the moment the nearest were at Barnstaple and Croyde. Both of these were difficult for them to get to. Photographs of the kind of facilities being requested were handed to councillors.

At present there were approximately 10 young people interested in skateboarding in the village. Their preferred location would be either the Recreation Ground or Millennium Green.

It was agreed that if the parish council decided to support the request, the young people would be involved in planning the facility. At present the council's finances were allocated, but something may be possible in the future.

It was agreed to obtain the cost of building the facility at Croyde from Georgeham Parish Council.

2. Knotweed. It was reported that Japanese Knotweed was spreading on the verge and hedge near Bratton Cross. The Chairman reported that the council was in negotiation with the landowner concerned.

3. Nightingales. A request was received for an area on the Millennium Green or Community Woodland to be established to attract Nightingales. Details were handed to the council which would be forwarded to the relevant committee.

36. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Catmore declared an interest in item 39.

37. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 21 June 2017

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

38. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 21 June 2017

None.

39. New Village Shop

1. To agree funding for a new portable building

The Chairman outlined the proposal for the new shop in the village. It had originally been planned to purchase a second-hand unit for approximately £18k, which would basically be a bare shell. Cllr Prowse had obtained details of new units that could be purchased for just over £28k, which would include plumbing, electrical wiring, heating and ventilation etc. The unit would come ready equipped with toilet and kitchen facilities. The cost of installing this in the second-hand unit would add substantially to the cost. It was expected that the total cost including lifting the covenant on the site, transport and craneage would total £41194 including VAT, which would be reclaimed.

The recently completed survey gave a clear mandate for the retention of a village shop.

Councillors unanimously agreed to proceed with the purchase of the unit.

The Chairman reported that he had had received confirmation that the parish council would be able to charge rent for the building, pending a formal agreement being produced.

Cllr Prowse was thanked for all his work.

40. Planning

1. Application:

63276 Demolition of first floor extension & erection of two storey extension with raised walkway Sentry House Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

2. Decisions

None received

3. Notice of Appeal:

61489 Outline application for the erection of 8 detached dwellings and associated infrastructure (all matters reserved) (amended plans) land off Grange Hill/Benton Road Bratton Fleming

41. Correspondence

1. Notification from NDC Ward regarding public consultation into Boundary Commission review of NDC ward boundaries. Noted – previously circulated to councillors.
2. Healthwatch Devon. Noted – previously circulated to councillors.
3. DALC Newsletter. Noted – previously circulated to councillors.
4. Clerks & Councils Direct. Noted.

42. Highways

Concern was expressed over the speed of traffic using the road to Barnstaple, noting that there had been another accident that week.

It was noted that there was nothing that the council could do, it was the driver's responsibility to drive at a speed according to the road conditions.

43. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

A report had been received from Cllr Prowse:

SHOP - the drainage connection had been secured and the electricity supply found. Western Power had been deferred until 6th August. Arrangements were in hand to build/supply a housing for the new meter etc. It would make sense to get the feed sorted for the air ambulance before that date. Water is on site and relatively straight forward to sort. Mr Barrow has agreed to lend his big machine to do the cut and fill and the foundation works needed. The estimated delivery time for the building is 8 weeks.

PLANNING - Grange Hill. The appeal for the dwellings at the top of the village is now live and responses must be in by next Wednesday.

LOCAL PLAN – was now out for a 'final' round of consultation after the Inspector agreeing that there is no 5 year land supply of housing land. The officers claim they can now prove the necessary 5 years + 20% needed to satisfy Govt policies although he still had his doubts. All being well the process should reach conclusion at the end of the year.

NDC WARDS – The Boundary Commission undertaking a review of wards council size, the number of councilors was likely to reduce from 43 to 41. Still early days but he hoped that there will still be a 'Bratton Fleming Ward' as he considered that rural patches should be kept as small geographically as possible and the present ward has a real community of interest.

RECYCLE MORE - 5 new advisors had been employed to help sort things out. He had made the point about the very short notice of the public meeting at last week's full Council and the initial shambles of the introduction. Hopefully the situation would continue to improve. The advice should have been there before the start and consultation more meaningful.

2. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Mrs Davis reported that the public consultation into planned improvements to the Link Road was coming to an end. She hoped that everyone had responded. It was important to stress the improvements were essential if the local economy was to grow.

Air-Band had been awarded the contract to supply high speed broadband outside the areas being covered by BT.

She requested the assistance of the Chairman to tour the parish looking at any highway defects. This would need to be completed by the end of August.

Cllr Benbow reported that childcare places were not being taken up locally due to many parents not qualifying, in particular single parents who needed the help most. Cllr Mrs Davis stated that she would make enquiries, but noted that this was a government scheme and that there may be nothing that DCC could do.

Cllr East enquired why, on the Link Road, there were countdown markers marking the end of overtaking lanes on the road between Barnstaple and Tiverton, but none between Barnstaple and Bideford. Cllr Mrs Davis would look into the situation.

Cllr Mrs Davis' full report is appended to these minutes.

3. Composting Group

Receipts during the past month had been £120 from Combe Martin for the use of the machine. One payment of £100 had been made to Mr Symons for taking the chipper to Combe Martin. The balance stood at £14600.23.

The auditor had highlighted the point that all cheques needed to be signed by parish councillors. Forms were available for councillors to complete.

Cllr Benbow reported that he had contacted DALC who had confirmed that this was the case, but that it was possible to change the council's financial regulations. Advice would need to be taken before this could be done. In the meantime it would be necessary for payments to be made by councillors.

4. Woodland Group

No report received.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the next Rural Alliance meeting would be at Shirwell. Unfortunately he would be unable to attend. Cllr Prowse had agreed to Chair the meeting.

He had recently been invited to attend a meeting of Landkey Parish Council to speak about neighbourhood planning.

44. Emergency Plan

Deferred to the next meeting.

45. Finance

1. Payments:

MAT Electrics	£2634.69	Cheque No. 1048
Mr F Benbow – SWA cable	£ 85.20	Cheque No. 1049
Parish Clerk – salary & expenses	£ 116.06	Cheque No. 1050
Mrs J Snooks - audit	£ 200.00	Cheque No. 1051
Bratton Fleming Village Hall	£ 35.00	Cheque No. 1052
Mr S Shapland	£ 48.00	Cheque No. 1053

The accounts were agreed for payment.

46. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Emergency Plan presentation; Air Ambulance

47. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16 August 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Bratton Fleming Parish Council County Councillors Report July 2017

Link Road Consultation- Reminder

The County Council is putting forward a scheme option to upgrade the route between South Molton and Bideford, and is giving people the opportunity to comment on them before further developing the scheme.

The proposed upgrades would provide between 40% and 50% of the route (depending on the section) with alternating overtaking opportunities, compared to the current 10%. Safety would be improved with the removal of all right-turn movements across the link road, and access to development sites at South Molton, Barnstaple and Bideford would also be improved to support economic growth. The estimate cost of the full scheme is £250 million, although it could be built in phases.

There is an online questionnaire at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/>

There will be an unmanned exhibition at Taw View from Monday 24 July for one week.

Feedback from the consultation, which continues until **Friday 28 July**, will inform further refinement of the option so that an application can be made to the Department for Transport to fund the scheme.

REMINDER..... working parents of new extended entitlement to free childcare

Working parents of children aged three and four have an entitlement to free childcare and early learning which will rise from 15 hours to a potential 30 hours per week from September 2017.

The deadline for applications to use the extra Government funding, for children expected to start childcare this September, is about ten weeks away, on 31 August.

But before then parents must apply online to receive an 11 digit code from HMRC to take to a childcare provider who must validate the code with Devon County Council.

That might take time the closer to the end of the August deadline, the council is warning. They're encouraging eligible parents to make the appropriate preparations now rather than risk disappointment later.

From September, eligible 3 and 4 year-olds will be entitled to 1,140 hours per year – that's the equivalent of 30 hours a week during term times – of funded early learning and childcare.

To be eligible, parents must be in work and earning the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the national minimum wage £120 a week or £6,000 per year.

Bridge to be lifted into place over A39 Roundswell

The A39 near Roundswell in Barnstaple will be closed overnight this week for a new £2.7 million pedestrian and cycle bridge to be lifted into place.

To allow the safe installation of the structure, the A39 will be closed overnight from Monday (17 July) to, and including, Friday (21 July). The closures will be in place from 7pm to 6am on each of these evenings.

During the upcoming closures, the main steel span and approach ramps of the bridge will be lifted into place.

The scheme is being part funded with £1.879 million from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP), through its Growth Deal with Government. Match funding is being provided through Devon County Council and developer contributions.

A diversion route during closure periods will be signed via A39 (Roundswell Roundabout) – A3125 (Bickington) – B3233 (Fremington) – A39 (Torrige Bridge) and vice versa.

The first phase of the project to upgrade the roundabout was completed in 2014, and the installation of the bridge is future-proofed for any potential widening of the A39. Construction work in preparation for the new bridge started at the site, off the highway, earlier this year.

No further traffic management is scheduled for the A39 but completion work is expected to continue, off the highway, until late August.

Contractor Dyer and Butler Ltd will carry out the work.

For more information go to <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/traffic-information/roadworks/a39-pedestrian-and-cycle-bridge-roundswell-phase-2/>

UPDATE TODAY:

Unfortunately the lift of the main bridge span had to be abandoned last night due to the adverse weather conditions. For safety reasons the crane has to stop operations for an hour after lightning is seen. When it was realised that the delay caused by the lightning storm had left inadequate time to complete the work, the lift was abandoned and the two sections of the main bridge span had to be removed from the road. Unfortunately the removal of the structures took longer than anticipated and the road was closed until 7:45am. The contractor is now re-assessing the remainder of the programme as well as the forecast for this evening.

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