



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 7:45pm.

Present: Cllrs F Benbow (Chairman), B East, M Huxtable, Mrs L McLean and M Prowse.

In attendance: 9 parishioners, Cllr Mrs Davis (DCC), Parish Clerk.

124. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs N Catmore, Mrs P Kellaway and T Shapland.

125. Public Participation

Concerns were expressed over the house that was being built at Button Hill Cross, with objections being sent to the planning dept.

Cllr Prowse reported that he had been advised that the site of the dwelling had been moved following a request by the planning officer. Neither the objectors or the parish council had been informed of this change. The matter was in the hands of the enforcement officer. Cllr Prowse was awaiting a response from the planning officer. Many parishioners were unhappy with the size of the dwelling, which was considered to be out of character with the surrounding area.

It was noted that the defibrillator was still in storage.

The signage at the shop was now ready to be erected, when the contractor was available.

Potholes were reported near the bus stop and at the top of Barn Hill,

126. Declaration of Interests

None.

127. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 16 January 2019

Two typos were corrected.

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

128. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 16 January 2019

None.

129. Planning

1. **Applications:** None.

2. **Decision - Approval:**

65909 Re-roofing of dilapidated roof tiles to insulated profile roof sheets South West Water
Button Lane Bratton Fleming

130. Correspondence

1. Litter Pick. North Devon Homes had arranged a tidy-up of Church Close and Station Road on 11 April. This would be followed by a village litter-pick on 13 April, organised by the church.

2. An Election timetable had been received advising that nomination forms would be available to download from the NDC website from 18 March. Completed forms would need to be hand delivered to the Elections Office at Lynton House by 4pm on 3 April. Any forms returned by post would not be accepted.

3. DALC Newsletter. Noted.

131. Highways

Potholes were reported in Benton Road and outside the Village Hall.

132. Traffic Calming

There had been no further developments. The County Council was still awaiting information from central government.

It was agreed to keep the item on the agenda.

133. Defibrillator

It was agreed to lease a defibrillator from the south West Ambulance NHS Trust for a further four years. This would include the provision of a new cabinet.

It was agreed that another training session should be arranged with the Trust.

A notice to advertise this would be placed in the next edition of the Bratton Fleming News.

134. Reports

1. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Prowse reported that North Devon Council were about to set the budget for the coming financial year. A Council Tax increase of 2.99% was being recommended, the maximum allowed without holding a referendum. He noted that funding to the council over the past years had been cut by 40%.

A Governance Review was taking place, with the possibility of the council returning to cross party working.

The latest White Hart Planning Appeal was due to start within the next 2-3 weeks. The delay had been caused due to the unavailability of a suitable inspector.

There was pressure at the council to make a decision on future funding for a new leisure centre.

2. County Councillor’s Report

A report had been received from Cllr Mrs Davis, and is attached to these Minutes.

3. Composting Group

No report received.

4. Woodland Group

No report received.

5. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported that the council’s Minutes and Agendas had been uploaded to the website. He noted that this had only been achieved with difficulty, and that the current website was not suitable.

Together with Mrs Maxfield he had attended the recent Resilience meeting. It was agreed that a hard copy of the parish Resilience Plan should be passed to the Clerk to keep on file.

A Community Land Trust meeting was due to be held on 14 March, which he would be attending.

135. Finance

1. To Approve Payments:

1. PKF Littlejohn LLP – External audit	£360.00	Cheque No. 1139
2. Clerk’s Salary & Expenses	£117.09	Cheque No. 1140

The two accounts were agreed for payment.

136. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Traffic Calming

137. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20 March 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:35pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date

Bratton Fleming Parish Council

February 2019

County Councillors report

New facility heralds the end of dustbin waste going to landfill in the county of Devon

A new waste transfer station at Bynsworthy, Barnstaple became fully operational on Monday 11 February 2019. The new facility will enable Devon County Council to bulk up and transfer non-recyclable 'wheelie bin/black bag' waste collected in the North Devon and Torridge areas away from landfill to Energy from Waste facilities where it is converted into electricity.

The new facility marks the end of household 'black bag' waste being sent to landfill in the county of Devon. This type of waste elsewhere in Devon is already being sent to either the Exeter Energy Recovery Facility or the Devonport Energy from Waste Combined Heat & Power Facility where it too is used as a fuel to generate energy. The facility was built and will be operated for DCC by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd.

This facility marks an historic milestone, the end to the landfilling of residual household 'black bag' waste in the county of Devon.

North Devon Link Road improvement plans approved

The County Council's Development Management Committee has granted planning permission to upgrade 11km of the A361 between Portmore roundabout, Barnstaple, and Filleigh Cutting at South Molton.

This includes widening of three sections of the Link Road, covering 7.5km, to create three traffic lanes, two in one direction and one in the other direction.

These sections are from Portmore roundabout to Landkey, Harford to Swimbridge and Swimbridge to Filleigh where there is currently only one lane in each direction. These stretches will be widened to provide clearly marked overtaking sections with a one-metre hatched strip separating opposing vehicles.

The investment will address safety concerns about the existing road while also increasing capacity at junctions and improving connectivity.

The lengths of overtaking sections are designed to reduce congestion and avoid slow vehicles from backing up queues of traffic.

To address concerns about excessive speeds, average speed cameras will be provided – a proven safety measure used on similar roads elsewhere in the UK.

The development will also improve two junctions – providing a junction and bridge at West Buckland, and a roundabout would be developed at Landkey.

During a public consultation in 2017, 83% of those who responded agreed with the need to improve the North Devon Link Road between South Molton and Bideford. North Devon Council and a number of local parish councils have supported the application. There were also no objections from Highways England, Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency.

The application is part of the wider £93 million scheme to improve the North Devon Link Road, which also includes improvements at five other junctions; Buckleigh Road, Heywood Road Roundabout, Westleigh Junction, Bishop's Tawton Roundabout and Borner's Bridge.

Devon County Council is due to submit its full business case for the scheme to the DfT in summer 2020. The authority successfully bid for £83 million of Local Majors Funding earlier this year. The Department for Transport (DfT) will make a final decision on the funding once it has reviewed the full business case.

Work is due to start in Spring 2021, with Landkey roundabout being the priority.

A361 roadworks North Devon Link Road

From Monday 4 February to Sunday 24 February there is a contraflow while work is carried out on the eastbound side between west of Sampford Peverell and east of Gornhay Cross.

DCC Budget proposals 2019-20

The Cabinet agreed their budget for 2019/20 at a meeting at County Hall in Exeter last Friday.

The budget now has to be ratified by the full council meeting on February 21.

The budget calls for an extra £11.5 million to be spent on hard-pressed children's services. A rise of over 9.4 per cent.

Spending on adult care and health will go up by £4.5 million or two per cent and the budgets for community, health and environment and highways and infrastructure will both rise by 0.7 per cent.

Overall, the county's spending on services will rise from £479.4 million to almost £494 million, if the budget is approved next week.

It will be partly paid for by an increase of 3.99 per cent in council tax. That's £53.10 extra on an average Band D council tax bill – just over £1 a week. It will take the annual Band D charge for Devon's services to £1,384.29.

The rise encompasses a 2.99 per cent hike for general services and an extra one per cent dedicated solely to adult social care.

Even with these increases, the budget would be hard to deliver against rapidly rising demand for services. Devon's Government grant had been cut by £13.5 million for 2019/20, equivalent to 11.7 per cent.

It is a significant reduction to our funding at a time when there are huge pressures on social care services. We have had cut on cut on cut from Government but we have a good record of achieving savings. The budget is a complex balance of the ongoing effects of reduced Government funding and significant increased pressures in children's social care and special educational needs and disabilities – high needs.

This is in addition to ongoing pressures in adult social care, the need to relieve pressure on local hospitals and the need to in-source some services previously provided by private sector partners.

The service savings of £13.4 millions included within the 2019/20 budget are the lowest level since austerity began nine years ago.

This level of savings has only been possible due to council tax increases to support services and the Government's one-off additional funding for winter pressures and social care support.

Andrea Davis

County Councillor Combe Martin Rural

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