



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

**Present:** Cllrs F Benbow (Chairman), B East, J Balman, Mrs N Catmore, M Huxtable, Mrs L McLean, Mrs P Kellaway, M Prowse and T Shapland.

**In attendance:** 8 parishioners, Parish Clerk.

**138. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs L Miller and Cllr Mrs Davis (DCC).

**139. Public Participation**

A request was received from the bellringers for a grant towards the cost of repairing the clock in the church tower. An estimate in the region of £2000 had been received for the repair. A grant of 25% of the total cost was being requested.

It was agreed in principle to make a grant of £500 towards the costs.

Cllr Shapland reported that it would be necessary to seek a new contractor to cut the grass in the village. It was agreed to obtain quotes before the next meeting.

**140. Declaration of Interests**

None.

**141. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 20 February 2019**

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

**142. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 20 February 2019**

Min. 125. Cllr Prowse reported that he had requested that a check be made to determine whether the correct planning procedure had been followed when granting planning consent for a new dwelling at Button Hill Cross.

**143. Planning**

**1. Applications:**

66327 Retrospective change of use from agricultural building to firewood processing building  
Crossways Knightacott Cross Bratton Fleming

**It was resolved** to recommend approval.

66332 Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (class c3) and for operational development Barton Grounds Loxhore

**It was resolved** to recommend approval.

**2. Decisions:** None.

**3. Notice of Appeal:**

64381 Erection of three dwellings together with refurbishment of the public house (amended description)  
This would take place in Bratton Fleming village Hall on 11 June.

**4. Complaint**

A complaint had been received over the parking of two caravans off Haxton Lane, below Meadow Close. This also included a nuisance being created by barking dogs.

Cllr Prowse reported that the matter was being investigated by Planning Enforcement.

#### **144. Correspondence**

1. NDC had confirmed that the Parish Grant would not be cut for 2019/2020, but would again be reviewed next year.
2. Allotment Association AGM Minutes. Noted.
3. DALC Newsletter. Noted.
4. Nomination papers for the forthcoming parish council election had been received, and were available from the Clerk, or could be downloaded from the NDC website.

#### **145. Highways**

##### **1. Traffic Calming**

No further information had been received.

#### **146. Dog Bins**

J & J Bins, who had emptied dog bins across the North Devon and Torridge area had announced that it would be ceasing to trade after the end of March. There was no other commercial company offering the service.

North Devon Council were exploring the possibility of offering the service to ex J & J Bins customers, and how this could be financed.

There were currently no further details available.

Although five bins had been purchased for the village, it was agreed to postpone erecting them until more information had been received from NDC.

#### **147. Notice Board**

It was noted that the fixing post on the fence between the village hall and school had become rotten, a concern shared by the Village Hall Committee. The notice board was also in need of some repair.

Cllr Prowse offered to contact a contractor to replace the post, and if possible carry out repairs to the notice board.

#### **148. Reports**

##### **1. District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Prowse reported that a joint venture with Parkwood had been agreed to replace the Leisure Centre with a new swimming pool and sports hall next to the tennis centre. The total cost would be £14m. Grants were being sought. The overall cost to the district council would be easily manageable. The scheme would also allow for the present site to be developed.

Agreement had been reached in principle for the council to return to a committee system with cross party working.

The Chief Executive would be retiring shortly. The post would be replaced by a Head of Services, which would result in a significant saving.

##### **2. County Councillor's Report**

A report had been received from Cllr Mrs Davis, which had been circulated to councillors and is attached to these minutes.

In the report it was stated that the Highways Officer had inspected Benton Road and had determined that there were no category 1 defects. Given the number of potholes etc on this road it was agreed to enquire what constitutes a category 1 defect.

No mention was made of the roads near Knightacott, which were becoming very rutted and dangerous to drive on. It was noted that other less urgent work had been done in the area. It was agreed to enquire when repairs would be carried out.

##### **3. Composting Group**

Cllr Shapland reported that the Group had agreed to make a donation of £500 towards the church clock repair.

51 tonnes of bulk material had been removed from the site. Payment for this was awaited.

During the past two months payments received had been £273.84 for 6.52 tonnes removed in December 2018, £673.68 for 16.04 tonnes in January, and 682.08 for 16.84 tonnes in February. A further £25.20 had been received as the result of an earlier underpayment.

Payments out had been £557.60 for the Christmas Lunch, and £400 for transport for 5 years.

The balance stood at £17966.89.

**4. Woodland Group**

Cllr Shapland reported that no work had been carried out over the winter months, but that the wooden bridge would be inspected to determine the work needed. It was not thought that this would be substantial.

**5. Chairman's Report**

Cllr Benbow reported that some drone photography had been arranged to feature the Community Woodland, at a cost of £380. This would be placed on the website and shown on screen at the shop. It had been thought that this would be best done during late March/early April, before the leaves became too dense. Aerial photographs would also be useful for the new sign for the woodland.

A meeting of the Federation of small businesses was due to be held in 11 June at Rosemoor when electric cars and future energy was due to be discussed.

**149. Finance**

**1. Payments:**

1. Benbow Management Services	£78.00	Cheque No.1142
2. Keep It Cool Refeigerung	£300.00	Cheque No.1143
3. Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£116.42	Cheque No. 1144
4. Came & Co Insurance	£384.66	Cheque No. 1145

The four accounts were agreed for payment.

**150. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.**

Grass Cutting. Neighbourhood Plan.

**151. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 17 April 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:25pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....

## County Councillors report

*A reminder of how to report a highway problem.....*

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

*Phone 0345 155 1004 or 0845 155 1004*

*Please do share these contact details with any resident who has a issue to report.*

### **Devon County Council Budget 2019-2020**

Next year's budget commits more money for children's services, adult social care and roads.

The authority agreed its budget for 2019/20 by 46 votes to nine at a meeting at County Hall in Exeter. Labour councillors supported the Conservative budget.

There will be an extra £11.5 million for 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.

It will be partly paid for by an increase of 3.99 per cent in council tax. Which is £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.

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 the Council's funding at a time when there are huge pressures on social care services.

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 million 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.

### **Hospital Roundabout**

You may remember I mentioned I was setting up a meeting to discuss the parking issue at NDDH, some of you did say it was a roundabout issue however we have no evidence to support this claim.

As you know I maintain it was/is a car parking issue and therefore was keen to have this meeting.

The meeting happened last month, these are the notes from it and feedback for you.

The meeting was really positive, and to be fair to the NHS they have certainly made a lot of effort recently to sort this out. Below is a list of changes that they have made and it simple is a case of them being reviewed in about 4 to 6 weeks time. But the general conclusion was that this was definitely a good start.

- 1) They have started a shuttle taxi between Fairview car park and the hospital. It is subsidised and those taking up the offer have their passes for the hospital taken off them. This is a 4 week trial.
- 2) Public car park is redesigned and now you can drive around a loop rather than right through and then have to go back in again. This has stopped the queue right inside the barrier and within the car park.
- 3) Car park has been enlarged.
- 4) Staff members have been removed from the public car park which may be up to 100 spaces.
- 5) Staff permits have also been enforced. They have also removed/ are in the process of removing one or two cars being parked long term by staff rather than taking them home. Particularly those living close by and using it as a second drive!!
- 6) They are reviewing the car park charges to make sure they don't become attractive to those working in the town.

My observation is that things are much better now at the roundabout/car park. However I would appreciate your views on this as of course I'm not there all the time and only commute in and out.

### **Highway Matters.**

The highway officer inspected Benton Road, there are no category 1 defects there.

Sorry for the delays with the work on Station Road, this is due to tarmac delivery delays.

*Andrea Davis*

*County Councillor Combe Martin Rural*

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