



A virtual meeting of the Parish Council was held via Zoom on Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllrs F Benbow (Chairman), M Huxtable, Mrs P Kellaway and M Prowse.

In attendance: Five parishioners, Parish Clerk

14. Apologies

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Mrs N Catmore and T Shapland.

15. Public Participation

1. The Chairman explained the reason for not publicising the link to meetings via Zoom was to deter anyone intent on disrupting the meeting from attending, and that parishioners were welcome to attend. The clerk would be happy to supply the link for future meetings.
2. An enquiry was received into the availability of dog fouling signs. It was understood that Cllr Shapland had obtained the last ones.
3. It was reported that the drain outside Valley Cottage was blocked, and that the resulting flood water was causing damage. Cllr Prowse offered to contact Cllr Mrs Davis. It was agreed that the parish council should also make contact with her, asking that the problem be remedied.
4. It was reported that the Old Rectory Drive was becoming overgrown, and that a work party was also needed at the pond.
5. Although the unauthorised white lines at Fairfield had been overpainted by DCC, it was understood that they had been reinstated by a resident. It was agreed to write a letter to the resident, asking that the lines be removed.
6. It was reported that the hedge opposite Dale Cottage in Station Road had become overgrown. It was agreed to write to the owner of the White Hart to request that the vegetation be cut.
7. It was reported that the Fish & Chip van obstructed the view for motorists exiting Furze Park Rd, which had resulted in lengthy waits. The length of the wait was questioned, as it was not thought that the road through the village was excessively busy.
8. The school had again been advised that the local coach company was unable to provide a double-decker due to low overhanging branches. It was noted that DCC had inspected the road last year and had found nothing wrong. It was agreed to contact Cllr Mrs Davis to request Mr Stoddart inspects the road again. It was also noted that debris in the water tables were forcing motorists to drive in the middle of the road.
9. It was reported that new signage for the shop area was in hand.
10. It was reported that more slats on the footbridge in the woodland were in need of replacing.
11. The split oak tree in Old Rectory Drive was due to be removed.
12. It was noted that the caravans off Haxton Lane had not yet been removed. Cllr Prowse advised that Planning Enforcement would be following this up as the deadline date for their removal had passed.

16. Declaration of Interests

None.

17. Approval of Minutes of the meetings held 15 & 29 July 2020

The minutes of both meetings were approved as a true record.

18. Matters Arising from Minutes of meetings

None.

19. Planning

1. Applications:

71835 Replacement dwelling Southwood Farm Bratton Fleming

It was agreed in principle to recommend approval of the application, with the condition that it should be the subject of an agricultural tie, and that the size of the dwelling should be within the limit of such a dwelling.

72004 Widening of the existing access track with a separation of the agricultural access and a solar farm operator access, and internal access track Crossways Bratton Fleming

It was noted that the application was lacking detail in the proposed replacement hedge, and was therefore incomplete.

It was agreed to recommend refusal of the application due to there being insufficient detail of biodiversity gain.

2. Decisions: None

20. Correspondence

1. DALC Newsletter. Noted.
2. DCC advised a night time Road Closure at Friendship Cross for resurfacing 5-6 October, 7pm – 7am.
3. Cllr Mrs Davis had enquired if the council required any road salt this year. It was agreed to request 2 tonnes, to be delivered to the Sports Club in 25kg bags.
4. Clerks and Councils Direct. Noted.

21. Highways

Cllr Prowse reported that much of the patching on the roads around Knightacott had already washed out.

22. Report on Village Shop

Cllr Prowse reported that Mr Smith from Underwoods was preparing a legal agreement between the parish council and the tenant of the village shop.

23. Co-option of Parish Councillors

The clerk reported that there had originally been three expressions of interest received, only two had conformed that they were still interested in being co-opted: Mr Andrew Huxtable and Ms Alison Bell. Cllr Prowse proposed that both applicants be co-opted. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Kellaway. All in agreement.

24. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported on the inaccurate report that had appeared in the North Devon Journal relating to the council's finances. The council was currently looking at a £400k deficit, which equated to 33% of the council's reserves.

Plans were going ahead to build a new Leisure Centre in Barnstaple, next to the Tarks Tennis Centre.

2. County Councillor's Report

No report received.

3. Composting Group

Recent payments had been: Gloves £44.74; Visors £20.99; Printer Cartridges £37.48.

Receipts consisted of £948.26 for 28.99 tonnes material removed from site during June 2020, and £259.06 for 8.72 tonnes during July. Payment for the August claim had not yet been received.

The current balance stood at £14910.74.

4. Woodland Group

Work was likely to commence this week in felling trees affected by Ash Dieback, where the trees were close to paths though the woodland.

Some oak saplings had been donated to the woodland by a parishioner, which would be planted later in the year.

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to the parishioner for their generosity.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing further to report.

25. Finance

1. Receipt

The Chairman reported that £90.20 of unspent funding had been returned by Bratton Fleming Together, and had been repaid into the parish council account. This would be ringfenced in case further needs arose in the future.

2. Internal Auditor's Report

The Internal Auditor's Report had been circulated to councillors. This contained a number of concerns regarding the composting group, and the manner in which payments were made. It was agreed to discuss the report at the next meeting.

3. Approval of Payments:

Bratton Fleming Together	£250.00	Cheque No.1214
Mr A Kellaway	£ 45.00	Cheque No.1215
Clerk's Salary and expenses (2 mths)	£230.16	Cheque No.1216
Mrs J Snooks – Internal Audit	£200.00	Cheque No.1217

The four accounts were agreed for payment.

26. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Internal Auditor's Report; Village Shop Report; Improved method of payment.

27. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:56pm.