



A virtual meeting of the Parish Council was via Zoom Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllrs F Benbow (Chairman), Mrs A Bell, Mrs N Catmore, P Huxtable, Mrs L McLean, Mrs P Kellaway, M Prowse and T Shapland

In attendance: 8 parishioners, Cllr Mrs Davis (DCC), Parish Clerk

28. Apologies Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Balman.

29. Public Participation

1. An enquiry was received into the possibility of an interactive speed sign being installed in the village. Cllr Mrs Davis offered to contact the police to request speed checks being carried out. It was noted that a 20mph speed limit was due to be trialled in Newton Abbot, but for any speed limit to be effective it would need enforcing on a regular basis.
2. Concern was expressed over large construction traffic using Mill Lane if the Lancey Brook lanning application was approved.
3. In answer to a query, Cllr Mrs Davis would request the Highways Officer to visit Fairfield, where unauthorised white lines had been repeatedly painted on the road by a parishioner.
4. A request was received to place white rocks on the grass verge below the shop. Councillors had no objection to this.
5. It was confirmed that the fallen tree across Old Rectory Drive was due to be removed.
6. It was noted that the caravans off Haxton Lane were still there. It was understood that the legal department at NDC were dealing with the issue.
7. A parishioner reported that he had replaced the removable post on the Millennium Green, but the others had become rotten, and were in need of replacement.
8. It was reported than none of the Haxton Lane allotment holders were aware that they were able to coppice the nearby hazel for bean sticks etc. A request was received for the allotment holders to coppice the hazel on a 5 year programme. This was agreed.

30. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Catmore declared an interest in item 37.

31. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 16 September 2020

Minute 23 was amended to read Mr Peter Huxtable.

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

32. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 16 September 2020

Min. 15.2 It was noted that dog fouling signs were available from the NDC Dog Warden.

Min. 15.10 Cllr Shapland reported that he had some timber available to repair the footbridge on the Community Woodland. Mr Lawrence had offered to carry out the repairs.

33. Planning

1. Applications:

72115 Prior approval for erection of one agricultural building for the storage of hay, straw, machinery and animal feed Land at Bratton Cross Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

72190 Conversion and extension of agricultural building into dwelling house together with associated works Lanceybrook Barn Mill Lane Bratton Fleming

Concern was expressed over the construction traffic using Mill Lane and the lack of detail of any on-site parking. No topographical survey had been included in the application.

It was considered that the application did not include enough information for a recommendation to be made.

72197 Erection of agricultural machinery & equipment store Capelands Farm Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend approval.

34. Correspondence

An email had been received from Mr Kellaway, enquiring whether the council wished him to cut any hedges. This work had not been possible earlier in the year due to the Covid restrictions. It was agreed to ask Mr Kellaway to cut the hedge in the Community Woodland bordering Mr Huxtable's section, the hedges on the Recreation Ground & Millennium Green, and the short hedge next to the bus stop. Cllr Shapland offered to speak to Mr Kellaway to explain exactly what was required.

35. Highways

No date had yet been received for work to be carried out on the Knightacott road. Work Furze Park Road would commence on 23 November. The entrance had again been measured for repairs to be carried out, together with the gully across the road.

36. Internal Audit Report

The Internal Audit Report had been circulated to councillors. It was noted that it had earlier been resolved not to charge rent for the Station Road allotments. The Haxton Lane allotment holders had now formed a committee, and had elected a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The committee would collect the rent from allotment holders and pass to the council. The Chairman had circulated a table of responses to the issues raised by the auditor. These were agreed. In addition it was agreed that the Composting Group should have the authority to spend a maximum of £100 for expenses and minor items without having to obtain agreement from the council. The Composting Group were happy to comply with the new proposals. The Clerk confirmed that £120 allotment fees had been received during 2019/2020. The Clerk advised that the S137 limit related to payments made to outside bodies by means of grants etc. this was currently limited to £8.32 per elector.

37. Village Shop Report

It was noted that the new signage was not yet in place. Cllr Prowse to action.

38. Community Woodland Hedge and Footbridge

Items covered earlier in the meeting.

39. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

The work of the Council is still dominated by the ongoing Covid crisis, with 2 members of staff testing positive last week. With one case in Works & Recycling and the second in Customer Services the knock-on affects have meant that a large number of other staff are self-isolating whilst awaiting tests. As a result the 'front offices' in Lynton House, Ilfracombe and South Molton have closed and some waste rounds may be missed initially.

Finances

The Govt grants totalling £1.2m to North Devon together with 160k (for some staff having been on furlough) has reduced the projected budget gap for this current year to 140k. The ongoing loss in car parking income together with other pressures including subsidies to our leisure operators and extra costs for homeless families mean the problem is pushed into the coming years. The Govt were planning a multi-year spending review to give local authorities certainty has been postponed and we face a one-year settlement this November, thereby leaving a potential budget deficit next year of £2m rising to £3.4m in 2023-2024. One bit of good news – the possibility of Local Government Reform has slipped down the agenda and the local 2 tier system seems safe for the next few years.

Other Issues

Many are getting pretty excited about the Government's new Planning White Paper that looks to scrap the existing system and replace it with a 'zoning' method. The worry is that by putting more emphasis on the Local Plan process rather than the actual applications that democratic accountability will fall. There seems widespread opposition to these proposals across all local authorities and many rural MPs – with the possibility of our housing figures rising by 40% let's hope this may lead to a re-think. Short term measures that are being floated would also reduce the numbers of affordable homes in small developments (up to 150!) impacting particularly on rural areas.

As I alluded to earlier, we are continuing to help our leisure operator and still plan to build the new Leisure Centre in partnership. We are still awaiting a decision on 2 bids for funding – the Watersports

Centre in Ilfracombe and the High Street Futures bid for Barnstaple. The planning staff are under pressure from large numbers of fresh applications and this is compounded by vacancies that hopefully will be filled shortly.

The appeal against the renewal of the ACV for the White Hart is still ongoing but we should get an outcome in the next month, similarly with the appeal following the enforcement process for the occupation of the residential units.

2. County Councillor's Report

Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council

I have previously sent out this link but with the situation changing and many interested in what is happening locally this link is a useful starting point for questions and the current situation in Devon. The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon County Council Website, it has daily updated information as to positive cases within the area, information about testing and track and trace.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

Recycling rates increase during lockdown

Kerbside recycling rates across Devon increased during lockdown according to the latest figures. The figures show a 12 per cent increase between April and June 2020.

1,000 tonnes more glass bottles and jars were separated out and put in kerbside collection bins, 1,300 tonnes more card and 670 tonnes more food waste – all recyclable goods diverted from the rubbish bin compared to the same period in 2019.

Devon has a 56 per cent recycling rate, one of the highest in the country, rates vary around the County; East Devon has the highest recycling rate at 60.5%. (North Devon is 49.5%, Torridge 54.1%, latest figures for 2019-2020)

It's encouraging to see that 89 per cent of us in Devon are recycling.

There has been an unprecedented appreciation of refuse and recycling collection crews during lockdown, which included spontaneous rounds of applause, which helped maintain morale amongst the crews.

For more information about recycling at home and lots more, visit the new look Recycle Devon website. www.recycledevon.org.

New streetlighting contract

All of Devon County Council's 79,000 streetlights will be converted to LED lights within the next two years – reducing carbon emissions by 75%.

It comes as SSE Contracting (SSEC) has been awarded the contracts to maintain the streetlights in Devon and Torbay for the next 10 years – with the aim of the contract being carbon neutral by 2030. The company will be building on the work it has undertaken for the County Council for more than 25 years, which has already seen around 34,000 streetlights converted to low energy LED technology since 2015, as well as the replacement of more than 5,400 streetlighting columns. It will also look to improve the county's Central Management System to remotely monitor and operate lighting more flexibly and efficiently.

The streetlighting contract is extremely important as we continue to reduce our carbon emissions, and this new contract will enable us to develop our well-established collaboration with SSEC. Streetlights account for a significant amount of the Council's emissions, and working with SSEC will help us make further energy and carbon savings. The conversion to LEDs alone will reduce carbon emissions by more than 15,000 tonnes each year, the equivalent of taking 8,000 cars off the road.

SSE is also committed to all of its vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes being electric by 2030, and for its depots to be carbon zero by 2025. Its regular supply chain partners are also aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Local Highway issues

Goodleigh Road- following the high rainfall some of the supporting land under the road washed away, the traffic lights are to prevent vehicles onto the unstable area of road. The flooding issue is a separate problem, all the gullies have been cleared and jetted but the leaves had re blocked the gullies a week

later. A camera survey was carried out of the pipe across the road and there is already a scheme to add extra gullies but there is damage to the cross pipe too blocking the gully.

A plan of action is being drawn up to deal with the drainage issue as a matter of urgency.

Furze Park- the repair works to the road, which are being funded from my discretionary pothole fund, will be taking place all being well from the 23rd November for three days. There will be a diversion in

place. Access to properties will be maintained but there maybe a delay as some interruption is unavoidable. If residents require access then just ask the contractors on site and they will assist. This contractor has done many other jobs in my area and have been excellent in helping residents through the works.

There maybe some change to the dates as nothing this year is set in stone, we will advice accordingly.

Reminder about reporting a highway problem:

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

telephone: [0345 155 1004](tel:03451551004)

3. Composting Group

A payment of £158.32 had been received fir 4.84 tonnes material removed from site during August.

A payment of £40.00 had been made for diesel.

The balance stood at £15029.06.

4. Woodland Group

Nothing further to report.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had been in contact with the head teacher regarding renewable energy for the school.

He had attended a meeting with WPD when their new business plan had been discussed regarding help for customers in fuel poverty.

6. Bratton Fleming Together

Cllr Mrs Bell presented the Bratton Fleming Together finance report, detailing income and expenditure of the group in supporting parishioners during the Covid-19 epidemic.

It was unanimously agreed to endorse the financial statement.

Bratton Fleming together – financial report 21 October 2020

Introduction

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year, a community resilience sub-group of the Parish Council (PC) was convened to coordinate the local community response initiative known as Bratton Fleming Together (BFT).

BFT facilitated various local community support services in response to the pandemic. These included: a volunteer-based prescription collection and delivery service; volunteer support to enable the village shop to provide a daily delivery service to those who were shielding or self-isolating during the pandemic; nominating a network of local neighbourhood “Guardian Angels”.

Under the auspices of the Parish Council, BFT was successful in applying for two grants totalling £695 to help fund local support initiatives. It also oversaw the payment of appropriate expenses of £1,203.80 to volunteers.

Recommendation: That Bratton Fleming Parish Council note and endorse the financial activity of the BFT initiative up until the end of September 2020, as set out below.

Grants Received:

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL: COVID-19 Prompt Action Fund. £495.00

This fund was intended to provide flexible resources to organisations working with communities who are disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and the social and economic consequences of this outbreak.

WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION:

In This Together - Community Matters Fund £200.00

The conditions of this grant required that the funds must directly benefit the people within your community who are affected by the coronavirus. Examples of support could include welfare services, food and medical supply deliveries, advice schemes, befriending services or support to essential coronavirus care such as hospitals charities. This report demonstrates compliance with those conditions.

Total grants received: £695.00

Payments Made:

It should be noted that during the initiative many people contributed their time, knowledge and materials, eg stationary/postage/printing, and have not claimed expenses. Those expenses that were paid out were:

Total mileage claims: £1,159.80*

Mileage was agreed at 50p per mile. This was administered by the volunteer co-ordinator, Mrs. S Maxfield.

*One volunteer ask that their mileage claim of £66 be donated to North Devon Hospice and a cheque was raised accordingly.

Please note that several volunteers either did not submit mileage claims or submitted a reduced claim.

Other expenses:

Contribution towards administrative phone charges: £30

Cost of BFT Domain name: £14

Total Expenses paid out: £1,203.80

Expenses were paid in cash, for ease of handling and for reasons of data protection. To ensure cash was available immediately, Cllr Prowse initially facilitated a cash loan of £500 from the Bratton Fleming Sports Club. This loan was subsequently repaid from PC funds. Two further PC cheques were issued – one for £500 and one for £250 which Cllr Prowse then cashed and gave to the volunteer co-ordinator. The PC made a total of £1,250 available for expenses in this way.

An outstanding balance of £90.20 has subsequently been paid back into the parish council account. It is proposed that this amount be ring- fenced for future community resilience use.

In conclusion, the Parish Council, after taking into account the two grants, expended £508.80 supporting the BFT initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic over the summer.

40. Finance

1. Requests for Grants:

- 1. A request for a grant had been received from the Bratton Fleming Millennium Green Trust, for the upkeep of the Green.

Cllrs Mrs Kellaway, Prowse and Shapland declared an interest, and took no part in the discussion

It was agreed to give a grant of £2500, this being the amount agreed in the budget. Cheque No. 1221

- 2. A request for a grant had been received from Bratton Fleming Church, towards maintenance of Burial Ground.

Cllr Mrs Kellaway declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

It was agreed to make a grant of £600, which had been allocated in the budget. Cheque No. 1222

2. To Consider Alternative Methods of Payment

The Clerk reported that new regulations made it possible for parish councils to make payments electronically. This should however not be made on personal computers. It was agreed that the council should purchase a laptop/tablet for council work. The clerk agreed to make further enquiries into the process of making electronic payments.

3. To approve Payments:

NDC Building Control	£504.00	Cheque No.1218
NDC Allotment rent	£ 10.00	Cheque No.1219
Clerk’s Salary and expenses	£119.84	Cheque No.1220

The three accounts were agreed for payment.

41. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Memorial plaque on the Millennium Green.

42. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 November 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50pm.

Signed Chairman

Date

