



A remote meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 7:00pm.

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

**In attendance:** 7 parishioners, Cllr Mrs Davis (DCC), Parish Clerk.

**43. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Balman, Mrs L McLean and T Shapland.

**44. Public Participation**

A request was received for Christmas lights to be placed throughout the village. It was agreed to advertise this in the Bratton Fleming News.

It was agreed that the council agenda and minutes to be placed in the notice boards.

A request had been received to place two beehives in the village, possibly on land owned by the parish council. This was agreed in principle, if a suitable site could be found.

It was reported that the rotten slats had been replaced on the woodland footbridge, but that the main timbers also needed attention.

Highways had removed the unauthorised lines painted on the road at Fairfield. It was agreed to write to the householder concerned. Cllr Mrs Davis agreed to inspect the area and arrange for any appropriate work to be carried out.

**45. Declaration of Interests**

None.

**46. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 21 October 2020**

Min 29.4 was amended to read: With regard to the issue of vehicles turning by the entrance to the Millennium Green, the PC was asked if it had any objections to white rocks being placed on land owned by the Diocese. The PC had no objections.

Min. 36. was amended to include the fact that it had been agreed to award a second grant to the Millennium Green in 2019/2020.

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

**47. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 21 October 2020**

Min. 36. The Chairman had prepared a response to be sent to the internal auditor, answering the questions raised at the last audit. This included:

1. Policies and procedures would be individually minuted when adopted.
2. The website would include the accounts, audit reports and policies.
3. A flowchart showing the necessary steps to ensure that the Composting Group followed procedures in line with Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been produced and agreed by the Composting Group.
4. A rental agreement for the shop was in hand.
5. The S137 limit would be included in forthcoming budgets.

**48. Planning**

**1. Application:**

72293 Replacement of timber lodge for use as residential unit Chelfham Station Stoke Rivers Barnstaple

It was resolved to recommend approval, with the proviso that the lodge should

**49. Project for S106 Agreement**

North Devon Council had advised that a development at Chelfham would generate a public open space S106 contribution in the region of £44,000 subject to approval. The council were seeking suitable projects in Bratton Fleming.

Cllr Mrs Kellaway declared an interest, and did not take part in the discussion.

Cllr Mrs Bell had prepared a response relating to the proposed education contribution, in which Goodleigh school was due to benefit, and not Bratton Fleming.

“Whilst recognising parental choice, the PC believes that children from the new housing development at Chelfham Mill should be encouraged to attend the Bratton Fleming Community Primary School. Firstly, the new homes will lie within the designated catchment area for the school and there are places available. Secondly, unlike the village of Goodleigh, Bratton Fleming is designated as a Local Centre, a “locally important service centre”, in the adopted Development Plan, reflecting the ongoing investment in its various community facilities and good public transport links. The policy emphasises role of new development in enhancing the sustainability of these centres. In particular, the recently expanded 4-class primary school offers excellent facilities, including breakfast and after school clubs, and there is a well-established early years pre-school, immediately next door, feeding directly into the school.

“The method used to select the nearest primary school to inform the calculation of a financial contribution based on transportation costs is somewhat crude, using a simple “as the crow flies” approach that takes no account of actual road width/safety or public transport links, or indeed actual catchment areas - the most direct road link between the new development and Goodleigh is narrow and treacherous with virtually no passing places. In the unlikely event that there was demand from parents for a minibus service, the PC requests that the points made above be taken into account and that any future provision serves BFCPS, as the most sustainable choice.”

It was agreed that this response should be submitted.

It was agreed to complete and submit an Expression of Interest detailing how the parish council would propose using the £44k public open space contribution:  
£1700 for improvements at the two allotments sites over a three year period.  
£9000 to upgrade the play equipment on the Millennium Green, including a more sustainable surface.  
£35000 to improve accessibility to the Millennium Green and the Community Woodland.

This was agreed.

Cllr Mrs Bell offered to complete the Expression of Interest, which would need submitting to NDC before the weekend.

**50. Site for “Village Bees”**

Discussed earlier in the meeting. It was agreed that councillors would consider possible sites, and discuss further at the next meeting.

**51. Correspondence**

1. DCC had advised a Road Closure between Button Hill Cross and Knightacott Cross on 2 – 4 December. Noted.
2. DCC had also advised a Road Closure affecting Furze Park Rd & Homer Close on 23–25 November for resurfacing work. Noted.
3. An email had been received from Morthoe Parish Council enquiring if Bratton Fleming would like to contribute towards an interactive speed sign that could be shared by both councils. The email stated that Cllr Mrs Davis was willing to contribute towards the cost.  
Cllr Mrs Davis stated that she was willing to fully finance the sign, that could be shared by both councils. The two parish councils would need to make arrangements for transferring the sign, and to arrange for someone to be Chapter 8 trained. This was agreed in principle.

**52. Memorial Plaque**

Cllr Prowse agreed to contact Mrs Ridd-Jones to agree the wording etc for the memorial. To be considered further at the next meeting.

**53. Highways**

1. It was reported that the hedge above Hillside was overgrown.
2. Cllr Mrs Davis was dealing with the gully alongside the road edge on Benton Road, which would need substantial work to rectify.
3. Concern was expressed over the quality of work carried out on Furze Park Road. Cllr Mrs Davis offered to inspect the work.

## 54. Reports

### 1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported on the latest developments regarding the White Hart. The Enforcement Appeal had been lost, with the owner having 9 months to comply before legal action being taken.

The ACV decision was still awaited. North Devon Council would then make a decision on whether to take further action.

There had been a heavy demand on the NDC workforce during the second lockdown.

The Pannier Market was open again, with Fridays featuring creative items.

The Leisure Centre was closed, with work progressing on the new site.

Free parking was available in Barnstaple from 4pm in order to help local businesses.

The Bratton Fleming Community Group was up and running again, and was finding that needs were different from those in the first lockdown.

### 2. County Councillor's Report

#### Government gives £60m seal of approval for North Devon Link Road

- Department for Transport announces £60m funding for the A361, a key road linking Devon with the rest of the UK
- Modernisation and upgrade works set to start this month will cut congestion while providing a boost to the local economy
- Scheme is part of wider Government plans to level up transport infrastructure across the country as we build back better from Covid-19

The funding will kick-start major works on the A361, also known as the North Devon Link Road – slashing journey times, boosting connectivity and unlocking housing across the region. The major project, being led by Devon County Council, will boost the local economy by supporting plans for 6,700 new homes in the region, making it easier for people to access job opportunities, and for businesses to get around.

Upgrades will not only benefit regional travel, they are also expected to increase cross-country connectivity by improving people's ability to travel into and out of the Southwest.

Works will focus on a 4.8 mile stretch between South Molton and Barnstaple. The route will be modernised with a wider carriageway, which will greatly improve overtaking opportunities, safety and resilience. The road's capacity and eight key junctions will be upgraded - and to boost active travel, facilities for pedestrians and cyclists will be introduced along the route

#### Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council

The link below may be of interest to residents 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/>

*Possible funding areas the Parish Council and community groups maybe interested in are:*

#### Devon County Council: COVID-19 Prompt Action Fund

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-prompt-action-fund/>

#### Community Food Programme

<https://devoncf.com/apply/community-food-programme/>

#### Help for Vulnerable Children and families

Devon County Council will continue to work with district councils to ensure hardship support is available to vulnerable children and families across the county this winter and pledged extra funding to ensure no child goes hungry.

DCC have already allocated £1.7 million this year through a shared hardship fund to ensure that the most needy children and families in Devon do not go hungry. The county council holds a further £100,000 in reserve for additional hardship funding this winter.

Devon County Council shared £1 million of its funding between the districts alongside a further £700,000 from the Government. This is currently supporting grants to people and families suffering hardship across Devon.

***Around £600,000 of this is still available and I would urge anyone who needs help providing food for their children to apply for this extra assistance through North Devon district council's helpline.***  
To find out more about what support is available in Devon, including how to apply, please visit the Devon County Council website.

#### **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 issues.**

##### **Goodleigh road.**

There are two issues ongoing at the traffic lights site on Goodleigh road.

The temporary lights are there to protect the public from an unsafe area of highway, following the unprecedented flooding some weeks ago, were we have a structural collapse under the road, this is currently unstable, extensive surveys have been undertaken to then feed into the scheme to repair which is being drawn up now by specialist engineers.

The other issue is a collapse in the drainage system, this repair is scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> December, because the road is not safe on the other side it will require a full closure which I know is a great inconvenience.

##### **Furze park**

I was very pleased to be able to use the majority of funds allocated to Combe Martin Rural division to repair Furze Park (£49k), work starts Monday

##### **Drainage schemes**

Mill lane and Knightacott Lane; these are scheduled for March and December

Reminder about reporting a highway problem:

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

telephone: 0345 155 1004

### **3. Composting Group**

£328.74 had been received for 10.05 tonnes material removed from site during September.

The balance currently stood at £15357.80.

### **4. Woodland Group**

No report received.

### **5. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that he had received an email from the Bratton Fleming Relief in Need Trust, explaining that there were two vacancies for trustees. Mr Smith and Mrs Maxfield had been suggested as potential trustees, pending approval from the parish council. The two nominations were approved.

Fifty low energy light bulbs had been received from 361 Energy. The Chairman proposed that these be distributed through the foodbank. The Chairman suggested that the parish council matches this offer, which would cost £74.80. At this point the Chairman declared an interest, and did not vote on the proposal, which was approved unanimously.

In response to the matters raised by the Internal Auditor, the Chairman had produced a flow chart detailing actions to be taken by the Composting Group and the Parish Council. This was unanimously approved by councillors.

**55. Finance**

**1. To Agree Budget and Set Precept for 2021/2022**

A draft budget had been circulated to councillors.  
It was agreed that future budgets should include the previous years receipts and spending by the Composting Group, and the s137 figure.  
The draft budget was agreed.

It was agreed that the Precept should not be increased, and remain at £16800.

**2. To Consider Donation to the Poppy Appeal**

It was noted that £100 had been allocated for the Poppy Appeal in the budget for this year. In view of the difficult year experienced by charities this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was agreed that the donation this year should be doubled to £200.

**3. To Approve Payments:**

Advisio Ltd	£270.00	Cheque No.1223
Planet (Evolving Together)	£273.00	Cheque No.1224
Mr A Kellaway	£ 45.00	Cheque No.1225
Clerk’s Salary and expenses	£121.39	Cheque No.1226

The four accounts were agreed for payment.

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

Site for Bees; Memorial

**57. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 7.00pm**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....