



A meeting of the Parish Council was held via Zoom on Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7:00pm.

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

In attendance: 6 parishioners, Cllr Mrs Davis (DCC) Parish Clerk

105. Presentation by Airband Community Broadband

Mr Watkins reported that Airband had been awarded a contract to provide fibre broadband in the Exmoor and Dartmoor areas, working with Connecting Devon and Somerset. Bratton Fleming was among the first list of parishes to be connected, in the Spring. The contract allowed the company to use existing ducts and poles used by Openreach, although it was possible that additional poles would need to be erected.

A powerpoint presentation was given explaining the scheme. After the presentation councillors were given the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have. It was noted that the village of Goodleigh already had a good Openreach connection, although this was delivered to cabinet, not to property.

Any parishioner interested in being connected was invited to register an interest on the Airband website.

106. Apologies

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Mrs P Kellaway and T Shapland.

107. Public Participation

1. BT were currently selling old telephone kiosks to parish councils for £1. Cllr Catmore offered to circulate details to councillors.
2. The new signs for the shop area would be erected as soon as the contractor was available, after he had finished cutting hedges before the deadline.
3. The shop was awaiting agreement from the parish council before placing picnic benches at the entrance to the Millennium Green. This was agreed.
4. Highways had viewed the problems with cars parking opposite the Old Rectory Lane junction, and had agreed that it did present a danger to motorists. Unfortunately it did not yellow lines to be a solution as it would not be enforceable. DCC would not allow a mirror to be placed opposite the junction due to a number of serious accidents that had resulted from motorists using a mirror. The police had been informed, but it was not known if they had visited. It was suggested that residents speak to those whose cars are causing the problem.
5. Potholes were reported in Haxton Lane. Cllr Mrs Davis offered to enquire from DCC Highways if any planings were available.

108. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Catmore declared an interest in agenda item 113.

Cllr M Huxtable declared an interest in agenda item 111.1

109. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 17 February 2021

Min 101.3 was amended to read that the Composting Group balance stood at £15984.20.

Min. 102. A typo was amended to read that Cllrs Benbow and Mrs Kellaway took no part in the authorisation of payments to themselves/family member.

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

110. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 17 February 2021

None.

111. Planning applications

72920 Variation of condition 2 (approved plans attached to planning permission 56595 (erection of dwelling) to allow for a change of design at Land Adj Little Garth Bratton Fleming

Cllr M Huxtable declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion.

It was resolved to recommend that the application is approved.

65175 Erection of two industrial units with associated vehicle parking, landscaping & works for surface water management (amended plans)) at agricultural land to the rear of Grange Hill Industrial Estate Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend that the application is approved.

112. Correspondence

1. A letter had been received from a parishioner regarding a street light in Beara Lane that was not working. This lamp was not the responsibility of DCC, and North Devon Homes had refuted ownership. The matter was currently being dealt with by Cllrs Prowse and Brs Bell.
2. Proposals for management of open space had been received from Mr Rowe. To be discussed at the next meeting.
3. DCC advised a road closure A399 Friendship Cross to Aller Cross 26-31 March, 7pm-7am for road stud maintenance. Noted.
4. DCC advised a road closure Buttonhill Cross to Knightacott Cross 8-14 April for patching work. Noted.
5. DCC advised a road closure Loxhore Mill Bridge to Beechfield 24-26 March for drainage work. Noted.

113. Village Shop

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

Cllr Prowse reported that the lease was being prepared, and that legal advice would be needed. It was agreed to employ the services of Slee Blackwell, Solicitors.

114. Memorial

Cllr Prowse reported that he had spoken to two contractors regarding the building of a stone memorial to The late Mr Ridd-Jones, but that the cost had been prohibitive. He suggested an alternative of using a large white stone with a plaque attached. This was agreed.

115. History Page on Website

No progress had been made since the last meeting.

116. Highways

It was reported that the road surface was breaking up at Loxhore Cross. The road near Goodleigh Cross was due to be closed for three weeks commencing 26 April. It was hoped however, that the work would be completed in two weeks.

117. Dog Fouling

A letter had been received from a parishioner concerned over the amount of dog fouling in the village. It was noted that the council had five bins awaiting installation. Cllr Prowse offered to collect the bins and arrange the fixing. Clerk to advise NDC and to arrange emptying.

118. Date of Annual Parish Council Meeting

Following the advice of the DALC, it was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 5 May, the day before the deadline for holding remote meetings. Although village halls would not be open, current legislation meant that remote meetings could not take place after 6 May.

119. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that North Devon Council were to borrow £4.5m to help regenerate the centre of Barnstaple. This would include more residential units in the town centre, and new access to the Bear St/Queen St car parks from Boutport St.

Most of the office staff at NDC were still working from home.

The council was looking to promote North Devon as a separate tourist area, instead of being part of the Devon-wide promotion.

A new initiative with 361 energy was helping to tackle fuel poverty in the area.

2. County Councillor's Report

Lynton Cross

For many years I have been campaigning for improvements to Lynton Cross, it is with great pleasure that this has at long last paid off.

Government funding has been confirmed for a £2.2 million road safety scheme on the A3123 in North Devon.

Devon County Council introduced a series of safety measures at Berry Down Cross and Hore Down Gate on the A3123 last year – including a 40mph speed limit, new advance warning signs, solar-powered road studs, and high friction surfacing.

Now that Safer Roads Funding has been received from the Department for Transport, design can be finalised on the remaining elements of the improvements earmarked for the road at the other known collision cluster site on the route – Lynton Cross.

As part of the improvement scheme, a four-arm rural roundabout will be constructed at Lynton Cross, and works will also be carried out to the centre white lines along the entire A3123 to bring them in line with current standards.

North Devon Link Road.

I had the pleasure of turf cutting as Devon County Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Development, to mark the start of the A361 improvements between South Molton and Portmore roundabout at Barnstaple.

Contractor Alun Griffiths will be carrying out the work to widen sections of the road in order to provide better and safer overtaking opportunities and improve journey time reliability. Eight junctions will also be upgraded to improve safety, and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists will be introduced with new segregated pedestrian/cycle crossings of the road at Bishops Tawton and at Landkey Junction.

Work is initially starting in a number of locations which will be widened along the link road and temporary traffic lights will be in place for the first few weeks while both sides of the carriageway are cleared on these stretches.

Once these work sites are established, two-way traffic flow will be maintained but a 40mph limit will be introduced to protect the workforce and members of the public.

The scheme, which is due to be completed by the end of 2023, is expected to boost the local economy and it will also accelerate plans for 6,700 new homes in the region.

Every effort will be made to minimise traffic delays but unfortunately it will be unavoidable while this work is carried out. However, the long-term benefits will outweigh the short-term disruption.

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/>

Mass vaccination programme

- Work is continuing across the county at pace to deliver the local mass vaccination programme. The CCG is producing regular vaccination briefing notes and I shall endeavour to circulate these as they are published. People aged 70 and over and the clinically extremely vulnerable have begun to receive invitations for vaccinations as of the 18 January, alongside frontline Health and Care staff and the over 80s who were the initial priority groups.
- With so much going on and at such pace it can be hard to keep track with developments. To date there are three main ways the vaccine is being delivered in Devon:
 - All four of the county's main hospitals – in Plymouth, Exeter, Torquay and Barnstaple – are giving the vaccination to priority groups in line with national guidance
 - GP practices are working together in groups to set up local vaccination centres. Across the county, 20 centres are now in operation, serving all 123 of Devon's GP practices
 - GP-led facilities are delivering the vaccine to residents and staff in care homes

Barnstaple Community Testing Centre,

The Test centre is in the car park at Barnstaple's Taw View, Civic Centre, on North Walk road, and will be open 9am to 5pm, seven days a week, with extended hours 7am to 7pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

It provides lateral flow tests for anyone who leaves the house to work or volunteer, and who comes into contact with others.

The purpose of community testing is to identify people likely to have the virus, so that those testing negative can continue their day while still following public health rules. Anyone testing positive is instructed to go home and self-isolate.

The tests are for people who may not know they are carrying the virus. One in three people with coronavirus do not show any symptoms and could be going about their day passing it to others unknowingly.

People who can't work from home and who are in contact with others regularly are encouraged to take these quick tests twice a week to prevent the potential spread of the virus. The results are back with you within the hour. If you test positive, you'll be asked to self-isolate for ten days. If you're negative, you can continue your day while still adhering to public health rules – keep your social distance, wear a face covering when indoors in a public space, and wash your hands regularly.

Community Testing Centres are for people who are not showing any symptoms and who aren't already accessing regular testing, through their employer for example.

To book a rapid test and to find out more about Community Testing in Devon, visit devon.cc/testing

Levelling Up Fund

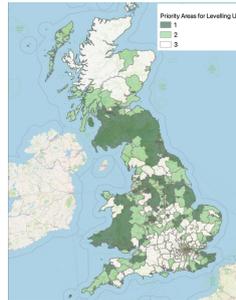
We have heard a lot about the Governments levelling up agenda – the promise to redress the balance from the concentration of wealth generation in the South-East.

The budget confirmed the first tranche of funding of around £165m and a call for bids, at the same time a list of local authorities across the United Kingdom each allocated to one of 3 levels - with level 1 being the priority and most likely to be successful in obtaining funding.

We were all disappointed and rather baffled to find North Devon was placed in tier 3.

We are still awaiting sight of the criteria against which the government has used for this decision but we are lobbying hard our MP all who shares the bafflement. A large amount of evidence has been put together showing the negative impact on North Devon's economy due to Covid by both North Devon and Devon County Councils, with a particularly worrying prediction for the communities on the coast (from Ilfracombe through to Lynton).

Torrige & West Devon appear in tier 1 and would be in a good place to obtain funding. As North Devon and Torrige are one economy this is even more unfathomable.



Devon Recycling Centres are still open, with restrictions.

Our recycling centres are still open, **they are very busy**, although the resale areas within them are closed.

The national lockdown advice right now is for us to stay at home as much as possible and only to make journeys out of the house for essential reasons only.

Therefore, we are encouraging you to think about how you can reduce the amount of waste you create.

- Try to postpone projects at home that produce waste that would normally require you to make journeys to recycling centres
- If you do produce waste that you would normally dispose of at a recycling centre, can you temporarily store it at home safely instead, until we're out of the current lockdown restrictions
- Remember that garden waste and other recyclable material can be removed as part of your usual curb side collections

If you make a visit to the recycling centre, please expect them to be operating differently during this lockdown period.

Restrictions are in place, including social distancing, which may lead to queues. If queues do start forming, we may need to restrict vehicles from joining the queues towards the end of the day and if queues become a safety hazard on the public highway, we may need to temporarily close the site.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/waste-disposal-and-recycling/>

Devon's Resource & Waste Management Strategy

Residents and businesses are invited to have their say on the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay. The Public Consultation runs from Wednesday 3 March to Wednesday 14 April, and the responses will help shape how Local Authority Collected Waste is managed in Devon up to 2030.

The new document will present how the 10 councils responsible for waste collection or disposal in Devon, will continue to work with residents to try to reduce the amount of household waste created and continue to ensure that waste is managed in a sustainable and cost-efficient manner.

The last review of Devon's Resource & Waste Management Strategy was in 2013, and since then there has been a range of developments which impact on waste management services. These include changes in national waste policy with the publication of the Government's Resource and Waste Management Strategy in 2018 as well as other waste consultations around a consistent waste collection service, deposit return scheme for drinks containers and an extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging materials. Other impacts include climate change and Brexit.

Consultees are invited to read the draft strategy and then respond to a series of questions on subjects including reducing carbon emissions, food waste, reducing waste, increasing recycling and reuse.

The consultation responses will then be reviewed, and an amended strategy will be presented for final approval to the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) and individual councils this summer, with the intention to publish the final strategy at the end of the year.

The focus is on waste prevention, reuse and recycling as well as reducing the carbon impact of waste management.

By working together closely and sharing resources Devon's authorities achieved a recycling rate of 56.6 per cent maintaining our position near the top of the English recycling league. However, there are ever more challenging targets to be met and this strategy describes the way in which local authorities within Devon and Torbay will manage resources and waste we are responsible for over the next decade and to set out our policies and targets.

The strategy and to give your views here [using the online questionnaire](#).

If you would like further information, please email: waste@devon.gov.uk

If you need guidance or an alternative format, email waste@devon.gov.uk with details of any preferred format and the assistive technology you use.

Overnight Road closure A399

22-24th March from Aller Cross to Ilfracombe for stud maintenance. 7pm-7am.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland sent a report that three months payments (approx. £3000) was outstanding from North Devon Council.

4. Woodland Group

No report received.

5. Chairman's Report

Cllr Benbow reported that the school was making an application for funding for a covered area, which could also be used by other village groups. It was necessary for them to gain the support from other community groups to strengthen their application.

It was agreed to support the application.

120. Finance

1. Payments:

1. Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£120.78	Cheque No.1240
2. Came & Co – insurance renewal	£442.06	Cheque No. 1241
3. The Keyhole Surgery	£179.95	Cheque No. 1242

The three accounts were agreed for payment.

121. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

History Page; Memorial; Play Area; Management of open space in the village.

122. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21 April 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:30pm.