



The Annual Parish Meeting was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7:45pm.

**Present:** Cllrs F Benbow (Chairman), J Balman, Mrs L Bulled, M Huxtable, Mrs L McLean, Mrs P Kellaway, M Prowse and T Shapland

**In attendance:** 10 parishioners, Parish Clerk

**1. Apologies**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. Parish Council Chairman's Report**

The Chairman thanked his fellow councillors, Parish Clerk, District Councillor and County Councillor for their work and support throughout the year, together with those who had worked on the Resilience Plan. The past year had been notable in achieving a few milestones: the village shop had completed its first year, the Devon Air Ambulance night-time landing site had been established, and the Sports Club had become greater integrated with the village.

There was still more work to be done: work continued on the Neighbourhood Plan, highway defects were a continuing problem, the future security of the Composting Group, and the future of the White Hart. The Parish Council was looking forward to another successful year.

**5. Presentation of the Parish council Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2019**

The council's finances continued to be healthy, with a balance at the end of the year of £44811, representing just under three year's Precept. It was difficult to draw a comparison with the previous year, due to exceptional income and expenditure relating to the Community Building and DAA Landing Site.

**6. District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Prowse reported that the North Devon Local Plan had finally been adopted. Some flexibility had been necessary due to changes in the National Planning Policy.

It was necessary to complete a Housing Needs Survey, which was being funded by NDC. This would affect how major planning applications were considered.

The Bratton Fleming Ward now comprised of seven parishes, with the recent inclusion of Kentisbury.

Following the recent election, the Liberal Democrats were the largest party on North Devon Council, although it did not have overall control. The first Annual Meeting was the following day.

North Devon Council was continuing to offer grants to parishes towards the upkeep of public toilets.

Following the decision of a local contractor to discontinue its service of emptying dog bins, NDC was in the process of offering a service to parishes affected.

The forthcoming Public Appeal for the White Hart would be an important event, as it would determine the future of the pub.

Cllr Prowse thanked everyone for their support during the past four years, and said that he was looking forward to working for the parish during the coming years.

**7. County Councillor's Report**

No report received.

**8. Reports from Village Organisations**

**1. Composting Group**

Cllr Shapland reported that 223.56 tonnes of material had been composted during the year, resulting in an income of £10518.48.

Running costs and donations to local groups had totalled £5156.92.  
The balance stood at £16603.02.

## **2. Woodland Group**

The woodland had recently been filmed/photographed by drone. This would be included on the village website. It was hoped to repeat the exercise later in the year.

The wooden footbridge was beginning to show signs of rot. This would continue to be monitored and repaired where necessary.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.