



A remote meeting of the Parish Council was held via Zoom on Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllrs F Benbow (Chairman), Mrs A Bell, Mrs P Kellaway, and T Shapland

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

36. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs N Catmore and M Prowse.

37. Public Participation

It was noted that the white stones on the grass at the entrance to The Glebe had been removed following an act of vandalism.

38. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Bell declared an interest in item 45.

39. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 16 June 2021

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

40. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 16 June 2021

Min. 22 It was reported that the planned event on the Millennium Green in August would not be taking place due to the high level of Covid in the area, It was agreed that the vacancy for a parish councillor should be advertised.

41. Planning Applications

73487 Erection of a barn to be used as a milking parlour, hay storage and accommodation for cows together with erection of 2 polytunnels and extension to the partly built packing shed to accommodate a dairy at Little Valley Farm Bratton Fleming

It was agreed to recommend approval.

73575 Conversion of barn to form one dwelling together with associated works at Kipscombe Bratton Fleming

It was agreed to recommend approval.

Beara Down Farm. A presentation was shown on behalf of Devon County Council detailing the current proposals for the site at Beara Down Farm. It was proposed to build 10 dwellings 2-3 bedrooms, of which 30% would be an affordable element.

It was suggested that the village currently needed larger properties to allow growing families to remain in the parish.

It was thought that a path linking the development to Footpath 23 would be better sited in the Recreation Ground on safety grounds, instead of the other side of the hedge on DCC land.

It was noted that wider consultation would be necessary. It was proposed that this would be done on-line, with hard copies available for those without internet.

DCC and NPS were happy to meet councillors for a walk around, to discuss any problem areas.

42. Correspondence Received

1. A parishioner had expressed concern that some of the footpaths in the parish were overgrown, and had enquired if any volunteers had come forward to help maintain them. It was noted that Bratton Fleming was not a member of the DCC P3 scheme whereby funding could be obtained to help keep footpaths and bridleways etc open. It was agreed to make enquiries on how to become a member of the scheme.
2. North Devon Council requested confirmation that the parish council was happy for the new dwellings on the White Hart Garage site to be known as 1-3 White Hart Close, or to suggest an alternative name. It was agreed that the council had no objection to the proposed name.
3. Parish & Town Council Wildlife Network newsletter. Noted.
4. Peninsula Transport was holding a public consultation on a vision for the south west transport network. The Chairman advised that a response had been submitted.

5. A consultation was due to be held October following the publishing of a Bus Service Improvement Plan by DCC. It was noted that the Plan was very urban centric.
- 43. Memorial**
Deferred to the next meeting
- 44. Repair/Replacement of Seats**
It was noted that both seats were situated on DCC verges. Cllr Mrs Davis explained that it would be necessary to make enquiries from DCC before replacing them.
- 45. Lynton and Barnstaple Railway project in relation to the parish**
Representing the company, Mr Miles and Mr Bromidge explained that the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway were happy for people to walk the footpaths on its land. The company didn't see any need to make changes, and that all the current crossings would continue. The Rail Authority were however, opposed to any new level crossings to be created. It may be necessary to install footbridges to allow the public to cross the railway. At Chelfham the company was happy for members of the public to walk on the land owned by the railway and use the existing footpaths. The railway company would be happy for councillors to visit Chelfham to view the work that had been carried out.
- 46. Highways**
No issues raised.
- 47. Collection Time of Post in the Middle of the Village**
It was noted that the postbox in the middle of the village only had a 9am collection time, whereas the boxes at Sentry Cross and Barton Cross were also emptied in the afternoon. It was thought that it would be beneficial for the box in the village to be emptied later in the day. Enquiries to be made to Royal Mail.
- 48. The Mary Orchard Collection**
It had been agreed that the parish council would pay for cloud storage of the photographs etc. to do this it would be necessary for everything to be catalogued and uploaded. It was thought that members of the History Group may be willing to help with this.
- 49. Digitising Old Copies of the Bratton Fleming News**
Deferred to the next meeting.
- 50. Composting Group Credits**
Cllr Shapland reported that payment of the April, May and June credits had not yet been received, so it was not known what the level of payment was. In the past it had been £32.70 per tonne, but there was a proposal by DCC to reduce this to £25 per tonne. Until the payment was received it would not be known if the proposed cut had been made.
- 51. Management of Public Open Space**
Cllr Mrs Bell had met Mr Rowe at the Millennium Green regarding establishing a five year management plan. It was agreed to ask Mr Rowe to provide a quote for producing a management plan. It was hoped that some of the work would be able to be carried out by volunteers.
- 52. Reports**
- 1. District Councillor's Report**
Just by way of an update on some of the projects I am heading up as the Lead Member for Economic Regeneration & Strategic Planning, the team are delivering a huge package of initiatives to help revitalise the economy of North Devon. The total value of these projects is some £35m providing jobs and facilities for the community.
- 7 Brethren – Barnstaple**
The new Leisure Centre is now well on its way alongside the existing Tennis Centre – a partnership between North Devon Council and our private provider Parkwood Leisure, who acting as the main contractor. The £15m build is on time and within budget – a remarkable position with a backdrop of the pandemic. A planning application has just been lodged for the old Leisure Centre site and 7 Brethren for 180 residential units including some retirement homes and a good proportion of

affordable housing for local folk. North Devon Council has secured £2m funding help from the Government via Homes England to deliver a quality riverside development.

Future High Streets Fund

Preparatory work is now well advanced on the plans to re-vamp the Pannier Market, redevelop the derelict properties on Boutport Street and fully pedestrianize Cross Street and Butchers Row. The total project is worth £11m and the Council have now completed the purchase of the building and ‘hoarding frontage’ to allow a new access to Bear Street Car Park. There will be a new access off Alexandra Road to the Bear Street/Queen Street car parks, utilising the £6.5m government grant.

Watersports Centre – Ilfracombe

Work is now well underway on the new Centre at Larkstone. When complete the venue will bring all the water-based clubs together, act as a nautical training centre and an exciting new visitor attraction in what was the quiet corner of the harbour. This will underpin what has been a good summer so far for the tourism industry and Ilfracombe in particular.

New North Devon & Torridge Local Plan

The process has started to update the Local Plan. We are struggling to meet ridiculous central government targets – there has been a lot about the problems we face in the local media. Nevertheless, there seems to be a new planning regime on the way and we must be ready to get the balance right between development and the stunning local environment. I have the job of chairing a joint group of North Devon and Torridge Councillors to complete the task by the end of 2023.

Finances

The end of the financial year (April 2021) saw North Devon Council with a budget surplus of £500,000 a remarkable achievement in such a difficult year. Wisely, the Council is looking to keep 350k in a Covid contingency (I’m sure we haven’t seen the end of ‘special measures’ and pressure for the local authorities to intervene. Another 118k is to go into an economic development reserve to encourage jobs and regeneration and 50k into an Environment Initiatives Fund; this will be welcomed by our new ‘Climate Emergency’ officer, she is jointly employed by us and Torridge and comes with a wealth of experience working within government and for the Environment Agency.

2. County Councillor’s Report

Peninsula transport- Shaping the future of Transport across the South West

I would be very grateful if the Parish Council would consider responding to the consultation please. it would be good to hear from residents and businesses too so please do share the message.

Peninsula Transport is the shadow sub-national transport body (STB), bringing together the five lead transport authorities in the Peninsula (Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay) to work directly with the Department for Transport (DfT) on the strategic transport priorities for the region. Formed in 2018, it is a partnership established to transform transport and boost economic growth for the Peninsula.

The work of Peninsula Transport considers the following key areas:

- Resilient road and rail networks to support connectivity to its key markets in the Midlands, the north of England, London and international gateways at Heathrow, Gatwick and Southampton as well as access to our regional airports and ports
- Impact of technology and innovation in supporting our urban and rural mobility challenges
- Infrastructure investment needed to unlock housing development and create accessible enterprise areas
- Take a regional lead in the transition to decarbonisation of the strategic transport network

The first priority for Peninsula Transport is the development of a regional transport strategy, which plans and prioritises strategic infrastructure across the peninsula over the next thirty years. As part of this work, Peninsula Transport has produced a high-level vision document setting out the goals that will ultimately define the overall direction and principles of the full regional transport strategy.

The high level vision will be consulted on throughout the summer into September to ensure that the vision is shared with those across the peninsula and determine if the goals meet the needs of those using the network.

Vision and Goals

The key challenge for the Peninsula is to strengthen strategic links to keep pace with the rest of the UK, reinforcing connectivity and maximising opportunities to boost productivity. Transport is a vital part of every day life and therefore a transport strategy needs to be bold and ambitious, delivering a transport system that works for people, businesses and the planet.

The vision for the peninsula is: “transforming transport across the peninsula, enabling our society and economy to thrive and our unique and outstanding environment to flourish.”

The vision is underpinned by the following five goals:

- We will improve connections between people, businesses, and places
- We will enhance resilience of the transport network
- We will deliver affordable, zero-emissions transport for everyone
- We will help to improve the health and wellbeing of communities in the peninsula
- We will help the peninsula to be a great place to live and work

The Consultation

The consultation will open week commencing 12th July and will close week ending 17th September 2021. www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk.

What happens next?

Once the consultation has closed, Peninsula Transport will use the feedback to inform the full strategy. A number of supporting studies are either underway or planned to support the transport strategy and our website will be updated as the programme progresses. We expect to publish our transport strategy in 2022, setting out our proposals for the delivery a transport system that works best for people, businesses and the planet.

The consultation is on the website: www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk, or you can contact us by emailing info@peninsulatrtransport.org.uk.

Multi-million pound drive to combat holiday hunger in Devon

More families in Devon are eligible for free school meals for their children than ever before, with numbers soaring during the coronavirus pandemic to the highest levels on record.

Around a further 3,300 children became eligible for free school meals between January 2020 and January 2021, rising to a total of approximately 17,000 during the last term, which equates to nearly 16 per cent of all school children across Devon.

Over the past year, Devon County Council has invested nearly £3.1 million on providing over 82,000 supermarket vouchers for families who qualify for free school meals so their children don't go hungry over the school holidays. That scheme is operating again over the summer, with vouchers worth £15 per child per week of the summer holiday being sent to families to help them buy food to replace the meals their child would have received at school during term-time.

The length of summer holidays differs from school to school so the vouchers are worth £75, £90 or £105 (£15 per child per week) depending on how many weeks each child has off.

They can be redeemed in major supermarkets across Devon and arrangements are in place for families who cannot get to a supermarket.

If you didn't previously qualify for free school meals but your income has reduced or stopped, the quickest and easiest way for your eligibility to be assessed is through the Devon County Council website and you will get an instant decision.

Alternatively, contact Devon County Council's education helpline on 0345 155 1019.

More information about the free school meals holiday voucher scheme is available on Devon County Council's website.

#BackTheFuture with £40k for climate related projects

Devon County Council has made £40,000 funding available through the #BackTheFuture initiative, which will help individuals, community groups and organisations to make their planet-positive ideas a reality.

Residents are encouraged to submit their ideas by **Thursday 29 July at 7.00pm**, after which, ten successful projects will be chosen to receive specialist support to crowdfund their idea and get a share of the match funding from Devon County Council.

Crowdfunder is a powerful online fundraising tool that allows projects to coordinate activity in one place as well as raise awareness within their local community and even further afield.

If you need some inspiration for your crowdfunding idea, a recording of the #BackTheFuture live event is available on YouTube.

Funding available to help Devon’s communities reconnect, rebuild and recover

Community-led facilities and activities, like many things, were quickly suspended during the onset of the national coronavirus lockdown.

As the country begins to return to some degree of normality, Devon County Council is keen to help local communities get back to doing the things they love safely and confidently, so we have created a special fund to support them.

The Reconnect Rebuild Recover Community Fund will provide grant funding of up to £1,000 for smaller projects and between £1,000 and £3,000 for larger projects that help local people to reconnect, rebuild and recover their community-led facilities and/or social activities.

It will support community-led initiatives that:

- encourage a range of people to participate in activities that improve their physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- provide safe community-led transportation links and services which encourage and help people to re-connect and re-socialise safely within their communities
- encourage people to develop skills and learning through volunteering their time, knowledge and expertise to help and support the facilities and/or social activity and the people using them

You can find out more, including how to apply, on the Devon County Council website.

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/>

Reminder about reporting a highway problem:

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

3. Composting Group

Payments for material removed from site during April (16.76 tonnes), May (6.83 tonnes) and June (9.01 tonnes) were still awaited.

A donation to the Bratton Fleming News of £1000 for computer equipment was approved. The balance currently stood at £16076.24.

4. Woodland Group

The woodland paths had been strimmed. Work was needed at the bottom of the Millennium Green to cut back the vegetation alongside the paths.

5. Chairman’s Report

Everyone was encouraged to meet Net Zero carbon emissions, but it was not sure that everyone knew what this meant. It was also dependant on other bodies meeting their deadlines.

53. Finance

1. Payments:

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|------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| 1. Mr A Kellaway | £ 45.00 | Cheque No.1253 |
| 2. Clerk’s Salary & Expenses | £122.78 | Cheque No.1254 |

The two accounts were agreed for payment.

54. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Memorial; royal Mail Collections; Digitalising old edition of the Bratton Fleming News.

55. Format for Future Meetings

The Chairman suggested that remote meetings should continue while the number of covid infections continued to rise. This was agreed.

56. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 August 2021

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