



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 7:00pm.

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

In attendance: 10 parishioners, Cllr Mrs Davis (DCC), Parish Clerk

128. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs L McLean and J Pitkeathly.

129. Public Participation

1. Vandalism was reported in the Community Woodland, with damage caused to the gate and hide. As the hide had been the target for damage on a number of occasions, it was agreed that it should be removed.
2. it was reported that all the compost at the composting site had been used. Cllr Mrs Bell offered to make enquiries to check if it had been taken for commercial reasons, rather than private gardens.
3. it was noted that the forthcoming road closure on Benton Road was due to National Grid carrying out reconductoring work.
4. although good work had been carried out on the stile at the back of Furze Park, the handrail had been left very rough and considered unsuitable. It has been ascertained that this was normal for rural handrails. The problem had been remedied by Mr Turner.
5. complaints had been received that some of the North Devon Council owned land on Furze Park had been fenced in.

130. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Benbow and Mrs Catmore declared an interest in item 139.

131. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 19 March 2025

It was noted that it had been agreed that information on the Community Orchard should be placed on facebook.

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

132. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 19 March 2025

Min. 121. The broken water pipe causing damage on Bridleway 17 had been repaired. Repairs to the damaged wall were still outstanding/

133. Planning Application:

80070 Outline application for the erection of a dwelling including access (appearance, landscaping, layout & scale reserved). Land adjacent to Bryher Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend that the application be approved, with the condition that the ridge height should not exceed the sight line as indicated on the Proposed Site Plan and Sections.

134. Correspondence

1. DCC New bus timetable. Noted.
2. Email from parishioner regarding behavior of local resident. The matter had been dealt with, and a response sent.
3. DALC Newsletter. Noted.
4. Letter of thanks for donation towards VE Day celebration expenses. Noted.

135. Highways

It was noted that the recent patching work on the Barnstaple road had of a high standard. Cllr Mrs Davis agreed to pass the council's thanks to the contractor concerned.

Concern was expressed however, on placing the warning signs in the middle of the road when there were grass verges available. Cllr Mrs Davis explained that in the past these 'Road Closed Ahead' signs had not been seen by motorists when placed on the verges.

136. The Mary Orchard Photograph Archive

Cllr Benbow reported that he had a disc containing the catalogue of photographs, and was liaising with Cllr Ellis regarding making them available online.

137. Retaining Telephone Landline Petition

Cllr Benbow reported that a battery backup would be made available in the case of a power cut, but that the battery capacity was only one hour.

Ian Roome MP was in talks with the minister regarding potential problems in rural areas when the current analogue system was switched off.

138. Reports**1. District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Prowse reported that the council was still awaiting information from central government before more progress could be made with the new North Devon and Torridge Local Plan. The council was conscious that there was a shortage in housing land, and was issuing a call for sites.

As part of the New Housing Strategy, money from the increased Council Tax for second homes was being put aside to purchase temporary accommodation. Three new properties had recently been purchased in Ilfracombe.

The new Central Car Park in Barnstaple was almost complete.

Planning Enforcement was clearing the backlog of cases, and was currently dealing with seven cases.

The contract for the work due to Bridge Chambers had been awarded to Pearce Construction.

2. County Councillor's Report

A report had been received from Cllr Mrs Davis, which had been circulated to councillors, and would be placed on the website.

Cllr Mrs Davis was thanked for all the work that she had done for the parish during the present term of office.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Mrs Bell reported that she was working with the group to ensure that all the permits were in place.

4. Woodland Group

Mr Turner was thanked for all the work he had carried out in the woodland.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked everyone for their work in arranging events for the forthcoming 80th anniversary of VE Day.

139. Finance**1. Payments:**

Bratton Fleming Village Hall – hire	£ 13.50
Bratton Fleming Stores – paper cups for planting day	£ 9.59
Birch Meadow Landscaping – work to Community Orchard	£1081.92
Birch Meadow Landscaping – work to Community Orchard	£ 700.43
DALC – annual subscription	£ 403.61
Mr T Squire – April salary	£ 125.50
HMRC - PAYE	£ 12.00
NDC – emptying dog bins	£ 163.80
NDC – rent of Station Road allotments	£ 10.00

The nine accounts were agreed for payment.

Payment of the invoice from 361 Energy for £500 for the feasibility study was deferred until the next meeting.

140. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Repairs and replacement of the bus shelters; The Mary Orchard Collection; Retaining Telephone Landline Petition

141. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21 May 2025

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date