



The Annual Parish Council Meeting was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 7.40pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs A Bell (Chair), T Ellis, Mrs L McLean, P Huxtable, Mrs P Kellaway, J Pitkeathly and M Prowse

In attendance: 5 parishioners, Cllr Mrs Davis (DCC), Parish Clerk

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Chairman

Cllr Prowse proposed Cllr Mrs Bell be re-elected as Chair. Seconded by Cllr Pitkeathly. All in agreement.

Vice Chairman

To be left vacant at present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs F Benbow and Mrs N Catmore.

3. Public Participation

1. Cllr Mrs Davis advised a concerned parishioner that the surface dressing on the Barnstaple road would only take a matter of hours, not the total length of time stated on the signs.
2. it was reported that the overgrown hedge at the SWW Treatment Works was preventing lorries making farm deliveries. Cllr Mrs Davis advised reporting the matter on the DCC website. As this was the landowners responsibility, DCC would ensure that any work required work was carried out.
3. it was reported that trees planted in the front wall of a property obscured visibility of vehicles trying to exit Haxton Lane. Cllr Huxtable to speak to the householder concerned.

4. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Kellaway declared an interest in items 15.3.2 and 15.3.6

Cllr Prowse declared an interest in item 8.1

5. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 16 April 2025

Item 129.5 was amended, adding that Cllr Prowse was to investigate the matter with NDC.

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

6. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 16 April 2025

None.

7. Highways

It was noted that the Barnstaple road was to receive surface dressing at the end of the month.

No other matters were raised.

8. Planning Applications:

- 80125 Extension to pre-school to form additional classroom and associated offices. Bratton Fleming Pre-School C.I.C Fawn Lodge Station Road Bratton Fleming
- The issue of the surface water drainage was discussed, noting that a soak away was proposed and that surface run-off was not allowed to run into the foul sewer, as suggested by a neighbour. It was resolved to recommend approval.
- 80130 Change of use of ancillary accommodation to separate dwelling house together with associated works. Old Coach House Chelfham.
- The council had no firm opinion regarding this application.
It was agreed to leave it to the planning officer to make a balanced decision.
- 80132 Conversion of redundant building to dwelling together with associated works. Higher Way Stowford
- It was resolved to recommend approval.

9. Repairs and replacement of the bus shelters

Item deferred to the next meeting.

10. Correspondence

1. DALC Newsletter. Noted
2. Email from parishioner re behaviour of local resident in the vicinity of the local shop and The Glebe. The Chair reported that she had spoken to the tenant of the shop regarding the complaint.

11. Reports

To receive any report not received at the Annual Parish Meeting

None.

12. Appointment of Slee Blackwell Solicitors to represent the parish council and Millennium Green Trust in respect of the Glebe field development, and registration of the old Parish Quarries

It was agreed to appoint Slee Blackwell to represent the Parish Council and Millennium Green Trust regarding to forthcoming planning application for the glebe field. The majority of any reasonable costs associated with the development would be covered by the developer.

It was also agreed to appoint the solicitor to register the three parish quarries in the name of the council, at the cost was estimated at £800 + £300 disbursements.

13. The Mary Orchard Collection

Cllr Ellis reported that the catalogue of over 500 photographs had now been converted to pdf, arranged in folders of different subjects. A hyperlink would be available for each folder.

14. Retaining Telephone Landline Petition

Item deferred to the next meeting.

15. Finance

1. Adoption of Accounts

Copies of the accounts for 2024/25 had been circulated to councillors. It was unanimously agreed that these should be adopted as a true record of the council's finances.

2. Completion of Annual Audit Return

- 1.The Annual Governance Statement was agreed, completed and signed.
- 2.The Accounting Statement was also agreed and signed as a true record.

3. To approve Payments:

Bratton Fleming Stores – blinds	£ 76.00
Mr A Kellaway	£ 103.00
Bratton Fleming Village Hall	£ 13.50
HMRC	£ 12.40
Mr T Squire – Salary	£ 125.50
Mr A Kellaway	£ 112.00
B Thorne & Son – chipper servicing	£2416.84

The seven account were agreed for payment.

16. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

The Mary Orchard Collection; Retaining Telephone Landline Petition; Bus Shelters; Review of Policies.

17. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 June 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date