



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 7:00pm.

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

In attendance: 7 parishioners, Parish Clerk

Before the meeting started those present observed a minutes silence in memory of Cllr Mrs McLean who had passed away at the weekend.

The Chairman outlined the long untiring service Mrs McLean had given to the parish, both as Parish Councillor and editor of the Bratton Fleming News.

47. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs N Catmore and County Cllr Mrs Davis

48. Public Participation

1. Cllr Huxtable was still to speak to the landowner regarding the broken gate in Haxton Lane.
2. The Chairman confirmed that there were currently no plans in place regarding the future of the shop when the current planning consent expired. This would be dealt with when the time arose and would probably involve re-applying for further planning permission.
3. Cllr Prowse reported that there had not been any development regarding the camper van on the car park. This was currently in the hands of the housing team at NDC.
4. The clerk confirmed that he would check that the Internal Auditor's Report was on the council website.
5. It was reported that a vehicle parked in the lane was making it difficult to use Footpath 3.

49. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Kellaway declared an interest in items 58.2.5 and 58.2.6.

50. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 17 September 2025

Minute 36 was amended to record that Cllr Mrs Davis was to investigate.
The amended minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

51. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 17 September 2025

Min. 40. A contractor was due to remove the fallen limb from a tree later that week.

52. Planning Applications:

No new applications had been received.

53. Highways

Cllr Benbow reported that there was still flooding on the A399. Although new drains had been installed, these were not being maintained. Cllr Mrs Davis to be advised.

Cllr Prowse reported on the condition of the A399 near the Brayford Toll House, which was forcing traffic into the middle of the road. Letter to be sent to Highways.

54. Correspondence

1. Request for pedestrian crossing near The White Hart. Request passed to Cllr Mrs Davis, who was making enquiries.
2. Request for public facilities, specifically a bus shelter, at Chelfham. Passed to Cllr Mrs Davis for action.
3. Email from resident regarding the whereabouts of the water meter for the shop. It was understood that South West Water were now suspending their search for the meter and that a new one would be installed at the point at which it became due for renewal. SWW had no concerns regarding excessive water use in this case. The resident who raised the issue was present at the meeting and confirmed that no written response was now required.
4. DALC Newsletter. Noted.
5. Waterways and Water Mill Event at Chelfham in December. Noted.

55. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that the council had still not been informed by central government about how much housing land supply it was required to find. A call for sites had been called to identify possible housing land.

The Planning and Enforcement teams had made good progress in clearing the backlog of cases, and were now almost up to date.

Most of the district councils in Devon were supportive of what had become known as the 1.4.5 proposal, although there was a strong feeling that rural districts within northern Devon could form its own unitary council.

Devon County Council were still favouring a single unitary council for the whole of Devon excluding Plymouth.

2. County Councillor's Report

A report had been received from the County Councillor, who was unable to attend the meeting. This had been circulated to councillors and placed on the council website.

3. Composting Group

No report received due to the site being temporarily closed.

4. Woodland Group

No report received

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the Station Road allotment holders were enquiring into the future of the unused allotments on the site.

At the present time she could only confirm that discussions were ongoing.

56. Composting Group

Temporary closure of facility and proposed security measures - update.

The site was still closed but a new gate had been ordered and would be installed as soon as it arrived. To maintain easy access to the Recreation Ground the kissing gate at Sentry Cross would be supplemented by a self closing hunting gate.

It had fallen to the Chair to look at the regulations involved with installing CCTV cameras, which was taking longer than expected.

57. Hedge Between Homer Close and Church Close

Cllr Benbow reported that when a team from North Devon Homes visited the site last year to cut the hedge, they had agreed that rather than being cut, it should be laid. This was something that they were unable to do as it required different skills. It had been his understanding that a skilled hedge layer would be sent to carry out the work, but nothing had happened.

It was agreed to write to North Devon Homes to ask why, a year later, the work had still not been done, and to seek assurances that it would be carried out this season.

58. Finance

1. Review of Internal Audit Report

The report from the Internal Auditor had been circulated to councillors. It was considered that overall the report had been positive.

The minor errors noted had been rectified, and some of the recommendations already carried out.

Work would continue to address the other recommendations in the report, including the review of policies and changing to a different VAT reclaim programme.

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| 2. To approve Payments: | |
| Bratton Fleming Village Hall | £ 13.50 |
| PKF Littlejohn – External Audit | £252.00 |
| Mr T Squire – Salary | £125.50 |
| HMRC – PAYE | £ 12.00 |
| Mr A Kellaway | £166.00 |
| Mr A Kellaway | £ 50.00 |

The six accounts were agreed for payment.

The Clerk noted that his expenses this month had included a poppy wreath, which for the past few years he had laid on behalf of the parish council at the war memorial during the service on Remembrance Sunday. This year however, he would not be able to do so, as he would not be at home.

Cllr Ms Bell and Cllr Ellis offered to lay the wreath on behalf of the parish council. This was agreed.

59. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Setting of Budget and precept for 2026/27; Adoption of Internal Control Policy.

60. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19 November 2025

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