



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 15 April 2026 at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs A Bell (Chairman), R Bond, Mrs N Catmore, T Ellis, P Huxtable, Mrs P Kellaway, J Pitkeathly, E Prouse and M Prowse.

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

Cllr Mrs Bell informed the meeting of the recent death of Cllr Frank Benbow, who had been a councillor for 23 years, 8 of which he had served as chairman. This was in addition as taking leading roles on other village organisations.

A minute's silence was observed in Cllr Benbow's memory before the meeting started.

128. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received, all councillors being present.

129. Public Participation

1. Concern was expressed over the privacy strip on the Millennium Green Cllr Prowse explained the reason for the strip, and the need to maintain a balance between providing privacy for the neighbours and preventing it becoming a nuisance. He stated that in the past a letter had been sent to all the neighbours. It was agreed that another letter should be sent.
2. In response to a question, Cllr Prowse reported that he had been in contact with the owner of the van parked in the Millennium Green cart park, asking for it to be removed. He had not yet received a reply. If a reply was not forthcoming, he would contact Environmental Health at NDC.
3. Cllr Prouse reported on the possibility of establishing a community garden on the Millennium Green, for which grants were available. It was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Bell, Prowse and Prouse should meet on site to discuss further.
4. It was reported that some farmers were experiencing problems with dogs on their land, especially where footpaths crossed the land. This was particularly worrying during the lambing season.

130. Declaration of Interests

None.

131. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 18 March 2026

Min. 124.4 The word 'minor' was deleted.

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

132. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 18 March 2026

Letters had been sent to DCC regarding the white lines on the Barnstaple road, and to NDC regarding the new rubbish bins. Replies were awaited.

The Chairman had contacted the play equipment contractor regarding the play inspection report.

133. Planning Applications:

81501 Erection of 1 open-market dwelling with garage and further separate garage for Castlemoor together with associated works. Castlemoor Bratton Fleming.

There being no objections to the application, it was agreed to recommend approval.

81615 Creation of access track and associated works (part retrospective). Higher Hunnacott Farm Bratton Fleming

There being no objections to the application, it was agreed to recommend approval.

134. Highways

No update had yet been received regarding the missing white lines on the Barnstaple road. Work was due to start on drainage work to the A399 at the end of the month

135. Traffic Speed through the Village

There was nothing new to add regarding the proposed Community Speedwatch in the village. Although it looked like there were enough people interested in forming a group, more were needed to make it really viable.

136. Correspondence

1. DALC Newsletter. Noted, to be circulated to councillors.
2. Cllr Mrs Catmore reported on a petition aimed at keeping a parishioner in his home, which was owned by North Devon Homes and had been rented by his late mother. He had now been given notice to vacate the property. Owing to his health problems it was important that he remained in the village. It was agreed to write a letter of support to North Devon Homes.
3. An email had been received listing a number of complaints in the Millennium Green area. The Chairman would be in contact with the complainant.
4. A letter of thanks had been received for the financial assistance towards the community litter pick, which had been very successful.

137. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Prowse reported that the new Local Plan regulations had been received from central government, and that a joint meeting with Torridge District Council had been planned. Everything was in place for work on the new Plan to start in June. The last phase of the work to the Central Car Park in Barnstaple was now underway. The council was looking at the possibility of taking the old Oliver Buildings in Barnstaple into public ownership. The latest White Hart appeal had been rejected by the planning inspectorate. The owners of Honey Hill had been given a suspended jail sentence for ignoring enforcement notices. The parish council's comments on the Beara Down planning application had been taken into account by the developer. The government's outcome of the Local Government Reorganisation for Devon should be known in July.

2. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Mrs Davis reported that over 25000 responses had been received during the library consultation. No further details were known. Drainage work on the A399 near Brayford would start at the end of the month, with some road closures. Highways had no objections to the Sentry Cross bus shelter being resited on the junction, where there was clear visibility up Grange Hill.

3. Composting Group

The Cricket Club had returned the £1000 grant it had received to purchase a mower, which was now longer needed and had been sold. There were still issues with non-compostable material being left at the site. The balance currently stood at £18000.

4. Woodland Group

No report given.

5. Chairman's Report

The chairman reported that a new bus shelter at Sentry Cross would cost £2548. It was proposed that cost would be split between the parish council and the composting group. It was noted that the planter at Sentry Cross would need to be moved to accommodate the new bus shelter.

It was proposed that a letter be sent to West Buckland School to request a donation towards the cost of the existing bus shelter in Benton Road, as this will be used exclusively by children waiting for the West Buckland school bus.

No quotes had yet been received for the repairs needed to the bus shelter at Town Tenement.

Cllr Mrs Catmore left the meeting.

138. New Local Plan

It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

139. Finance

1. Request for Grant

Bratton Fleming Village Hall – towards cost of hosting weekly post office

It was agreed to award a grant of £200 towards the cost of oil and electricity when the hall was being used by the outreach post office, for which the hall did not make a charge.

2. To approve Payments:

Bratton Fleming Village Hall – hire	£ 13.50
Mrs S Squire – Litter pick expenses	£127.44
Lonsdale – Bratton Fleming News printing	£299.00
DALC Subscription	£407.17
Mr T Squire – Salary	£117.50
HMRC – PAYE	£ 20.00
Mrs A Bell – reimbursement for tape and padlock	£ 30.99

The seven accounts were agreed for payment.

140. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

New Local Plan

141. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20 May 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.12pm.