Bratton Fleming Parish Council

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs A Bell (Chairman), R Bond, T Ellis, J Pitkeathly and E Prouse.

In attendance: 7 parishioners, Cllr Mrs Davis (DCC), Parish Clerk.

60. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs N Catmore, P Huxtable, Mrs P Kellaway and M Prowse.

61. Public Participation

1. Concern was expressed over a relatively low fence between the the grounds of a dwelling where several dog were kept and the adjacent a public footpath. people using the footpath felt trapped and frightened when the dogs ran up against the low fence. It was suggested that anyone concerned should speak to the householder in the first instance, rather than contacting the council or police. However, it was then agreed that The Chair would ask Cllr Huxtable to raise it with the owners.
2. a request was received for the path around the Haxton Lane allotments to be cut. Cllr Mrs Bell offered to speak to Mr Turner and Mr Kellaway about getting this done.
3. it was reported that members of the Resilience Group would be attending a meeting in Totnes the following day.

62. Declaration of Interests

None.

63. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 16 September 2026

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

64. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 16 September 2026

The camper van on the Millennium Green car park had been removed.
A letter had been sent to North Devon Homes regarding the sighting of vermin, no response had yet been received.
It was agreed that a new litter bin should be placed in the bus shelter opposite Town Tenement. An application would be submitted.
The Composting site was now open again.
No response had been received from Highways regarding the missing road markings.

65. Planning Applications:

82167 Retrospective erection of temporary agricultural workers dwelling and 2 agricultural buildings and associated works. Land at Grange Hill Bratton Fleming.

Concern was expressed that the application was being considered despite enforcement action being in progress against the work that had been carried out.

Cllr Mrs Bell agreed to submit the council's concerns, requesting an explanation why the standard procedures were not being followed.

82314 Creation of access track and associated works (part retrospective). Land to the North-West of Hunnacott House Bratton Fleming

Cllr Bond declared an interest in the application, and took no part in the consultation.

It was agreed to recommend approval of the application on the condition that the planting of the woodland detailed in the application, together with the management plan, should form part of the consent, together with the stipulation that any work carried out should not be to the detriment of reopening the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway, the trackbed of which ran alongside the proposed trackway.

82023 Conversion of agricultural building to dwelling with garage facilities using the fallback position following Class Q permission 77072. Barn at Fernham Brayford.

There were no objections to the application.

66. Spring bulbs through the village

Cllr Prouse outlined a proposal to plant spring bulbs throughout the village on council verges to bring extra colour to the area, and make the village a more pleasant place to live. The additional planting could be extended in future years. He hoped local residents, of all ages, could be involved in the planting. He estimated that it would take approximately 6000-7000 mixed bulbs, with low growing bulbs and plants on visibility splays. This would cost approximately £623.
The proposal was agreed. It was also agreed to allocate £1000 to the project.

67. Christmas Tree Festival

The Parish Council had been asked to decorate a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival, which would be held in the church 12-13 December. Both the tree and lights would be provided. This was agreed. Cllr Bond agreed to make enquiries to find someone to decorate the tree on the council's behalf.

68. Highways

No matters raised.

69. Local Plan

No new information available.

70. Correspondence

1. DCC had provided details for a bus shelter to replace the current one at Sentry Cross. The shelter suggested by DCC would cost £7067, plus £1017 delivery, plus £5324 installation. All prices ex VAT, bringing the total to £16090. This was considered too expensive. DCC also proposed placing it at a site lower down the village where there was a footpath. The proposed site had not been approved by Highways, and was considered to be too far away from the current site. Cllr Mrs Davis said that she would contact the Public Transport dept at DCC, and also enquire how much the parish council would be expected to contribute.
2. DAAT – launch of appeal to raise funds to keep the helicopters flying. To be forwarded to the Bratton Fleming News.
3. SWW – Notice of request being submitted to DCC for a road closure 21 January 2027 – Homedale to Stags Head. Noted.
4. DALC Newsletter. Noted.

71. Reports

1. District Councillor's Report

No report received.

2. County Councillor's Report

The report from Cllr Mrs Davis had been circulated to councillors and uploaded onto the council's website.

3. Composting Group

The site was now open again, following the return of the chipper after being serviced.

4. Woodland Group

Concern was expressed over the condition of the trees in Old Rectory Drive. It was agreed to obtain a quote for carrying out a survey.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that a special Thursday Café was being planned to mark a significant birthday of a past chairman of the council.

72. Finance

1. Payments:

Bratton Fleming Village Hall – hire	£ 13.50
Mr A Kellaway – grass cutting – Play area & woodland paths & clearing brambles – Station Rd Allotments	£160 .00
AP Tree Services – clear fallen limb of tree in M Green	£ 970.00
Mr T Squire – Salary	£ 107.90
HMRC – Clerk's PAYE	£ 29.60

The five accounts were agreed for payment.

73. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.
Blue Plaques; Setting of 2027/28 Budget.

74. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 November 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed . . . . . Date . . . . . .
Chairman