

Bratton Clovelly Parish Council



Clerk: Rachel Ward, Crane Cottage, Germansweek, Beaworthy Devon. EX21 5BA ☎ 07504890775 •
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Minutes of the Bratton Clovelly Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021
7:30pm at Bratton Clovelly Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs, McNelis, Rockett, Waters, Hughes, Wallwork, Gilbert, Levy, WDBC Cllr.
Southcott, and R Ward, Clerk

There were two members of the public.

1. Chairman's Welcome Cllr. McNelis welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Apologies. None
4. Approval of minutes of the last meeting dated 8th May 2019 **Approved**
5. Reports from Local Groups/Organisations:

Report for Badminton Club 2020-2021 - Badminton Club will hopefully resume in September as long as no further covid restrictions.

Sessions Wednesday evening from 7.30 pm, cost £1.50 per person, per session.
Further information, please contact Margaret Wilson 01837 871248.

Report for Bratton Clovelly WI 2020-2021 - Bratton members have been unable to hold any meetings with speakers since March 2020. In the meantime we keep in touch online, by phone and correspondence. Socially distanced we were able to walk, tidy areas around the parish hall and square, clear and start a perennial garden in 2 corners of the playing field. The work on the gardens is ongoing.

We have provisionally booked the Parish Hall for the Annual Produce Show on August 7th, schedules and entry forms are available of the Bratton Clovelly Parish Website which can be accessed from 'Facebook', or from WI members.

We are always pleased to welcome new faces and we look forward to getting back to monthly meetings in the autumn in the School Room.

Margaret Wilson secretary 01837 871248

Reading group - The Reading Group/Book Club has clearly not been able to meet for over a year. We would hope to continue with the group in the future, although not while circumstances are still uncertain. As and when we feel confident to meet up again we will post invites on the village hub and the parish website. All will be welcome.

Bratton Clovelly under 5s, is only just getting going again as the restrictions start to lift.

We meet every Monday, during term time 10-12. It's a great little group for local parents to meet and for the children to interact with other. On average we get about 7 families attend each week.

We use the top room (bottom room) bar area and the main hall, so lots of space for the children to play safely. We store our toys in the bottom room, also do the messy play down there.

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Tai Chi -. Having been doing sessions outside since middle of last year it had been decided to carry on with outdoor sessions only.

6. Report from the Parish Council Chairman - Cllr. Bernard McNelis 26 May 2021

“What can I say about this past year? It must be incomparable with any other year for us all. I will not mention the dreaded virus and its effects on our Parish. Thankfully, we are getting a bit more like normal.

Your Parish Council has been working ‘as usual’ for your interests. But the lack of activity across the Parish, the County and the Country because of Covid has meant we have had less requests and less business. We have tried to hold Council Meetings under very restrictive conditions. Hence in the past year we have held 8 regular meeting and 1 extraordinary meeting. 7 of these have been by zoom, and all with less public participation than is usual, and which we would like.

I am not going to talk about other activities, or non-activities over the past year. Let us look forward to getting out of the Corvid mess and be back to normal this time next year.

The one special thing I am delighted to report is we have a new website. This is still under development, but it will make our communications much more efficient, and allow everyone access to archives etc. I also think it was wonderful to have the Plant Sale two weeks ago. This was very professionally organised, and was the first time many of our Parishioners had seen each other after months of lockdown.

I thank my fellow Councillors, our Clerk, and all the volunteers for their hard work. As always, we need more volunteers. I am not going to go into detail; the minutes of our meetings spell out loud and clear.

So with my shortest report ever, thank you everyone for attending.”

7. Parish Council Financial Report: R Ward – RFO

“Last year’s precept amounted to £6236, this comes from West Devon Borough Council and is paid out of council tax.

A large part of this income was budgeted to be used on annual outgoings such as insurance, fees and clerk payroll costs (53.91%) and regular services in the community such as maintenance and safety inspections of the play area, weed treatment including knotweed, dog waste disposal, grass cutting etc. (19.72%)

On top of that there are then discretionary spends such as training costs, clean-up day expenses and so on.

Money is “ring fenced” for repairs and replacement to items we own, like the playground equipment, and this pot has reached its target.

This year, due to the pandemic, some elements of the budget were unspent for example the monies from DCC Highways and so the surplus has been carried forward to this coming financial year to meet those costs when they flow through. We are looking for new volunteers to help maintain the footpaths and thank the Parishioners who have given their time and hard work over the past few years.

Fund raising for the playground refurbishment has also been affected by pandemic restrictions, but we were able to qualify for a £300 grant shortly after Christmas to carry out some urgent repairs and reopen the playground.

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Because budgets at higher level are squeezed tighter, funding of the services we wish to continue has to be found at local level, as is the case with eradication of Japanese Knotweed on roadside verges. This particular problem currently requires regular attention but we are making progress and reported areas are coming under control.

As a council we work hard to control and manage costs and despite inflation, careful budgeting means that there has been no rise in the total precept for the coming year

8. Questions from the floor - None

9. Closure of meeting 19:37

Cllr B McNelis

Chairman of Bratton Clovelly Parish Council

Date