MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2012 IN THE VICTORY HALL.

Present  Councillor Dunn, Councillor Procter, Councillor White, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Stanley, Councillor Henderson, The Clerk and Devon County Councillor Yabsley.

Before the meeting began  ex-Councillor Herbie Geen and Mrs. Geen were presented with a framed photograph to commemorate Mr. Geen’s fifty years of service to the community.

452/12/12.1 Apologies.  Councillor Janes (work), Councillor Gammon (work), Motions were proposed to sanction the absences. All agreed Absent, no apologies, Councillor Mather.

453/12/12.2 Declarations of interests.  None.

454/12/12.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.  A total of 5 calls in the past month. One road traffic incident. One concerning anti-social behaviour, two domestic disputes, one concerning a person acting suspiciously, and three crimes, one of which was detected. Thefts of diesel fuel, metal and property from sheds and outbuildings were reported throughout the Avon and Somerset police area and it was possible that those responsible might carry out similar thefts in this area.

455/12/12.4 Representations from the public.

Councillor White reported that bags of salt, for gritting, had been placed in laybys and passing places instead of in the hedges beside roadways as normal. As a result several bags had already been driven over and burst. Clerk to report to NDC roads.

The Chairman noted that gritting lorries were not treating the Church Square and Back Lane areas. Clerk to report to NDC roads.

A blocked drain in Jubilee Gardens was mentioned. Clerk to report to NDC roads.

It was mentioned that dog mess was becoming a problem in the Oakford Villas area.

Councillor Bulled reported that people had expressed concerns about permission being granted to build on areas in North Molton identified in the Strategic Housing Land Assessment published by NDC. The clerk reminded councillors that the land in question had been offered up by the landowner for development, but that the NDC website specifically stated that no permissions had been granted or applied for.

456/12/12.5 Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st November 2012. A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, was proposed. All agreed.

457/12/12.6 Clerk’s report.
With regard to the disposal of the printer, purchased by the council for the use of the former clerk. No requests had been received from any charities or organisations for it. Councillor Gammon was in need of a printer and would like to purchase it. Agreed, that the printer be sold to Councillor Gammon for the sum of £20.00.

Christine O’Brien had supplied the necessary information in support of her application to become a co-opted councillor. Agreed, Christine O’Brien become a co-opted councillor.

South Molton town council had been in touch regarding the proposed sharing of weed-control operations and put in touch with councillor Mather who had previously agreed to take this matter forward.

The offer by Regional Services Network for two free hours of financial and management advice was still being pursued.

458/12/12.7 Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda.

None.

Councillor Edgell joined the meeting at 8.05.

459/12/12.8 Items for discussion.

Councillor Bulled pointed out that recent work by NDC Highways had not addressed the cause of road flooding problems in Heasley Mill. Instead, a job of patching up, not up to the required standard had been done.

It was agreed that as usual George Stucley be approached to provide a Christmas tree to be erected in Church Square, Councillor Procter undertook to provide lighting. The occupants of 2 Sunnyview to be approached with a view to using their electricity supply for a fee of £15.00.

Councillor Henderson suggested, and it was agreed, that the letters containing comments about the village from the organisers of the last Best Kept Village competition should be distributed to all households in the village just ahead of the 2013 competition.

460/12/12.9 Chairman’s report. Nil.

461/12/12.10 Planning.

Planning approved: None.

Planning declined: None.

Applications received for consideration.
**NDDC 54895 Erection of detached garage at 14 Broad Close, North Molton. Approved.**

Councillor Edgell stated that:
The photovoltaic array at Combeshead was on the point of being approved on principle, subject to conditions.
A revised application was due to be made with regard to the fodder store at Lower Poole NDC 54596.

**462/12/12.11 Finance**


2. Receipts. None.

3. Payments: Clerks salary £178.38 plus contribution to telephone costs, £10, total £188.38. Agreed.

4. A request for the council to set the annual precept, with a deadline of 14th December had previously been received. It had been agreed that advice and figures were needed from the District Council before the final figure could be set. The chairman pointed out that in view of the recent change in Government policy regarding council finances it would be unwise to apply for the precept until more information was available. It was apparent that all future expenditure by Parish Councils would be scrutinised and future funding would be squeezed, to the detriment of councils, like North Molton, that were frugal.

Agreed, that the District Council be asked to provide the relevant information, contained in the District Council’s agenda for it’s January meeting. Also agreed, that in order to meet the December deadline, an interim precept figure of £3771.00 be applied for.

5. The village website was due for renewal. Various pricing packages were available. Agreed, that the option costing £55 for the year be adopted, as this would enable unlimited, free updates.

**463/12/12.12 Correspondence.**

a) North Molton Youth Club had asked for financial support for next year’s fireworks display. Agreed, that a decision on this could not be made until after NDDC supplied the necessary financial information to allow the setting of the Parish Precept. The high quality of the display and low entry costs were commented upon. Councillor Henderson stated that he was organising the 2013 South Molton firework display and that he would ensure the two events complemented each other rather than competed. Clerk to respond to the youth club.

_Councillor Procter left the meeting at 9pm._
b) Funding for playground equipment at the Laurels Playground had been obtained via Councillor Yabsley. Paperwork had been submitted by the clerk, a shortfall of approximately £800.00 remained. Agreed, that the clerk investigate the possibility of obtaining a commuted payment for public open spaces from the residential development being constructed at Lower Poole. Also that, dependent upon the outcome of this, Councillor Bulled investigate the possibility of funding from the English National Park Partnership Fund.

c) It was agreed that the system whereby all circulars and publications received electronically by the clerk were emailed direct to councillors was working well.

464/12/12.13

Chairman’s report/urgent matters brought forward by the chairman

None.

451/11/12.14 Reports.

Councillor Bulled reported on the recent English National Park Conference at which it was revealed that, in an Ofsted type assessment, Exmoor was rated as being at the same standard as the Lake District.

452/11/12.15 Matters brought forward by the District or County Councillor.

Councillor Edgell reported that in connection with the junction improvements at Borners Bridge, a contribution towards costs from developments around South Molton had been demanded by the District Council. He updated councillors on work undertaken by the District Council, mentioning that £5 million worth of damage had been caused by the recent floods.

Councillor Yabsley encouraged the council to use finance available in the TAP fund, pointing out that funds unclaimed could be used by other councils. He went on to update councillors on a wide range of work undertaken by the County Council.

Date and time of next meeting.

Wednesday 9th January 2013, 7.30pm North Molton Victory Hall.