MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2012 IN THE VICTORY HALL.

Present  Councillor Dunn, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Procter, Councillor White, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Mather, Councillor Stanley, Councillor Janes, The Clerk and Devon County Councillor Yabsley

439/11/12.1 Apologies. Councillor Henderson, (business) Councillor Edgell (conflicting meeting). Motions were proposed to sanction the absences. All agreed

440/11/12.2 Declarations of interests. Councillor Bulled planning NDDC 54596, Councillor Janes planning NDDC54878, Councillor White, a possible interest in planning NDDC 54752.

441/11/12.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. A total of 8 calls in the past month. Two road traffic incidents and six concerning anti-social behaviour from neighbours. There were no crime complaints. However, throughout the area as a whole, there were thefts of diesel fuel, quad bikes and catalytic convertors. A severe weather warning had been issued and people were advised to limit their travel while it lasted.

442/11/12.4 Representations from the public.

Peter Stucley answered questions about planning application 54552, the erection of solar panels. He also reported that a in the early hours of Sunday 11th November (Remembrance Sunday) there was noise disturbance at Barton Cross by vehicles taking part in a rally. The North Devon Motor Club had been spoken to about this and dealt with the matter very well.

Members of the public living near the Holdridge work shop reported their concerns about the large amount of mud on the road. This was caused by construction work at the Lower Pool development at Holdridge Cross. A large, deep trench beside the roadway was also causing concern.

The developer concerned, Mr Jim Higson, addressed the concerns. He stated that the work was being monitored by North Devon Council and that a road cleaning machine was now permanently on site. He stated that he would do his utmost to ensure that the trench was filled in as soon as possible. He stated that delay had been caused to the project because of the difficulty in getting services re-directed but undertook that this would be completed by the end of January 2013.

A member of the public expressed concern at the large amount of material being dumped on the site of the Lower Poole development and questioned whether the requisite planning permissions had been granted. The chairman read out a letter from Hugh Thomas to NDDC Planning Services in connection with the development and the various concerns expressed by the Parish Council and members of the public. It was agreed that the letter should be forwarded to all concerned parties. Mr David Clark, South Side, Fore Street & the occupier Higher Pool.
443/11/12.5 Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th October 2012. A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, was proposed. All agreed.

444/11/12.6 Clerk's report.
NDDC had not yet replied to the council’s letter complaining about not being informed of the contents of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

The management committee of the Victory Hall were in the process of arranging for the footpath outside the hall to be repaired, following a complaint to the council.

The issue of streetlights not operating at the correct times had been reported to NDC. Councillors were reminded of the need to gather as much information as possible at the time of the initial complaint in such matters, so as to ensure a speedy response. It was suggested that the village website could be used as a medium for reporting such matters. The clerk was instructed to research this.

South Molton town council had been contacted with a view to sharing weed-control operations. The mayor had suggested an informal meeting with the chair of the council. It was agreed that councillor Mather take this matter forward.

DALC had confirmed that any gifts purchased by the council as ‘thank you’s for ex-councillors and clerks would have to be paid for by personal contributions from councillors. Public funds could not be used. The clerk was instructed to write to DALC expressing the council’s disapproval.

Regional Services Network had replied to the council’s enquiry about getting two free hours of financial and management advice. The offer had been made to North Devon Council who had not responded and there was therefore a chance that the Parish Council could use the allotted two hours. The clerk was pursuing this and had contacted District Councillor Edgell about it.

445/11/12.7 Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda.

None.

446/11/12.8 Items for discussion.

None

447/11/12.9 Planning.

Planning approved: None.

Planning declined: None.

Applications received for consideration.
NDDC 54765. Proposed siting of ten static caravans in lieu of ten touring caravan pitches at Riverside Caravan and Camping Park, North Molton. Approved.

NDDC 54752. Demolition of workshop and erection of three dwellings (amended plans) at Holdridge Cross Joinery, North Molton. Before discussion of this application, Councillor White made a statement giving notice that he would in the future be proposing a development for the creation of light industrial units in North Molton. As it was possible that the applicant for the item about to be discussed may wish to relocated to one of these units, he felt it best if he took no part in the discussion. He left the meeting and rejoined after this item had been decided upon. The application was approved as a natural development and progression of the village.

NDDC 54747. Polytunnels (revised plans) at Hacche Mill, South Molton. Approved.

ND 8184 Unauthorised change of use – siting of static caravan at land at Ash Park, Nadrid Cross, North Molton. Notification from NDC enforcement that the owner of the land had been asked to remove the unauthorised mobile home and shipping container. The owner was entitled to submit a planning application on a ‘retrospective’ basis.

It was agreed that any such application would be likely to be opposed on access grounds.

NDDC 54878. Extension and alterations to public house including demolition of store and skittle alley together with creation of a separate unit of managers accommodation at the Poltimore Inn, East Street, North Molton. Councillor Janes declared a prejudicial interest (business) and left the meeting while the application was being discussed. The developer was present and outlined his plans for the development. The skittle alley would be replaced and the number of letting rooms would remain the same. Accepted.

NDDC 54552. Erection of a ground mounted solar array on land south-east of Combeshead Cross, North Molton. Accepted on the basis that the conditions mentioned by the council regarding access and visible impact were accepted.

ENP 62/49/12/003. Proposed change of use of part of agricultural building into stables, retrospective, at Tabor Hill Farm, Heasley Mill, South Molton. Accepted.

ENP 018/251/12-13. Felling of 2.44 ha of Sitka spruce on North Molton Estate. Accepted, on the basis that concerns about lorries taking out timber in the Brinsworthy area were noted.

NDDC 54596. Retrospective application for erection of an agricultural building for fodder store at Lower Poole Farm, Fore Street, North Molton. A letter concerning this development, which had been declined at the last council meeting, had been received from the developer. Councillor Bulled declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting while the letter was being discussed.

It was agreed that, *inter alia.*
The council rejected the developer’s explanation of the failure to seek planning permission as an “omission” and regarded it rather as a deliberate flouting of the planning process.

The land in question was an equine holding, not an agricultural one as described in the letter.

No believable case had been made for the building as it stood.

The council would press for the total removal of the building and an extension of the consultation period.

The clerk was instructed to draft a reply to the planners incorporating all the points raised.

Councillor Bulled rejoined the meeting after the discussion had finished.

**448/11/12.10 Correspondence.**

a) A letter from North Devon Council dealing with legal ramifications of the Localism Act was discussed. It was proposed and agreed that the clerk administer dispensations under Section 33 (2) (e) of the Localism Act 2011. This would allow those councillors who had completed the necessary forms to speak and vote at any meeting of the Parish Council relating to the setting of the Precept and Budget.

Councillors Bulled, Janes, Gammon and Procter left the meeting at 9.05pm.

b) Correspondence from North Devon Council about the proposed Parish Grant scheme, was discussed. The Chairman emphasised that this was not the same as the Town and Parish (TAP) fund. The effect of the Parish Grant scheme on Parish Council finance’s was discussed and the figures provided by NDC disputed. It was agreed that the Parish Council’s finances would be greatly restricted and that the scheme as proposed should be rejected. Instead of a decrease the parish should look for an increase in funds, in line with the thrust of the government’s Localism Bill. The clerk was instructed to write to the authors of the Parish Grant scheme outlining the council’s opposition to it.

c). A request for the council to set the annual precept, with a deadline of 14th December had been received. It was agreed that advice and figures were needed from the District Council before this could be set. In view of the deadline, it was proposed and agreed that the council should ask for the maximum sum available and that the chairman and clerk should take this forward.

d). Christine O’Brien had applied to become a co-opted councillor. She was given the relevant forms and an explanation of some aspects of the role.

e) The electoral roll for 2012/13 had arrived and would be stored by the clerk.
f) It was agreed that all future circulars and publications received electronically by the clerk would be emailed to councillors.

g) Lynton and Lynmouth council had written suggesting that North Molton and they should join forces under the TAP fund with a view to diverting some tourism trade away from Barnstaple and towards our two areas. Agreed, that the council should seek to use the TAP fund in conjunction with South Molton with regard to tourism. The clerk was instructed to write to Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council informing them of this.

449/11/12.11 Finance.

Balance of Community Account stood at £3117.95 as at 31st October 2012.

Barclays Business Saver Account stood at £4517.48 as at 31st October 2012.

1). None.

2) Payments. – Clerks salary £178.38 plus contribution to telephone costs £10, total £188.38.

£500.00 to North Molton PCC re Burial Ground.

£500.00 to North Molton Victory Hall.

£100.00 to Heasley Mill Hall.

£174.00 to the Audit Commission.

£30.00 to the Royal British Legion.

£30.00 to DALC for the new clerk’s course.

A motion was proposed to pay all the above amounts. All agreed.

The clerk presented the budget. This was accepted.

450/11/12.12

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

None.

451/11/12.13 Reports.

None.
452/11/12.14 Matters brought forward by the District or County Councillor.

None.

Date and time of next meeting.

Wednesday 12th December 2012 7.30pm North Molton Victory Hall.