Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the North Molton Parish Council
held on Wednesday 8th May 2013 in the Victory Hall North Molton

Present Councillor Dunn, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Stanley, Councillor White, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Janes, Councillor Procter, Councillor Henderson and the Clerk

1. Apologies Councillor O'Brien, unable to attend. Sanctioned, unanimously.

Footpath Warden. Councillor Gammon stated that Mrs Lee had been unable to provide a report. She would be providing a report at a subsequent Parish Council meeting. The clerk stated that Mrs Lee was not to blame for this and that it was entirely his fault, due to the very short notice he had given her.

2. Reading of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd June 2012 and approved at the July 2012 Parish Council meeting in accordance with Local Government Administration. The clerk read out the minutes.

3. Matters arising. Councillor Bulled queried a possible clash of interests if Councillors were present during discussions about the Rural Plan, scheduled for later in the meeting. The clerk reminded councillors that it had previously been discussed and decided that Councillor White should not be present during detailed discussions affecting his plot of land, and the possibility of his developing it. However, it had been agreed, and was consistent with good practice, that he could take part in discussions dealing with the development of North Molton.

4. Representation of Electors.

The clerk read out letters from:

Mr Smith of the North Molton Charity. Funds remain substantially unchanged over the past twelve months at £2354.00. New trustees were needed to replace those who had left through age, ill health or change of residence. Representatives of the Parish Council, Methodist and Anglican churches might be suitable. Mr Smith stated that in his view the charity should work towards termination by way of suitable grants over a relatively short period. The Charity Commissioners had confirmed that there is no longer a need for an annual return to be made although charity status could be preserved.

Clare Campbell, Treasurer of All Saints, thanked the council for the grant of £1000 made during 2012. A total of £3384.29 had been spent on churchyard maintenance. (£589.89 on machinery repairs or purchase and £234.00 on work performed on trees).

Mrs. Jacqui Blackmore, Treasurer, Heasley Mill Village Hall. The current hall committee was; Chair Mr Barry Fenwick, Secretary Mr Michael Tarr, and Bookings Officer Mrs Janet Jerrett. The hall had a reasonable year with main income of £1089.65 from Band Night and £292.20 from the hire of the hall, chairs, tables and china. The Hall and kitchen had been painted by
volunteers. The kitchen roof had been repaired at a cost of £780.00. The continued support of the Parish Council was much appreciated.

5. Chairman’s Report. The Chairman commented that it had been a challenging year with uncertainty over the future funding of Parish Councils leading to a lot of hard work and thought. After a lot of soul-searching the precept had been increased by 25% which meant that a Band D property would pay an extra two pounds per year. This was not excessive and would help secure the financial future of the council. He thanked the clerk for his support and help during this process.

The celebrations of the Queen’s Jubilee had gone off successfully, thanks to the hard work and teamwork of the Parish Council to whom he offered his thanks.

The question of whether or not to enter the Best Kept Village competition this year had been postponed so as to estimate what support there was from the public at this annual meeting. He asked the members of the public present for their opinion, but as none was expressed, it was agreed that the council would not enter the competition this year.

6. Presentation of Accounts 2012/2013. Clerk advised that Councillors had before them a copy of the accounts for 2012/2013. The accounts had been audited by an independent party. Following a query about the VAT claims for the year, the clerk undertook to research and explains at a later meeting. Motion proposed to approve these accounts proposed Councillor Stanley seconded Councillor Gammon.

As a police representative was present, the Chairman asked for a summary of relevant matters over the past month. PC Micallef stated that police had been called in respect of a nuisance call, which had been dealt with by means of a letter of apology. There had also been two calls regarding a drunken female, and one report of a drunken driver.

7. Short reports from Village Organisations/Representatives. The chairman reported that the History Society was still going strong, with regular meetings and presentations from visiting speakers. Many copies of the North Molton book were still available. The most recent meeting had been to Praunsley Farm for a demonstration of new robotic milking machinery.

The Sports Club was also going from strength to strength. A dedicated committee were actively looking to open new avenues of income and interest in sport.

The Old School was represented by Lucy Perry, the Secretary, who reported that Barbara Cropper was Treasurer. The AGM would be held in the summer. A range of activities
including Mother’s Union meetings, Pilates, Wedding teas, Quilting, Knitting, and Farmer’s Markets were regularly being held.

Brenda Savory represented the North Molton Victory Hall and reported that finances were stable. However, the annual grant from the Parish Council was much appreciated and fundraising was still needed, for instance the boiler had recently had to be serviced. She noted that most people did not realise that the public toilets were owned and kept up by the Victory Hall. In this regard some problems had occurred with builders employed in the village using the toilets to shower in.

As members of the public were present, the chairman asked if anyone had any representations or comments to make.

A comment was made about the lack of lighting on the Christmas tree. In explanation, it was stated that bulbs were expensive, and that in the previous year, about half of them had been deliberately smashed. The suggestion was made that villagers may care to help decorate the tree.

A comment was also made about the poor state of some footpaths.

8. Emergency Plan. The clerk presented the draft framework of an emergency plan for the village. The need for such a plan had been agreed by the Parish Council, following the floods last Christmas. It was agreed that the plan would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.


Councillor White outlined the possible effects of the proposed Rural Plan upon North Molton. Councillors had studied the proposals and responses from councillors O’Brien and Stanley were read out by the clerk. Councillor White outlined his thoughts on the possible development. The chairman summarised opinions expressed to him by other councillors. A discussion upon the range of issues affecting how many houses should be built, and where, was conducted. The question of light industrial units being built in the village arose and councillor Edgell made the point that such units were, by definition, compatible with residential areas, i.e. they produced no noise, dust etc. He pointed out that what was proposed in the Rural Plan was a ten per cent increase in the number of dwellings over a period of twenty years. He outlined the issues of housing density, the proportion of affordable houses in any development, contributions to improving infrastructure and the likely impact of all these issues upon the financial attractiveness of small-scale development to any potential developer.

Following the discussion about the various sites proposed for potential development, the chairman asked the twelve members of the public present to show their preferences by voting. The results were; Plot NMO 025, 1 for Light Industrial Units, 5 for housing. NMO422, no votes. NMO 421, no votes. NMO 331, 6 votes, NMO 424, 2 votes.
The chairman thanked the public for attending. In view of the importance of presenting a response to the Rural Plan that adequately reflected the views of the village, he suggested that as many people as possible attended the next Parish Meeting as this would be the last chance for such an exercise to take place.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Next meeting, Wednesday 15th May at the Victory Hall.

**Minutes of the AGM of North Molton Parish Council held upon the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2013 at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall North Molton**

**PRESENT** Councillor Dunn, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Stanley, Councillor White, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Janes, Councillor Procter, Councillor Henderson and the Clerk

1. **Apologies** Councillor O’Brien.

2. **Reading of the Minutes of the AGM of North Molton Parish Council held on the 22nd June 2012 and approved at the July 2012 North Molton Parish Council meeting in accordance with local government administration** Councillor Dunn read out the minutes of the 2012 AGM.

3. **Election of Chairman** Motion proposed Councillor White to stand as Chairman proposed Councillor Dunn seconded Councillor Gammon all agreed bar one abstention.

4. **Election of Vice Chairman** Motion proposed Councillor Stanley to stand as Vice Chairman proposed Councillor Henderson seconded Councillor Janes all agreed bar one abstention.


Proposed Councillor Janes seconded Councillor Stanley, agreed with two abstentions.

6. **To approve bank mandate** Motion proposed bank mandate to remain two out of three signatories (Cllrs, White, Procter and Gammon), proposed Councillor Stanley seconded Councillor Bulled all agreed bar three abstentions.

The Parish Council thanked Councillor Dunn for his work during a busy and varied year.

Meeting closed 10.20pm.