MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
10TH APRIL 2013 IN THE NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL

Present Councillor Dunn, Councillor Procter, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Gammon,  
Councillor Stanley, Councillor White, Councillor O’Brien, and the Clerk

346/4/13 1.Apologies Councillors Henderson and Janes, re work commitments.


348/4/13 3.Devon and Cornwall Constabulary No crime reports over the past month. Five  
calls including the wall collapse in Broad Close, a loose dog, and a child playing on the  
phone. A vehicle apparently abandoned for several weeks in Hache Barton had been set on  
fire, and the wreckage would be removed shortly.

Councillor Stanley reported on the recent visit by police to North Molton to address the  
issue of vehicles speeding. He understood that some drivers had been reported by police for  
speeding in the vicinity of the school. He and Councillor Henderson had used a speed gun  
provided by police and had found just one vehicle to be travelling over the speed limit.  
Councillor Stanley was asked to continue liaising with the police on this matter.

349/4/13 4. Representations from the public A member of the public drew attention to  
litter on the road between North and South Molton, to the state of the footpath on Dure’s  
Lane near Borners Bridge, and a sunken gully in the pavement in Fore Street. Agreed: that  
the clerk contact Highways Department and Councillor Cann who has campaigned about  
litter on the highway. The idea of forming a working party to pick up the litter on the road  
was discussed, but it was decided that the risk from traffic was unacceptable.

Councillor White stated that the occupant of a property in Oakford Villas was concerned  
about loose tile on the roof of an adjoining property. Agreed; the clerk to contact North  
Devon Homes.

Councillor White voiced concern about the spoil from building work being pile against a  
hedge in Holdridge Lane which was threatening to collapse. Agreed: that Cllr. Bulled pass on  
these concerns to the responsible person.

Councillor Procter passed on concerns about what appeared to be a new restaurant in the  
The Square. He had received complaints about noise and the fact that no planning  
permission or licensing appeared to have been sought in connection with the restaurant. He  
styled that the enforcement section of NDDC Planning and Development services were  
investigating the matter.

Councillor Bulled stated that work on the damaged bridge would begin in the next two or  
three weeks.

The council’s attention was also drawn to numerous potholes between Borners Bridge and  
North Molton, which had already been reported.

Councillor O’Brien reported that the wooden planters in the Square had rotted. Agreed: that  
Cllr. Dunn arrange replacements.
Mr. Sables, Highways Department, arrived at 8pm.

350/4/13 5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th March 2013 Motion proposed to approve these minutes as amended. Passed, with one abstention, Cllr Bulled (who had taken the minutes).


The Dog warden has been spoken to regarding dog fouling in the Jubilee Gardens and Sports Club areas.

A reply had been received from Mr Wilcox of the Youth Offenders Service who confirmed that no supervisory costs would be incurred if young offenders were deployed on Community Service around the village. However, there was a shortage of offenders at present. Any suggestions about suitable projects from the Parish Council would be held on file until such time as suitable candidates were available. After discussion, it was agreed that no action be taken on this.

352/4/13 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda Following the Parish Council request, a salt bin had been placed in the Square. Mr Sables, NDDC Highways Department, was present and confirmed that no reply had yet been received to the request for the Square to be included on the route of the gritting lorries. If this were to be done, then the salt bin would be moved to Oakford Villas.

The Chairman read out a draft reply to the PCC request for financial assistance for weed cutting. The draft was approved. Agreed: Chairman to send letter to PCC.

The Chairman had received a further letter with regard to the allocation of housing in North Molton by North Devon Homes. After discussion it was agreed, with one abstention, that the minutes of the January meeting at which this matter had been discussed should be amended as follows:

“Cllr Bulled reported that she had been told by a member of the public that an unmarried mother from outside the area had been given priority over North Molton residents for a house in the village owned by North Devon Homes”.

The issue of overgrown hedges and unstable trees reported at the last meeting had not been actioned as the clerk was unable to identify the areas concerned. The areas were identified and the clerk instructed to draft letters to the relevant owners.

The question of whether or not to enter the Best Kept Village competition was discussed. Building developments and the debris of the wall in Broad Close may mean that entering would be a waste of time. Agreed: that the question be decided at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

Cllr. Edgell arrived at 8.40.

Mr Sables, NDDC Highways Officer, was asked about traffic control in the village. He agreed that changing the setting of the digital display sign near the school was a good idea and undertook to inform the council of the likely cost of implementing this. He stated that he
understood concerns about the state of the roads in the parish but pointed out that budgets were squeezed and this restricted what could be done.

With regard to the collapsed wall in Broad Close, Cllr Edgell stated that in the ten years the wall had been monitored, no-one accepted responsibility for it. Even the Land Registry had been unable to supply any useful information. During discussion about the problem, Councillor Gammon stated that it was obvious that Cllr Edgell, Cllr Yabsley and Mr Sables had not previously discussed the matter together and urged them to do so, in an attempt to protect the interests of residents in the area and to prevent another collapse. Cllr Yabsley agreed to arrange a meeting of relevant NDDC staff, including Environmental Health and a structural engineer.

The chairman thanked Mr Sables for attending the meeting and addressing the various issues that had been raised.

**353/4/13. 8.Items for Discussion**

a) Draft Emergency Plan. After discussion it was agreed that the clerk would produce a basic draft plan that could be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**354/4/13. 9.Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman**

At Heasley school the rear wall of the toilet block was being eroded by storm water. Work was in hand to repair this.

The Parish Council used to have a representative on the committee of the Heasley Mill Village Hall, but had not done so for years. The Chairman of the Heasley Mill Hall committee had recently undertaken to report anything of interest to the Parish Council.

**355/4/13 10.Planning**

Applications approved. None.

Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration: NDDC 55345. Cllr .Bulled left while this matter was discussed.

A letter from NDDC Planning, outlining concerns that the proposed building was in a position different to that agreed at a recent site meeting involving Parish Council members and members of the public, was read out by the Chairman. The developer, Mr Thomas, was present to answer questions. He stated that he had moved from the original plan in order not to block the view of properties being built in the Lower Poole Development. He stated that the difference amounted to about two metres. Agreed: That the building should be constructed in accord with the details agreed at the meeting and restated in the NDDC letter. After discussion, it was also agreed that with regard to the field in which the building was constructed, as much as possible should be returned to its original state as possible.
Clerk to write to NDDC planning to this effect. Mr Thomas agreed to both conditions. Passed with one abstention, Cllr Bulled.

Councillor Bulled rejoined the meeting at 9.20

NDDC 55460 Wind turbine.

A proposal to deny permission on the ground of its visual impact did not find a seconder. It was passed with four in favour, two against and two abstentions. Agreed: the clerk to write to NDDC Planning and stress the need for effort to minimise the visual impact if possible, to ensure that only a natural grey finish was used on the turbine, and to take note of the archaeological features of the site.

NDDC 55506. Silo.

Concern was expressed about the difficulty of vehicles accessing the site as it was presently planned. Agreed: that the application be passed in principle but that the silo be set further back into the quarry, away from the road. Passed unanimously.

The NDC Rural Plan as it affects North Molton was discussed. It was agreed that it should be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in May for comments from the villagers. Cllr Yabsley pointed out that the Parish Council must make explicit requests for items to support the proposed growth of the village eg, roads, schools etc. Cllr. Edgell pointed out that the RP called for a 10% growth in the number of households in North Molton over a period of twenty years. It was agreed that councillors needed to study the detail of the plan and think about what was required and send their replies to the Chairman and clerk.

56/4/13 11. Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £2,882.93 as at 28th March 2013

Balance of Business Saver account stands at £4,643.61 as at 28th March 2013.

ii) Receipts – none.

iii) Payments
   a) Clerks salary plus contribution to telephone costs £10 total £188.38.

357/4/13 12. Correspondence

a) Playsafety ROSPA report – clerk read out report.

All newsletters to be placed in green bag.

358/4/13 13. Reports Councillor White reported that he had a set of aluminium goal posts available, at a reasonable cost, to a worthy cause.

Councillor Bulled reported on a recent Exmoor National Park meeting where, inter alia, the likelihood of conservation work on the moor contributing to recent flooding was discussed.

It was reported that Mr Davies was taking over as caretaker at the Victory Hall, following the retirement of Mr Loosemore.
Councillor Dunn confirmed that he would be standing down as chairman next month.

**359/4/13 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor**

**Date and Time of Next meeting** Wednesday 8th May AGM/Annual Parish Meeting and 15th May Parish council meeting. 7.30pm Victory Hall, for both.

Meeting closed 10.20pm