MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH AUGUST 2013
IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor White (Chairman) Councillor Stanley, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Procter, Councillor Bulled, Councillor O’Brien, Councillor Dunn, Councillor Henderson, District Councillor Edgell, and the Clerk.

402/8/13 1. Apologies: A letter of resignation from Councillor Janes had been received. Councillor Yabsley had sent notification that he would be unable to attend.

403/8/13 2. Declaration of Interests: None.

404/8/13 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: One sudden death following a cardiac arrest. No suspicious circumstances. One call regarding concern for the welfare of a male, who turned out to be alright. Two calls to a lone sheep loose on the road between North and South Molton. No crime reports. Generally, over the past month the area as a whole had suffered very little in the way of thefts, burglaries etc.

405/8/13 4. Representations from the public: Councillor Dunn – Concrete path between 29 -36 Oakford Villas needs repairing. Foliage is growing over the fence of number 30. Road drain near Rosedene cottage is collapsing. Agreed: Clerk to inform Highways Department and NDH as appropriate.

406/8/13 5. Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th July 2013: Approved as amended – all agreed.

407/8/13 6. Clerks Report: A small group of volunteers from the village had prepared one of the walls in the Laurels Playground so that it was now ready for a base coat of paint. Pictures of the volunteers would be posted on the village website, if approval was given. Agreed: That this be done.

408/8/13 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda:

The clerk asked for permission to use his discretion to alter and amend the website on a regular basis, so that items of interest could be included on it in a timely fashion. Agreed: That he have permission to do so.

409/8/13 8. Items for Discussion:

i) Heasley Mill Village Hall: The management committee of the hall had consulted their insurers about the Parish Council not appearing on the policy as the owners of the building. The insurers did not consider this a problem. Agreed: That DALC be consulted about this, and that NMVH be invited to send a representative to the next Parish Council meeting.

ii) Laurels Playground: Mr Holden, one of the volunteers who had taken part in preparing the wall of the playground, presented a series of sketches that could be used as templates for applying the final coats of paint. These represented various sporting and rural scenes. These were discussed, together with various techniques for applying them. Mr Holden was invited to liaise with Cllr Gammon in taking the work forward. A vote of thanks to Mr Holden for his work thus far was proposed and agreed unanimously. A vote of thanks was also passed to the other volunteers, Stephanie Harris, Mr Micalin, Mr Stanley, Mr Penfold and Mr White.

In answer to a question, the chairman explained that the Laurels playground had been renovated so as to provide space for children to run around and exercise. It was designed as a space in which children would be active and its design and equipment would complement the existing playground. It was noted that the combination goal equipment would be placed against the North wall of the playground.

iii) Road signs: Cllr Henderson stated that the possibility of replacing the brown road signs advertising South and North Molton was being discussed by South Molton Town Team. He undertook to report progress at the next meeting.

Cllr O’Brien left the meeting at 8.30.
410/8/13 9.Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman  The chairman reported that the paint provided by Mole Valley Farmers had proved to be unsuitable for painting the walls of the Laurels Playground. Cllr Bulled offered to research the possibility of another source of paint. The chairman continued that the churchwardens had given consent to the painting of the North wall of the playground. The western wall, (The Old School building) belonged to the feoffees. Agreed: That the clerk contact the feoffees to obtain permission for that wall to be painted.

As agreed at the previous meeting, the chairman had been in touch with Chichester Homes and they had agreed to carry out a free examination of land to the North of the Sports Club to assess it’s suitability for any future development.

The chairman proposed that the current system of using a despatch bag to circulate various newsletters and circulars be discontinued, with the clerk sieving all such correspondence. North Devon Homes leaflets could be passed to the local shop for display. Agreed: That this system be instituted.

The chairman noted that a recent email from the clerk to a correspondent had, apparently, not been received. Although no problems had ensued it raised the possibility of such claims being made in the future, possibly when it was to the advantage of someone to claim non-delivery of an email. He therefore regretfully suggested that all future such emails should be followed up by a letter. Agreed: That this system be adopted.

411/8/13 10.Planning

Applications granted : None

Applications for consideration :

NDCC58848. Installation of a sash window at the Huxtables, The Square. Passed, unanimously.

NDDC 56140. Retrospective application for a secure agricultural storage building at Ash Park, Nadrid Cross. Passed, unanimously.

412/8/13 11.Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £4322.95 as at 31.7.13

Balance of Bonus account stands at £4744.19 as at 31.7.13

i)Receipts – none

ii) Payments:

a) Clerks salary £178.38 plus contribution to telephone costs £10 total £188.38

b) Grant Thornton (Accountants). Invoice in respect of 2012 Annual Return. £120.00

Motion passed to pay both. All agreed.

413/8/13 12.Correspondence

1. Invitation to Barnstaple Town Council, Planning/ Environment School. Agreed: that this was not likely to be of relevance to Parish Councillors.

2. Invitation to Devon Highways 14th September. Agreed, that Cllr Bulled would attend.

3. Devon County Homes had sent details of one of the “affordable” houses in the Lower Poole development with a request that it be advertised locally. Agreed: That the clerk contact DCH to ask why the other two “affordable” houses could not be advertised in this way.
4. A letter from North Molton Youth Club asking for contributions, was discussed. It was agreed that a small contribution towards the cost of the annual village clean up could be paid in the next financial year. Action: Clerk to contact NMYC to this effect.

Cllr Henderson suggested the formation of a community fund budget for such items as the above. Advertising exactly what funds were available in this way may encourage organisations to apply while helping to manage their expectations. It was agreed that money would continue to be in very short supply for Parish Councils in future years, due to the overall financial situation of the country and the severe cuts imposed by central government. As a first step towards forming such a fund, it made sense to compare how the council stood with regard to funds now in comparison with past years. Agreed: The clerk to prepare an overview of Parish Council spending.

414/8/13 13.Reports Cllr Dunn reported that the Sports Club were in discussion with a firm about the possibility of erecting a radio mast on the Sports Club ground. This would improve the poor mobile phone coverage in the area, and provide a source of income to the club.

415/8/13 14.Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor

An email from County Councillor Yabsley, in which he stated that it was hoped to begin work on the collapsed wall in Broad Close in October, was read out.

District Councillor Edgell reported on recent findings that central government funding to rural areas was lower than to urban ones. A nationwide petition seeking to reduce this rural penalty was being circulated. Copies were given to all councillors.

Date and Time of Next meeting 11th September 2013 North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.40pm.