MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2013 IN THE VICTORY HALL.

Present  Councillor Stanley (Chairman), Councillor Procter, Councillor Bulled,
Councillor Gammon, Councillor O’Brien, Councillor Dunn, The Clerk.

453/12/13.1 Apologies.  Councillor White with regard to planning application
56551. Accepted.

454/12/13.2 Declarations of interests.  Councillor Dunn re planning applications
56662 and 56587 as a relative was a neighbour of the relevant properties, and  56706
because of his membership of the Sports Club. Councillor Bulled advised that she
was not a member of the SC committee and therefore had no conflict of interest in this
application. Councillor Gammon re application 56576 as he was the applicant.

455/12/13.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.  A report of a van touring the area
asking for any old oil. A dead sheep by the road. A parking issue in East Street,
North Molton and one call from someone concerned about the welfare of an elderly
person who was visited and found to be in good health. No crime reported.

456/12/13.4 Representations from the public.

Members of the public present expressed concerns about:
Shrubbery blocking the view of motorist leaving the Rock and Rapid Centre.
Brambles protruding onto the public pathway outside numbers 1 and 2 Mole View.
The time taken to repair the collapsed wall in Broad Close. It was pointed out that the
collapse took place very nearly a year ago.
The state of the road leading from North to South Molton, and the likelihood of a
serious or fatal accident occurring there.
Agreed: The clerk to write, again, to South West Highways about the road issues and
also to North Devon Homes about the Mole View properties.

457/12/13.5 Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish
Council held on Wednesday 13th November 2013.  A motion to approve the
minutes, as amended, was proposed. All agreed.

458/12/13.6 Clerk’s report.
Issues raised at the last meeting, under Representations from the public, had all been
the subject of correspondence with the relevant individuals or organisations. The PCC
had written briefly to the effect that there was no prospect of the closure of the
churchyard in the immediate future.

459/12/13.7 Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda.

None.

460/12/13.8 Items for discussion
Defibrillator.
The clerk reported that recent changes to the scheme operated by South West Ambulance Service meant that defibrillators were now rented out by SWAS for four years at a time, with the initial charge of £1600.00 including VAT, having to be renewed at the end of that period. Agreed: That this be reflected in the annual budget, with a sum ring-fenced to go towards the cost of renewing the contract. Also that any future fund-raising events should include a defibrillator element. Also that the clerk write to Mr Boddington informing him of the changes in the scheme, for the information of Brayford Parish Council.

Snow Warden Scheme.
The clerk gave an overview of the scheme based upon information provided by Mr Sables, administrator of the scheme. Agreed: that the need for secure, dry storage of large quantities of salt, as well as the requirement for training and organising volunteers, made implementation of the scheme problematic for North Molton. Also that Mr Sables be asked to attend the next meeting.

Register of electors.
As usual at this time of year, the clerk had been contacted by NDC asking for information about households that had not registered on the voters register. Agreed: that the clerk email details of the outstanding properties to councillors after the meeting in an attempt to update the information.

461/12/13.9 Chairman’s report. Nil.

462/12/13.10 Planning.

Planning approved: None.
Planning declined: None.

Applications received for consideration.

NDDC 56576 Erection of ground mounted solar panel array at Sunny Mead, East St. No objections.

NDDC 56622 Installation of a domestic 4kw photovoltaic array in the back garden at East Marsh Farm, North Molton. No objections.

NDDC 56584 Extension and alterations to dwelling at Woodview, East Street. No objections.

NDDC 56551 Erection of five light industrial units on land adjacent to Oakford Villas. After questions from the public and councillors and replies from Mr Fanthorpe, the applicant, no objections were raised.

Councillor Edgell arrived at 8.20pm.
NDDC 56587 Formation of outdoor caravan storage area at Riverside caravan park. No objections.

NDDC 565510 (Application received after preparation of the agenda). Erection of electronic communications base station at North Molton Sports Club. No objections, provided the structure was a suitable neutral colour and did not adversely affect TV reception.

Councillors Dunn and Gammon left the meeting while the relevant applications were discussed.

Councillor Yabsley arrived at 8.40pm.

**463/12/13.11 Finance**


2. Receipts. None.

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

   New Christmas lights £57.47 and electricity payment for lighting Christmas tree £15.00. Agreed.

4. A request for the council to set the annual precept had been received. However, the number of Band D properties in the village, which was information necessary to the setting of the precept, had not yet been provided by the North Devon Council. Because of the various deadlines involved, this information would not be available in time. Agreed: that an interim precept be set and, if necessary, altered once the necessary information was available. After discussion the precept was set at £3901.00 for the forthcoming financial year. Last year’s precept was £3771.00.

As exactly the same problem had been encountered last year it was agreed that the clerk should write to the District Council pointing out the apparent flaws in the system.

**464/12/13.12 Correspondence**

a) North Devon District Council had written outlining measures to combat light pollution at the Lower Pool development and to notify a change of name in the application for planning permission NDDC 56551.

b) Funding for playground equipment at the Laurels Playground. This was progressing and funds should be released shortly.

c) All Saints Church council, graveyard capacity. Dealt with under item 13.6.
d) Victim Support, a request for funding. Agreed: the request be declined.

e) The clerk read out an email from Councillor White in which he reported upon his recent meeting with a director of Chichester Homes, the development company, who had given a professional opinion on the various options available regarding the future development of the village. The director did not think that developing the ground between Holdridge Cross Barns and the Sports Club would be any more (or less) difficult than the areas to the west of the School/Oakford Villas/Close. All would have problems with gaining access to the public highway and the usual difficulties of sloping sites and sewage disposal. The director had pointed out the difficulties of selling properties from new village developments and given his opinion that it was unlikely that any developer would want to take on any new project in the village until the Lower Poole Barns was nearing completion. Therefore nothing was likely to happen for several years, although an “outline” application could be made at any time.

465/12/13.13 Reports

Councillor Bulled reported on a recent meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority. This had included a commitment to more affordable housing in Twitchen and Heasley Mill and more flexibility with regard to change of use of properties.

The chairman had received a complaint about the scaffolding around Mill Cottage obstructing the pathway. This was noted.

The clerk was instructed to write to North Devon Homes thanking them for work done on garages in Oakford Close.

466/12/13.14 Matters brought forward by the District or County Councillor.

Councillor Yabsley reported £108 million needed to be saved from the county budget over the next four years. This was in addition to the £110 million savings/cuts made over the past four years.

Some funds were available for the repair of war memorials.

A review of the funding of all cottage hospitals was due to take place.

Work was due to begin on the Broad Close wall in January. A delay had been caused in obtaining a signature needed for the relevant land transfer.

Date and time of next meeting.

Wednesday 8th January 2014, 7.30pm North Molton Victory Hall.