MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2013 IN THE NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL

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

453/1/13 1. Apologies  Councillors Janes and Gammon due to work commitments. Absent, no apologies, Councillor Mather.

454/1/13 2. Declaration of Interests  Councillor Bulled re. NDC planning application 54596.

455/1/13 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

A representative was unable to attend but the following items had previously been passed to the clerk:

A reported burglary, with nothing stolen or touched that, it was decided, was caused by a door being blown open by the wind.

A call regarding a heated telephone conversation. Words of advice were given by police.

A call regarding the river bursting it’s banks.

456/1/13 4. Representations from the public  Councillor White reported complaints of traffic travelling at excessive speed through the village. After discussion, it was decided to press for a 20mph speed limit for the village, and for the speed limit sign on the south side of the village to be moved further south so as to allow traffic passing the school from the South Molton direction time to slow down. The clerk was directed to contact NDC Highways and the police regarding this.

457/1/13 5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th December 2011  The minutes, as amended, were accepted unanimously.

458/1/13 6. Clerks Report  Certificates recognising, and thanking, councillors who had a long record of service were available from Devon Association of Local Councils. Ex-councillor Geen would appear to qualify. Agreed, that such a certificate be applied for on Mr. Geen’s behalf.

459/1/13 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda  None

460/1/13 8. Items for Discussion

Councillor Bulled reported that she had arranged for a free delivery of sand for use by the village in any future floods. She recommended that councillors look at the emergency plan on the Braunton village website and suggested that North Molton should adopt something similar. Agreed, that flood preparations be fully discussed at the next meeting. Also, that letters of appreciation be sent to Mr Smith, Mr Harris and Mr Luckson for their work on the night of the flood, which had a significant impact in reducing the damage caused, and for their efforts the next day in helping to clean up affected properties. Clerk to draft and send the letters.
461/1/13  9.Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman
Councillor Dunn welcomed Christine O’Brien to her first meeting.

With regard to the Xmas tree, the occupants of 2, The Square, had been given £15 as a “thank you” for allowing the tree lights to be plugged into their property. Councillor Procter was thanked for providing the lights, which this year had been supplemented by a contribution from Councillor Dunn. Ways of involving more villagers with next year’s tree and decorations were discussed. It was agreed that the Youth Club should be involved. Councillor Henderson undertook that the South Molton News would contribute lights.

462/1/13  10.Planning

Applications approved – NDC54878 Alterations to the Poltimore Inn, North Molton.

Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration : Councillor Bulled left the room at 8.05pm, prior to the discussion of NDC 54596 (Retrospective permission for construction of a fodder store).

The chairman had received a letter objecting to this development which was read out. A member of the public also raised objections. Objections centred around the size, design, location and purpose of the building. The likelihood of building permission being granted, if it had been applied for, was questioned. The developer, Mr Hugh Thomas, was present and answered questions. He stated that the building would have to be moved as it had been built too close to a manhole cover. Agreed, that a sub-committee of Cllrs Stanley and O’Brien should arrange a site visit with representatives of the Planning Department and other concerned parties.

Councillor Procter left the meeting at 8.15pm.

District Councillor Edgell arrived at 8.30pm.

Councillor Bulled returned at 8.35 pm.

463/1/13  11.Finance

Balance of Community account was £3,357.19 as at 31st December 2012

Balance of Business Saver account was £4,568.04 as at 31st December 2012

Receipts – £20 re the sale of the printer.

i) Payments

a) Clerks salary £178.38 contribution to telephone costs £10 total £188.38. Agreed unanimously.

ii) With regard to the Parish Precept, it was agreed that there was a need to keep the precept as high as possible. Information required to set the precept was not yet to hand. Agreed: that a special meeting be held once the information was available, at which the precept would be set.
464/1/13 12. Correspondence

a) North Devon Homes re. grass cutting and dogs. This was a belated reply to a letter sent by the PC in September 2012. NDH confirmed that the bank in front of Mole View was not owned by them and that therefore they were unable to assist with it’s upkeep. They also confirmed that the tenants of one of their properties had been told to ensure that their dogs were under control.

b) The Vintage Sports Car Club was holding an event on 16th February and would be in the areas of Milbrook Farm, Hunstone Wood and Molland Wood. No competitive events would be taking place on public roads.

c) The North Devon Motor Club was holding an event on 27th January at Hunstone Woods.

d) North Devon Planning Department had asked for suggestions for the name of the development at Poole Farm Close. Agreed: The name “Roberts’ Field” be recommended. Clerk to inform the Planning Department.

e) Rural Service Network. Grants and funds to assist sport clubs and pubs were advertised. Agreed: Clerk to inform the NM Sports Club.

465/1/13 13. Reports Councillor Bulled raised the issue of the wall leading to Broad Close, which had been cracked for some time. The pavement beneath it had now been closed, presumably as a safety measure. Ownership of the wall and thus responsibility for it had proved impossible to establish in the past, however now might be the time to re-open such investigations. Agreed: That efforts be made to establish ownership of the wall. Clerk to contact Highways Department as a first step.

Councillor Bulled reported that an elderly couple from North Molton had requested housing in the village from North Devon Homes and been told that an unmarried mother from outside the area had priority. As some of the properties in North Molton had been designed and built specifically for the benefit of elderly residents of the village, this seemed unfair. The clerk was instructed to contact NDH and ask why residents were being “leap-frogged” in this manner.

Councillor Bulled reported that tarmac on the road outside Heasley Mill school had lifted following the recent flooding. Clerk to contact Highways Department.

The chairman reported road potholes at Spanhead Cross. Clerk to contact Highways Department.

466/1/13 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor District Councillor Edgell reported that the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan was about to go out to public consultation. Central funding for councils continued to contract. He reported that the Youth Club had been given a grant of £250 towards the annual Fireworks Party.

County Councillor Yabsley arrived at 9.10pm and was informed of the issue regarding the wall in Broad Close. He confirmed that previous investigations to establish ownership had stalled.
Date and Time of Next meeting Wednesday 13th February 2013 North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 9.40pm