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

Present: Councillor White, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Procter, Councillor Stanley, Councillor Dunn, Councillor O’Brien, Councillor Bulled, County Councillor Yabsley, and the Clerk

388/7/13 1.Apolologies: Councillor Stanley and District Councillor Edgell.

389/7/13 2.Declaration of Interests: None.

390/7/13 3.Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: The clerk read out a list, provided by the police, of incidents that had happened over the past month. A total of 13 were road related, 3 anti-social behaviour/neighbour related, 1 assault and 2 domestic related. There had been 2 complaints of assault, 2 domestic incidents and 1 accusation of harassment. Crime trends locally continued to be theft of diesel oil from fuel tanks, theft of quad bikes and plant equipment, break-ins to garden sheds and thefts of and from motor vehicles.

391/7/13 4. Representations from the public: Grass behind the barrier around the collapsed wall in Broad Close was very high and in need of cutting. This had been reported to NDC.

392/7/13 5.Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th June 2013: The minutes were approved as amended.

393/7/13 6.Clerks Report: North Devon Homes had been informed of the apparently unused property in Oakford Villas, and replied that the property would be re-let in the near future, and that they had arranged for the grass to be cut. A letter regarding the requested removal of a patch of concrete outside Sun Cottage had been sent.

394/7/13 7.Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda: The owner of the hedge in Back Lane had arranged for it to be re-trimmed.

395/7/12 8.Items for Discussion

1) Laurels Playground: The chairman advised that the immediate task was to clean the wall so as to prepare the surface for painting. Then a base coat of grey could be sprayed onto it. A decision would then have to be made as to what final colour or design to paint it. The clerk stated that four or five volunteers were available to prepare the wall. The chairman asked for someone to organise this first stage. In the absence of volunteers, the clerk undertook to ask one of the people who had offered to prepare the wall to organise matters. After discussion, the chairman undertook to contact the owners of one of the other playground walls with a view to having it renovated. The clerk asked for permission to order a “Combi-serve goal” for the playground. This was the last remaining piece of equipment for the playground and had been agreed in principle some time ago. The cost, including installation and a discount organised by ex-Councillor Mather, would be £2885.00 excluding VAT. A grant from North Devon Council may be available. It was agreed unanimously that this piece of equipment be ordered.

District Councillor Edgell joined the meeting at 8.20pm.

2) PAT Fund / Weedspraying: Councillor Henderson reported that £800 was being held by South Molton council on behalf of North Molton under the fund. It was agreed that he should instruct South Molton council to carry out weedspraying in North Molton and Heasley Mill. It was also agreed that he should ask the SM council to inform the NM Parish Council when the fund was nearing £200 in order that that sum could be used to purchase equipment for use in North Molton.

396/7/13 9.Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman: The Chairman reported that he had received an email from a Broad Close resident, which he had passed to Councillor Yabsley, complaining about the slow progress in rebuilding the collapsed wall.
He had also received an email from Mr Peter Stucley reiterating his arguments against the council’s response to the proposed Rural Plan. Mr Stucley had repeated his arguments against developing the area around the area to the North of the Sports Club and suggested a possible alternative site, owned by him. The Chairman suggested asking for an unbiased opinion on the pros and cons of developing the Sports Club area from a firm of developers. He was aware of a firm that would offer such an expert opinion, free. It was agreed unanimously that he should contact the firm and ask them to carry out a site visit and give their opinion.

397/7/12 10.Planning None.

Applications received after preparation of agenda: None.

396/7/12 11.Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £4347.95 as at 28.6.2013

Balance of Business Saver account stands at £4719.19 as at 28.6.2013

i)Receipts – none.

ii) Payments Clerks salary £178.38 plus contribution to telephone costs £10, and printing paper, £10, total £198.38, all agreed.

399/7/12 12.Correspondence

a) North Devon Homes re Oakford Villas, as discussed in the clerk’s report.

400/7/12 13.Reports Councillor Dunn reported that the Sports Club now had a website, wwwNMSCC.co.uk and asked that the village website carry a link to it. Agreed, clerk to arrange this.

Councillor Stanley reported that Filleigh has problems with speeding vehicles and may be amenable to the idea of partnering North Molton in the use of hand-held speed guns to deter offenders. Agreed, that Cllr Stanley pursue this with Filleigh council.

The chairman commented on the excellent job done by the Sports Club in cleaning up litter left after a recent function at the club and suggested that a letter of appreciation would be in order. Agreed, clerk to deal.

Councillor Henderson reported that South Molton council would be renewing the brown signs on the link road advertising South Molton and that this would be an appropriate time to consider new signage for North Molton. It was agreed that the description “Historic mining village” was potentially misleading as there was nothing in the village connected to mining, with the exception of one pub name. Agreed, to be discussed at the next meeting.

401/7/12 14.Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor District Councillor Edgell had recently been appointed Chairman of Planning for Exmoor National Park. At a recent meeting with the Head of Highways for NDC, and others, County Councillor Yabsley had presented a list of issues that South West Highways needed to address. The meeting had been positive and SWH were well aware of public concerns over the state of roads in the area. The Chairman repeated previous warnings about the state of the road from North to South Molton and described one stretch, where traffic cones had the effect of creating a single carriageway, as potentially life-threatening.

Cllr Yabsley described the hard choices that were going to have to be made by the local NHS services in pursuit of financial savings. There was a mismatch in terms of funding per head of population for North Devon compared with other areas.

Cllr Edgell pointed out that as a result of cuts in central government funds £100 million had been removed from local budgets over a three year period. More cuts would come. There were eight thousand miles of road to maintain in North Devon and the funds to do so may no longer exist in the near future.
**Date and Time of Next meeting** 14th August North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.20 pm.