MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE 2013 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present Councillor White (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Procter, Councillor Stanley, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Bulled, County Councillor Yabsley and the Clerk

374/6/13 1. Apologies Cllr Henderson re work, Cllr Janes, likewise. Accepted unanimously. District Councillor Edgell, who would be attending after another meeting. Absent, no apologies, Cllr O’Brien.

375/6/13 2. Declaration of Interests Councillor White re. NDDC55657. As a neighbour, Cllr White declared an interest in this application.

376/6/13 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary The following incidents were dealt with over the past month:

A road traffic collision at Oakford Cross, one welfare visit, one domestic argument, an argument between neighbours, a road traffic collision in North Molton between a motor bike and a car, a drunken pedestrian on the link road, one burglar alarm activated no signs of attempted entry, a minor dog bite and the unauthorised use of a motor vehicle revealed as the result of a stop check. Additionally, Councillor Bulled mentioned the recovery in Cheshire, of a horsebox stolen from her in 2004.

As a result of a representation from the public at a previous meeting, police had investigated the issue of parking in Oakford Villas. They considered that the vehicle in question was being parked sensibly, on land that they believed to be privately owned. Although the owner had offered to park elsewhere, there was no reason why he should not continue to park the vehicle as at present.

377/6/13 4. Representations from the public

The surface of New Road, Burcombe was in need or repair. This had previously been reported and Councillor Yabsley was dealing with South West Highways about this and a number of other road issues.

Cllr. Bulled reported potholes in the road from Simonsbath to Aller Cross near the Yarde Down pub. These had been reported to South West Highways.

Cllr Procter reported an overhanging hedge in Back Lane, which had been reported to Mr Sables of SWH under reference 13593147. Cllr Bulled undertook to arrange more work to clear this.

It was reported that a property in Oakford Villas owned by North Devon Homes appeared to be unoccupied, and in need of some attention. **Agreed:** that the clerk contact NDH about this.

The clerk had received a letter asking that the council arrange to remove a patch of concrete, formerly the base of a bench, outside Swan Cottage in the Square, North Molton. After discussion, it was agreed that the as the ownership of this area was unknown, the Parish Council was unable to comply with this request. **Agreed**, that the clerk reply to this effect.

378/6/13 5. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM of North Molton Parish Council held on 8th May 2013 and approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th May 2013

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting – Approved, as amended, unanimous.

Minutes of the AGM meeting – Approved, as amended, unanimous.

Minutes of the Meeting of 15th May 2013 – Approved, as amended, unanimous.
379/6/13 6.Clerks Report

The issue of parking at Oakford Villas had already been discussed.

The issue of the planters in the square that needed repair or replacement had been raised with Cllr Dunn who undertook to do the necessary work.

The chairman of Heasly Mill Village Hall management committee had been informed of the Parish Council’s wish to re-establish and formalise links.

380/6/13 7.Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda.

Mrs Gill Lee presented her report on footpaths in the parish. This highlighted those areas where work was needed to bring the footpaths up to standard. She stated that a copy had been emailed to the relevant authority, the Public Rights of Way Dept. at Devon Council. On behalf of the council, the chairman thanked her for a most thorough and professional report which would prove very useful. It was obvious that a great deal of work and commitment had gone into it.

381/6/13 8. Items for Discussion

i) Laurels Playground. Clerk advised that ex-councillor Mather was helping in sourcing and purchasing the remaining equipment. The chairman called for volunteers to help in painting the walls of the playground. He volunteered the use of specialist spray painting equipment. Paint was already available.

Agreed: that the clerk would advertise the need for volunteers and that if not enough were forthcoming, quotations should be obtained from commercial firms.

ii) Emergency Plan. agreed: that the clerk continue to develop the plan in the present format.

iii). Heasly Mill Village Hall. agreed: that the clerk compose a draft reply to Mr Fenwick of the HM Village Hall Management Committee, to be circulated to all members before the next meeting and to be discussed at that meeting.

iv) Register of Interests. The clerk confirmed that legislation now required that councillor’s register of interests be included on the Parish website. agreed: That the clerk begin the process of transferring the information.

v) Website. In order to make the most economic use of the website, and to display the emergency plan and register of interests, it was decided that only the minutes of meetings in the past twelve months should be displayed. agreed: That the clerk make the necessary changes to the website.

vi) Digital speed display unit. It was agreed that this be re-set so as to show a warning at 32mph, and that the Parish Council bear the cost of £249.00 agreed: That the clerk arrange this.

382/6/13 9. Chairmans Report/ Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

The chairman recorded his thanks and those of the rest of the council for Cllr Dunn’s work as chairman over the past three years. With regard to the council’s response to the Rural Plan, he re-iterated his view that there was a need for some form of planning boundary in North Molton. He had carefully phrased his contribution to the response so as not to exclude the possibility of setting a boundary at some future date, should this prove necessary. In response to a query by Cllr Bulled, he stated that votes by the public at meetings held to discuss the Rural Plan were overwhelmingly against development to the west of North Molton which would be likely to detract from the essentially rural aspect of the village.

Mr Peter Stucley, as owner of land likely to be affected by the council’s response, asked permission to give his views. He stated that he had been in discussion with developers and representatives of Highways Department with a view to developing land to the west of the village. He stated that they had both agreed that the land
was a logical place for development and was better situated for this than the areas of land identified in the
council’s response.

The chairman thanked him for his input and pointed out that the timescale by which responses were required
were not set by the Parish Council but had been well advertised, and that his response was past this deadline.

383/6/13 10. Planning

Applications approved --none.

Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration: NDDC 55657. Extension to solar panel array at Burcombe Farm, North Molton.
Cllr White declared an interest and withdrew while Cllr Stanley took the chair. The proposal was passed, with
one exception. Cllr White then resumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

Applications received after preparation of agenda: The clerk informed the council that Cllr Henderson had
received a representation against NDDC 55721, a roof alteration at Barham Farm, Heasley Mill, which had
been approved at the last Parish Council meeting. Agreed, that as the application had already been approved,
the objectors should be advised to contact the planning authorities direct.

The clerk reported that an application posted by NDC planners in March had not been delivered and so the
Parish Council had been unable to assess it. It had also been produced on the weekly planning list that was
publicly available. Although such losses were rare, it would be a wise precaution in future for councillors and
the clerk to scan these planning lists.

384/6/13 11. Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £9251.41 as at 31st May 2013

Balance of Bonus account stands at £4391.35 as at 31st May 2013

i) Receipts – none.

ii) Payments

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

b) External auditors, £20.

Both agreed, unanimously.

Councillor Edgell joined the meeting at 8.45pm.

385/6/13 12. Correspondence

The clerk reported that Cllr Henderson had received an email from the NM Youth Club requesting a decision
on whether or not the council would be contributing to the cost of the club’s annual firework display.

Agreed, with two abstentions, that no contribution be made in this financial year, that the situation be
reviewed at the beginning of the next financial year and that the clerk write to the Youth Club explaining the
reasons for the council’s decision.

The clerk reported that he had received an email from Cllr Henderson offering his resignation from the council.
As he was moving house, he would be living beyond the limit at which people could serve on the council.

The clerk reported that Mr Shaun Peters of Heasley Mill, had applied to join the council.
**386/6/13 13.Reports**

Cllr Gammon reported that the recent trimming of grass verges had been very badly done. He had complained to Mr Sables of South West Highways.

Cllr Bulled reported on a recent Exmoor National Park Farm Walk, and a presentation on the Mires project re water flow on Exmoor which had revealed that water flow from the moor to North Molton was not monitored. Additionally, BT were undertaking a survey about rural communications and the provision of fast broadband to rural areas.

Cllr Stanley reported that following the recent exercise in which he and Cllr Henderson had monitored the speed of vehicles travelling through North Molton, he was liaising with local police on ways of dealing with the problem.

**387/6/13 14.Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor.**

Re. the collapsed wall in Broad Close. Cllr Yabsley reported that the County Council design team were planning a solution, they would then negotiate the rebuilding of the wall, which he hoped would be done by the end of the summer.

**Date and Time of Next meeting 10th July North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm**

Meeting closed 9.30 pm