MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
13TH MARCH 2013 IN THE NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL

**Present** Councillor Dunn, Councillor Bul led, Councillor Procter, Councillor Janes, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Stanley, Councillor O’Brien, Councillor Henderson, Councillor White.

County Councillor Yabsley and District Councillor Edgell arrived later.

**467/3/13 1. Apologies** Parish Clerk Nigel Penfold--Holiday. Minutes taken by Councillor Bul led.

**468/3/13 2. Declaration of Interests.** None.

**469/3/13 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary** A representative was unable to attend the meeting but the following items had previously been passed to the Chairman.

One relevant call to the parish regarding a 3rd hand report of a male being in the area that the caller felt intimidated by. There has been no reported crime.

**470/3/13 4 Representations from the public** Councillor White reported that the path from Oakford Villas to Back Lane is in a poor state particularly behind the garages. Appreciated that the garages have not been maintained as planning permission had been granted for housing development which is now in abeyance. Agreed to write to North Devon Homes to ask them to tidy it up and Councillor White suggested it might be a good idea to put up a laminated sign saying “Have pride in your village” in light of the village entering the Best Kept Village competition.

Councillor Stanley stated that there was concern in the village that a planning application had been granted for 110 houses on land to the west of the school. Agreed to point out to those concerned that no application has been made and that the area was one in the SHLAA survey where land has been offered up for potential development in the future only.

Councillor Stanley asked if it was possible to ask for speed bumps to be located on the village main street to slow down the traffic. Councillor Gammon said that in the past we had been told that this was not possible as the route was a through route for emergency vehicles and for the transport of livestock.

Councillor Gammon reported that a garden bank on Fore Street, and the hedge on the right at the top of High Bullen Hill needed trimming as they were affecting the flow of traffic. Agreed to write to the owners of the properties to ask them to cut the vegetation back.

Councillor O’Brien reported that the planter around the trees in the Square were in a poor state. Agreed that the Council would obtain new uni- straps and install them.
Councillor O’Brien had been asked by a member of the public if planning permission was 
required for a new stable being built at Pullens House. Agreed that the concerned member 
of the public should enquire of this matter to the North Devon Planning department 
themselves.

471/3/13.5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held 
on Wednesday 8th February 2013  The minutes, as amended, were accepted unanimously.

472/3/13 6. Clerks Report

Highways Dept have been contacted again about gritting the Square and the request has 
been passed on to North Devon Council to consider.

No reply yet from Highways Dept about the Broad Close wall.

With regard to arranging for police to carry out speed checks in the village. Police are happy 
to do this and await suggestions of specific dates and times.

No response yet from Highways Dept regarding the recalibration of the speed display board 
and the erection of Speed Camera signs.

A member of the public had complained about no new Parish Council notices being put on 
the notice board nearest the bridge. One had been put there in September but none since. 
Notices are placed on the village website, the board outside Bulled’s, the one outside the 
Victory Hall and the one in Heasley Mill. The board nearest the bridge is left so that there is 
one board in the village with space for non-Parish Council items.

472/3/13 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

Councillor Henderson suggested that he liaise with Councillor Stanley with regard to the use 
of speeding cameras.

Councillor Yabsley reported that he has acquired a large salt bin for use in the village. 
Agreed that it should be placed halfway up the hill in Oakford Villas. Agreed that the clerk 
contact Richard Sables (Highways Department) and copy to Councillor Yabsley.
473/3/13. 8. Items for Discussion

Emergency Plan  Councillor Henderson had kindly copied the DCC template for a Community Emergency Plan and the Emergency Plan for a local large village (Braunton) which had been distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Bulley asked that Councillors should note that this template has been superseded by a Multi-Agency plan and suggested that perhaps it would be appropriate if we waited until this was available before discussion. Councillors White and Gammon were of the opinion that the Braunton plan was too elaborate for that required by a smaller village such as North Molton. Councillor Yabsley informed the Council that funds may be available from NDDC Flooding and Bad Weather Resilience Programme.

474/3/13. 9. Chairmens Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

Local Plan. Councillors Dunn, Stanley and Henderson had attended the recent meeting at which this had been discussed. The Chairman told the meeting that as Part 3 of the Local Plan, which covered rural issues relevant to this parish was not yet available, he did not think that at this time we could fully discuss our interest in the Local Plan. He noted that in the Settlement Hierarchy of the Plan, North Molton is classed as a Local Centre. Councillor Henderson stated that some proposed housing developments in South Molton may not now take place due to sewage and other issues and he suggested that these possibly in the future may be offset to satellite villages such as North Molton. The Chairman also stated that it had been mentioned at the meeting that in future the limit of £400 maximum expenditure allowed from the Parish grant for Village Halls was to be removed and that he had mentioned to the meeting the fact that North Molton has two village halls (North Molton and Heasley Mill).

The Chairman had attended a meeting of North Molton Sports Club where the issue of dog fouling on the football pitches was discussed. The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk would contact the Dog Warden concerning this as there is public access to the football pitches. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact the Dog Warden and the local police concerning the two local dogs that are regularly loose on the Sports Ground.

The Church has asked about financial assistance with weed cutting. It was noted by the Council that the Parish Precept had been upped this year but this was to take into account the reduced level of Band D Equivalent properties and the potential lowering of the Parish Grant by North Devon Council. The Chairman was to draft a letter explaining the situation.

475/3/13. 10. Planning
Applications approved : NDDC54552. Agreed that the Clerk would contact the planning department thanking them for sending the discharge of condition for the above but the Parish Council are happy and have no comments to make.

Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – NDDC 54596 Retrospective application for a fodder store at Lower Poole Farm. It was stated that a new application had been submitted to be on the site suggested by the participants of the site meeting. Councillor Stanley asked if it was possible for the west end bay of the shed to be removed immediately in order for the storm drain to be finished. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate for the developer of Lower Poole Phase 2 to contact the agent for Lower Poole Farm himself if he was concerned.

Applications for consideration:

ENP62/14/12/002 widen path to create footpath for private use at Sherracombe Ford. Motion to approve proposed Councillor Gammon, seconded Councillor Stanley, Approved unanimously.

476/3/13. 11.Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £3111.31 as at 28th February 2013

Balance of Business Saver account stands at £4618.04 as at 28th February 2013

Receipts – none.

i) Payments

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


477/3/13. 12.Correspondence

North Devon Homes Housing List. It was agreed that a list of housing available in North Molton would be posted on the village notice board.

8.55pm Councillor Janes left the meeting.

A letter had been received from a member of the public expressing concerns that Councilor Bulled’s remarks at the January meeting, when she passed on concerns from a resident to the effect that North Devon Homes were “leap-frogging” elderly people in the villages in favour of younger people from outside the village, were directed at her personally. Agreed that the Chairman would write to the member of the public, confirming that at that time no names were known or mentioned, that North Devon Homes had not been involved, and that no offence had been intended.
477/3/13. 13. Reports Councillor Henderson reported that under the joint TAP funding with South Molton he had submitted costings to support our bid for a share of TAP funding for weed control in the Parish. He also stated that he had acquired some equipment free from the “Keep Britain Tidy” website which it was noted could be useful when the Youth Club tidy up the village which it is hoped to do before judging of the Best Kept Village takes place in July. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Henderson.

It was agreed that the Clerk would report fly-tipping of window frames in the lay-by to the west of Lee View.

Councillor Bulled stated that she had reported the damaged railings on the bridge over the River Mole to the Highways Department three weeks ago and that they had erected safety fencing the next day and would be repairing the railing and the parapet damaged by the floods in the next few weeks.

477/3/13. 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor

Date and Time of Next meeting Wednesday 10th April 2013 at North Molton Victory Hall, 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.20pm.