MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
15th MAY 2013 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present Councillor White, (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Procter, Councillor
Stanley, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Gammon, Councillor O’Brien and the Clerk

360/5/13 1.Apologies Councillor Janes, Councillor Henderson. These absences were
sanctioned unanimously.

361/5/13 2.Declaration of Interests. The Chairman reminded councillors that as he had a
financial interest in a plot of land in North Molton that he may seek to sell for the
development, he would withdraw when the meeting came to discuss that area.

362/5/13 3.Devon and Cornwall Constabulary The clerk read an update provided by the
police, covering the last week. There had been a collision between a car and van at Oakford
Cross and police had paid a welfare visit on behalf of the hospital. No crimes had been
reported, but in adjoining areas machines and equipment had been stolen from rural
locations.

363/5/13 4. Representations from the public An overhanging hedge in Back Lane was
briefly discussed. Councillors Procter and Bulled stated that the owner was aware of
concerns about it and that it would soon be rectified.

Councillor Gammon reported that a stables building had appeared in the triangular field on
Sandyway Road, near the Sportsman’s Arms. Councillor Bulled stated that this was in fact a
mobile field shelter and therefore did not need any planning permission. Agreed: no action
to be taken.

Vehicles parking on the pavement in Oakford Villas, particularly near the post-box, were
causing an obstruction. Clerk to inform police.

A member of the public asked about the collapsed wall in Broad Close. The Chairman stated
that County Councillor Yabsley would be attending the meeting and would provide an
update.

The state of the road between North and South Molton was raised. This has already been
brought to the attention of the Highway Department.

The wooden planters in the square were in need of replacement. Councillor Dunn had
previously agreed to look into this. It was agreed that they should be replaced fairly soon so
as to allow flowers to be planted.

The state of the pavement outside Victory Hall was raised. The chairman stated that the
Victory Hall management committee had accepted responsibility for it and had, some
months ago, begun the process of getting quotes from contractors.

364/5/13 5.Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held
on Wednesday 10th April 2013 The minutes, as amended, were accepted, all agreed.
**365/5/13 6. Clerks Report** The various issues raised at the last meeting had been referred to Highways department. The cost of recalibrating the digital speed display on the approach to the village would be £249. Agreed: that this be considered at the next meeting.

**366/5/13 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda** None.

**367/5/13. 8. Items for Discussion**

1). Rural Plan.

The chairman explained the background to the draft Rural Plan and the short time frame in which a reply was required. He explained that the Parish Council would compile this reply based upon the views of the fifty-four members of the public present at the meeting. This reply would be submitted by 1st June, 2013, and publicised in the village and on the village website. In the autumn, a document will be published by NDDC based upon the Parish Council’s response. This document would go out for consultation and would be the last chance for any representations to be made.

He repeated his declaration of interest in a plot of land in the village. Councillor Dunn declared an interest as his property was very close to one of the areas identified as being suitable for development.

The chairman asked for a show of hands from the members of the public in favour of various options for the growth of the village over the next twenty years. Results were: No development, 0 votes. Around 50 new houses, 50 votes. 100 or more houses, 2 votes.

District Councillor Edgell joined the meeting at 8.40.

Contributions from the floor were then invited. A range of opinions on the makeup and location of any new developments were expressed. It was generally agreed that significant improvements to the local infrastructure, particularly with regard to sewage disposal, would be required to support any significant development. It was also generally agreed that the open and essentially rural atmosphere of the village must be retained. With regard to the location of any new development, members of the public voted; Between Holdridge Cross and the Sports Club, 44. The three fields to the west of the village, 0.

The advantages and disadvantages of some form of light industrial development in the village were discussed. The chairman, citing his interest in the matter, identified the plot of land in question and left the meeting at 8.50. Councillor Stanley (Deputy Chairman) took over in his absence. Councillor Edgell confirmed that Light Industrial developments were strictly defined under planning legislation as being compatible with, and tailored for, a residential context with regard to noise and access.

County Councillor Yabsley arrived at 9pm.

During the discussion, it was generally agreed that any such development should be at the beginning of the village so as to avoid the need for more vehicles having to travel through the village. After discussion, the members of the public present voted; in favour of light industrial units being developed on the outskirts of the village, 37. Councillor Stanley asked if there were any suggestions as to where else any such development should take place. No suggestions were made.
Councillor White then rejoined the meeting and resumed the chairmanship.

2). Emergency Planning. To be discussed at the next meeting.

368/5/13 9. Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

369/5/13 10. Planning

Applications approved. None Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration: NDDC5506 Feed silo at Portfolken Wood. Amended after comments at the last PC meeting. Agreed.

NDDC55111. Listed building application to convert farm building to form one farm shop, one unit of holiday accommodation and 3-4 Bed and Breakfast rooms at Nadrid Farm, North Molton. Agreed, with the rider that there be an improvement to access at the junction of the A399 to Nadrid Cross. Vehicles exiting the development would have a problem with visibility looking North and, to a lesser extent, South as well. This would be improved by raising the level of the road, so that traffic waiting to enter the main road would be on the same level as traffic already upon it.


370/5/13 11. Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £ 6,070.87 as at 30th April 2013

Balance of Business saver account stands at £ 4668.61 as at 30th April 2013

Receipts – 1. First half years grant and precept £2,560.50

2. VAT refund £683.00.

Payments–

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

b) Reimburse clerk for purchase of A3 map re the Rural Plan, total £7.00

c) DALC membership £231.62

d) DALC Chairmanship short course £30.00

e) ROSPA inspection fee £78.00

f) Zurich insurance renewal £272.54

g) North Molton PCC first half years grant £500

h) North Molton Victory Hall first half years grant £100

i) Heasley Mill Hall first half years grant £100
j) All agreed, unanimously, with exception of

d) DALC chairmanship course, which would not now be taken up.

**371/5/13 12. Correspondence**

a) Rachel Connors. This referred to an allegation that people outside the village had been given housing priority over residents. This matter had now been resolved via the amendment of the minutes of the March meeting in which the issue had been raised.

b) Heasley Mill Village Hall Trust. A proposal by the Trust to remove the Parish Council representative from the Trust’s management committee was discussed. Agreed; The link between the Heasley Mill Trust and the Parish Council should be formally reinstated, following discussion at the next Parish Council meeting. It was noted that that Heasley Mill Village Hall was owned by the Parish Council.

c) Bishops Tawton Parish Council. A letter to all Parish Councils, complaining of alleged heavy-handedness and waste of money by North Devon District Council, in a case of disputed planning application, had been received, and would be placed in the green bag.

d) Register of Interest Spreadsheet. All Parish Councillors are required to declare any financial interests they, their spouses, or people they live with, hold. These now have to be displayed on the Parish Council website, if one exists. The clerk is awaiting clarification of the relevant piece of legislation governing this.

e) All newsletters to be placed in green bag.

**372/5/13 13. Reports**

It was reported that the Laurels Playground needed sweeping and volunteers were requested for this. The chairman offered the use of specialist spray equipment should the walls of the playground need repainting. Agreed: The purchasing of equipment for the playground should be discussed at the next meeting.

**373/5/13 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor.**

Councillor Yabsley reported that the County Council had spent £37 million on highways in the past year. He was well aware of the various problems with road surfaces and various junctions in need of improvement, but was having to fight hard to obtain funding.

He reported that the County Council had identified funds to deal with the collapsed wall in Broad Close. Meetings were scheduled to correlate a response with the various concerned organisations. He stated that the wall would not be rebuilt, but replaced by a batter (i.e. a sloped earth wall), County Council would not be responsible for it’s maintenance. The rubble from the collapsed wall would not be removed until work began on it’s replacement. The time scale for this was not yet known.
Councillor Edgell reported that the County Councillor’s fund would be continued, also that the Town and Parish (TAP) fund would continue, at the rate of £1.10 per elector.

**Date and Time of Next meeting** 12\textsuperscript{th} June North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 10.30pm.