MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2013 IN THE OLD SCHOOL.

Present Councillor White (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Procter, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Stanley, the Clerk and District Councillor Edgell

439/11/13.1 Apologies. Councillor O’Brien. Motion proposed to sanction her absence. All agreed

440/11/13.2 Declarations of interests. None.

441/11/13.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

A report of two sheep on the road, near the primary school.
A complaint of noise, being dealt with by North Devon Homes.
A drunk pedestrian on the main North Molton road.
Fireworks being set off.
One address check because of concerns for the occupant’s welfare.
One assault which the victim did not wish to pursue.
Theft of a bale trailer just off the A399.
One person charged with drink-driving.

442/11/13.4 Representations from the public.

Cllr Dunn reported that the school crossing lights had not been replaced following work on the Lower Poole Development. Agreed: Clerk to contact South West Highways.

A member of the public raised concerns about the ditches beside the road leading from North Molton to the Sports Club. They had been filled with mud, possibly as a result of work at the Lower Poole Development. Also, a bank on the western side of the road had fallen into the roadway. Agreed: Clerk to contact South West Highways.

The clerk had been contacted by a Mr Mogford regarding surface water on the road from North Molton to the A361. This had been reported to SWH.

Cllr Bulled raised the Snow Warden Scheme organised by North Devon Council and suggested that the council reconsider the previous decision not to adopt it. This decision had been influenced by the difficulty of distributing salt. However, it seemed that the details of the scheme had changed and this may no longer be a problem. Agreed: Clerk to investigate the scheme.

443/11/13.5 Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th October 2012. Agreed.

444/11/13.6 Clerk’s report.
Various residents had been written to regarding foliage overhanging the road or footway. Councillors noted that overhanging trees were still an issue on some roads just outside the village. The clerk was instructed to contact the relevant residents informing them of the possible financial consequences should the trees have to be trimmed by South West Highways.

Allied to this, it was mentioned that fir trees in Burcombe Wood needed trimming to avoid obstructing high-sided vehicles. Agreed: Clerk to write to Mr Stucley.

**445/11/13.7 Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda.**

Cllr Gammon reported on his enquiries regarding Christmas tree lights. A ten metre length of commercial lights of suitable brightness would cost between £40 and £70. After discussion it was agreed that a mixture of lights should be used this year. A string of ten metres of commercial lights would outline the tree, while the existing less powerful ones would be used to decorate it. Agreed: that Cllr Gammon purchase one length of lights for a cost of about £50. Councillor White undertook to liaise with the Parochial Church Council regarding the provision of a tree.

**446/11/13.8 Items for discussion.**

**Conservation Plan.** Mr Bate of North Devon Council gave a presentation and answered questions on the proposed changes to the North Molton Conservation Plan. Five members of the public had attended for this reason and after the question and answer session had ended the chairman thanked them and him for attending.

**Defibrillator.** Mr Alan Boddington outlined a scheme run by South Western Ambulance Service whereby a defibrillator was provided and maintained for use by members of the public in treating anyone suffering a heart attack. Thanks to the generosity of residents and visitors to North Molton the sum of £1488.00 had already been raised. He proposed to donate this to the Parish Council for the purpose of arranging the purchase, which he understood to be a one-off price of about £2,000.00 including VAT. Many Parish Councils had purchased such machines, and many lives had been saved as a result. After discussion, his offer was accepted. A vote of appreciation was taken in recognition of Mr Boddington’s efforts and the generosity of all who had taken part in the fund-raising.

**Heasley Mill Village Hall.** The clerk reported that he had received conflicting advice from Devon Association of Local Councils and the Parish Council’s insurers regarding the need to have Parish Council ownership of Heasley Mill Village Hall recorded. It was agreed that the Heasley Mill Village Hall committee be asked to inform their insurers that the hall was owned by the Parish Council and to ensure that this was recorded. Cllr Procter confirmed that, having established what was involved, he was willing to stand as the Parish Council’s representative on the HMVH committee.
Budget. The clerk presented the annual budget which was accepted unanimously. During the discussion, it was agreed that £1200.00 should be put aside to cover the cost of any elections to the Parish Council.

Laurels Playground. It was reported that Mr Holden who had previously presented plans for the painting of the Laurels playground had arranged for B+Q to donate suitable paint. Insurance costs for the playground had risen by about £30 because of the new equipment. The insurers had pointed out the need for the equipment to be checked regularly, without spelling out exactly how often and to what degree. The chairman undertook to carry out a monthly inspection. It was agreed that this plus annual inspection by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents was likely to be sufficient.

Application for Parish Grant / Precept.

The information from North Devon Council needed in order to set the precept was not going to be provided until sometime in December. This item was therefore postponed until the next meeting.

Emergency Plan.

It was agreed that the plan would be implemented when the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and two other councillors decided it was necessary. The clerk was awaiting a few replies to letters, otherwise it was complete.

447/11/13.9 Planning.

Planning approved: None.

Planning declined: None.

Applications received for consideration.

NDDC 56539. Erection of one agricultural building at land adjacent to Bendle Lane, North Molton. Passed, unanimously.

448/11/13.10 Correspondence.

An email from a young resident, Alfie Harris, had been received by the clerk. In it, Master Harris expressed his thanks for the provision of the basketball/football goal in the Laurels Playground. Cllr Edgell asked that this be forwarded to him for the information of District councillors who had voted upon awarding a grant to help cover the costs.

The company that provided and fitted the equipment to the playground had written in response to the clerk’s questions about covering the black matting around the various items. It had been agreed that this would be covered with finer, green matting. This was partly to help avoid a trip hazard and partly for aesthetic reasons. The original
company had gone into liquidation and the work passed to the present company. They had offered either to complete the work or refund £600.00 to the council. Plans of the proposed work had been provided. After studying them, it was agreed that they offered very little improvement in the way of safety or appearance. Agreed: That the clerk accept the offer of a refund and that Councillor Gammon investigate alternative matting.

The Community News newsletter had asked for a Parish Council contribution. This was discussed under “Finance”.

**449/11/13.11 Finance.**

Barclays community account stands £4,517.62 as at 31 October 2013.
Barclay’s business saver account stands at £4,819.78 as at 31 October 2013.

1) Payments. – Clerks salary £178.38 plus contribution to telephone costs £10, total £188.38.

2) Community News. An annual sum of £25.00.

3) Victory Hall toilets. The usual annual sum of £400.00.

4) Laurels Playground addition to annual insurance premium. £30.73.

A motion was proposed to pay the above amounts. All agreed.

**450/11/13.12**

**Chairman’s report/urgent matters brought forward by the chairman**

The chairman commented upon the Remembrance Sunday ceremony which had been dignified and moving. The annual fireworks display had been a success, as usual. Quite separate to the display, it was a shame that some extremely powerful fireworks had been let off in public places within the village. These were alarming and possibly capable of causing damage.

**451/11/13.13 Reports.**

Cllr Gammon quoted a budget report by North Devon Council which indicated that £100,000 had been earmarked for the restoration of the collapsed wall in Broad Close, in March 2014. It was agreed that the clerk should contact the council to record the Parish Council’s disappointment at the length of time taken to effect this repair. Also at the fact that the New Road was not included in the work plan.

**452/11/13.14 Matters brought forward by the District or County Councillor.**
None.

**Date and time of next meeting.**
Wednesday 11\textsuperscript{th} December 2013 7.30pm North Molton Victory Hall.