MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2013 IN THE VICTORY HALL

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

416/9/12 1. Apologies Councillors Gammon and O’Brien (business), Councillor White (holiday). District Councillor Edgell (holiday). Motion proposed to sanction the above absences. All agreed.

417/9/12 2. Declaration of Interests Councillor Henderson planning NDDC 56287.

418/9/12 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary A burglary at Costcutters in Lynton had involved the phone lines being cut, thus bypassing the alarm system. More locally there had been five road-related incidents, two calls concerning the welfare of an elderly person, one lost and found dog, one domestic incident, and some shotgun ammunition found. A fork lift truck had been taken and driven without the permission of the owner, and there had been one assault. The theft of quad bikes, especially those left unattended and with keys in the ignition, remains an issue across the area.

419/9/12 4. Representations from the public The clerk read an email from Councillor Gammon concerning;

Complaints about smoke from bonfires at Oakford Lea. Agreed, that the owner of the premises be made aware of the complaints and asked to try and avoid a repetition of this.

Hedges at the top of High Bullen that have grown out into the road and need severely cutting back. Agreed: Clerk to contact the land owners.

The tree canopy on the road from the old barns to past the Sports Club is low and causing problems with agricultural vehicles.

Hedge grown out at the bottom of Burcombe Hill to the splay for the campsite.

Mr Sables, NDC Highways, who was present, was made aware of these last two items.

420/9/12 5. Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th August 2013, as amended All agreed.

421/9/12 6. Clerks Report Clerk reported that permission had been obtained to paint three of the walls in Laurels Playground and that the management committee of the Heasley Mill Village Hall had noted the PC’s desire to be mentioned on insurance documents related to the hall.

422/9/12 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda Cllr Dunn reported that the broken drain outside Rosedene had been repaired.

Cllr Henderson reported that the South Molton Town Team would be meeting within a week to discuss the possible renewal of road signs on the link road. It was agreed that the slogan “Gateway to Exmoor” was a more useful and accurate description of North Molton than the present “Historic Mining Village”. Agreed: That the clerk contact the Responsible Finance Officer of South Molton with a view to having that slogan placed on any new signs to North Molton.
County Councillor Yabsley reported that work on the collapsed wall in Broad Close was scheduled to begin in November/December 2013.

Mr. Sables of NDC Highways was present and was told by Cllr Bulled of a recent incident in which Wessex Tree Surgeons workmen had been seen dumping rubble in a stream. He undertook to investigate this, and also to contact the owner of the stream, which may already have needed debris removing from it.

In response to a request from the clerk, Mr Sables also undertook to provide a draft explanation of NDC’s road repair strategy to be placed on the North Molton website. A discussion about the problem of water draining from fields into neglected ditches and drains, which then caused road flooding, took place. Cllr Yabsley pointed out that there was a legal requirement for farmers to ensure that drainage pipes from their land were kept clear and in good repair. This had not been enforced recently and was in danger of being forgotten.

423/9/12 8. Items for Discussion

I) Laurels Playground 15 litres of magnolia exterior paint had been donated by Mr Higson. Agreed: that the clerk send a letter of thanks. About 30 yards of wall had had a base coat applied by Cllr White and was thus ready for a final coat. The clerk reported that Cllr Gammon had been in touch with the school who did not think that their children were capable of assisting in painting the walls. Lucy Perry had volunteered the names of four or five previous pupils who would be. Cllr Gammon had also reported that he had not yet spoken to Mr Holden, who had prepared sketches showing possible scenes to be painted. Agreed: that Mr Holden be kept informed of progress. Also agreed: that the clerk write to Mr Courtney of North Molton Youth Club inviting that organisation to get involved in the painting.

II) Financial forecast. The clerk produced a spreadsheet showing financial outlays for each quarter of the past three years. Agreed: That the clerk and Cllr Dunn liaise to produce a spread sheet incorporating fixed outgoings to act as a forward planning tool for council finances.

III) North Molton “Who’s who”. Cllr Procter reported that the publication needed updating and proposed that each councillor be responsible for checking and obtaining new contact details for one page of the leaflet. Agreed: that this be done and that the resulting information be placed on the village website as a downloadable document, for the benefit and information of new residents.

IV) Conservation Area The clerk distributed the various maps produced by NDC as part of its exercise in updating and rationalising the conservation area in the village. This updating would be the subject of public consultation and would need to be advertised within North Molton. Agreed: that the author, Mr Bate, of NDC, be invited to the next meeting to discuss the plan, its rationale and its practical effect upon premises affected

424/9/12 9. Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman None.

425/9/12 10. Planning

Planning approved: none.

Applications received for consideration:

NDDC 56287 Conversion of outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation at Molland Cross Farm, South Molton: Accepted with one abstention, Cllr Henderson.

426/9/12 11. Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £2,228.57 as at 30.8.13. The clerk noted that the variation from the previous month’s figure was due to part payment of the goal equipment for Laurels Playground.

Balance of Bonus account stands at £4,769.19 as at 30.8.13.

i) Receipts – none
ii) Payments – Clerks salary £178.38 plus contribution to telephone costs £10 total £188.38. All agreed.

427/9/12 12. Correspondence An invitation to NDC Parish Forum on 9th October, at which the Local Plan and other items of interest will be discussed. Cllr Dunn undertook to attend. Agreed: that the next meeting of the Parish Council be put back a week (to October 16th) to enable Cllr Dunn to report back.

428/9/12 13. Reports Cllr Henderson gave a brief outline of the TAP fund. Partnership in this with South Molton meant that North Molton had access to grass cutting and weed killing services. Cllr Stanley volunteered to take over from Cllr Henderson as the Parish Council’s liaison with Andrew Coates, the fund’s administrator.

429/9/12 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor Cllr Yabsley outlined the scale of cuts in central government funding and emphasised that the NDC would have to make unpopular decisions about where the next round of cuts should fall. Local services were bound to suffer. The recent apparent upturn in the economy was not nearly sufficient to reduce the deficit. In his opinion there would be another decade of financial cuts whatever political party was in power. As part of the cost cutting it may be that local groups such as Parish Councils would have funds delegated to them to be used locally, as efficiently as possible. Agreed: that a copy of a letter from the Conservative group on NDC to Eric Pickles, community minister, in which the likely effect of planned cuts was outlined, be copied to all councillors for their information.

The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Henderson, who was resigning from the council, as he was moving home to an area outside the boundaries of the parish. He would be sorely missed and during his time with the council had made numerous useful suggestions and worthwhile contributions to the working of the council. The vote was carried unanimously.

Date and Time of Next meeting 9th October 2013 North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.40pm