Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of the North Molton Parish Council held on 18th January 2013 at the Victory Hall, North Molton, at 7.30 pm.

Present. Councillor Dunn, (Chairman), Councillor Procter, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Henderson, Councillor White, Councillor Mather, Councillor Stanley and the clerk.

Apologies from Councillors Janes and O’Brien, re work commitments.

Item for discussion: Setting the Parish Precept.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending on such a cold and snowy night. He outlined the background to how the precept was set and the importance to the process of information from central government which had only just been produced.

The level at which the precept would be set should take account of likely future cuts in funds from central government and North Devon Council, the current level of the precept and those of other, similar councils in North Devon.

The precept currently set by North Molton (£3,361.00) was the fifth lowest out of fifty-six councils in North Devon that set a precept. Increases in recent years had been very low while in the future any increase was likely to be limited to a maximum of 2%. A Parish Grant of £1,760 was also paid to the parish to help with the costs of burial grounds, village halls and open spaces. There was a realistic threat from North Devon Council to reduce this sum by over £300.00 per year.

A reduction in the number of Band D Equivalent Properties in North Molton, from which the precept is calculated, would be compensated, this year, by a top up grant from ND council of £317.39. There was no guarantee that such a grant would be available in future.

The chairman recommended that the precept for 2013/14 be increased to £3,771.00 from the 2012/13 figure of £3,361.00. Although this would have the effect of increasing the Band D figure by 25.5% from £7.94 to £9.95 North Molton would still be one of the lowest precept setting Parish Councils in North Devon.

After discussion, this was agreed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.