MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
9TH APRIL 2014 IN THE NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL

Present  Councillor Stanley (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Procter, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Gammon, Councillor O’Brien, County Councillor Yabsley, District Councillor Edgell, and the Clerk

508/4/14  Apologies  None.

509/4/14  Declaration of Interests  Item 8 (i), Cllr Bulled, as a neighbour of someone affected, Cllr Edgell as chairman, and Cllr Yabsely as a member of the Exmoor National Park planning committee.

510/4/14  Devon and Cornwall Constabulary  P.S. Williams reported that one man had been arrested and bailed accused of setting fire to a vehicle and assault. Five burglaries in which bolt croppers were used to enter premises and steal power tools in Atherington, Fremington and South Molton. Staff at South Molton police station were to be increased by 3 constables and one PCSO over the next couple of months.

511/4/14  Representations from the public  It was reported that shrubbery at the west end of the square needed trimming, Cllr Stanley undertook to speak to the relevant resident. Cllr Gammon reported that the surface of the road leading from Bendle Cross to Lay Cross was breaking up and that the bridge was damaged. Two potholes were reported on the road from Oakford Cross to Oakford.

512/4/14  Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th March.  These were approved, as amended, with one abstention.

513/4/14  Clerks Report  The clerk had contacted North Devon Council to see what support they were likely to offer the Parish Council in employing a school crossing supervisor. The NDC officer responsible was not of the opinion that deploying such a person would make any difference to the safety of children. In his professional opinion, based upon recent visits to the school, the main danger was caused by parent’s parking too close to the school entrance. The clerk had passed on his comments to the school’s staff. It was agreed that the council had exhausted the various options available on this matter and that the NDC Planning Unit should be reminded of the issue.

514/4/14  Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda  None.

515/4/14  Items for Discussion

i) Issues around the Development Boundary and Rural Plan.

Councillors were reminded that there would be a further consultative period, around May/June during which representations about the Rural Plan could be made to North Devon Council. NDC would be discussing the Plan in a meeting on 30th April.

The clerk read out a letter from a member of the public concerned about the possible use of compulsory purchase orders in connection with planned developments in the village. During discussion between Cllr Bulled and the two members of the public concerned, it became apparent that there was a difference in recollection about what had been said. The
chairman assured the members of the public that such orders were not used in connection with ordinary housing developments, and that therefore there was no danger of them being used in connection with anything planned in the village.

The chairman read out the following statement:

“As a result of what was discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 12th March, the Clerk and I undertook to visit the Planning Office in Barnstaple and speak to Andrew Austen and members of his staff in the Policy Planning Unit in order to agree on proposals for the Rural Plan. The Parish Council was sympathetic to the concerns of the Sports Club as described by their chairman, Mr Gareth Clark, during the February meeting and this was discussed at length. The proposals for the development of the Back Lane site were brought into the Plan, I was concerned about the NMO2 site being deleted from the Plan by the PPU. Mr Austen informed me that Councillor Bulled had phoned their office some time after the February meeting and told them that this site had been withdrawn. According to the site owner this is not the case and his application to develop the site is currently being drawn up”.

Cllr Bulled stated that although she had spoken on several occasions to Mr Austen and his staff about proposed developments in North Molton, she had never intimated that the NMO2 site had been withdrawn. She said that she did not understand how he could have got that impression.

The Chairman continued:

“At this point I need to stress the corporate responsibility and professional conduct expected of us on the Parish Council. We are here to represent the residents of our Parish, to express their wishes and to support them in as much as our constraints will allow. Any contact with other authorities or organisations will be agreed by the Parish Council and go through the Chair and Clerk in order that a record can be kept of that contact”.

This proposal was agreed unanimously.

Councillor O’Brien left at 9.10pm.

**ii) ROSPA safety report on Laurels Playground equipment.**

A notice warning people not to climb on the Combi-goal is needed. Agreed: Cllr Stanley to arrange. A possible, but minor, risk was identified in the report to the effect that someone could catch their finger in the ropes of the “Witches cradle” equipment. Agreed: no action was needed.

The clerk was instructed to contact the feofees asking them to repair part of a wire fence that was hanging into the playground.

**iii) Defibrillator**

This had been delivered and was ready to be installed. The clerk was authorised to spend up to £150 on this. *(Clerk’s note: Thanks to the generosity of Mr Alistair Bowden, who installed the machine gratis, this expenditure was not required).*
iv) **Enrolling the Parish Council as a PAYE employer.**

As a result of HMRC legislation, since 2011 all Parish Councils need to register as PAYE employers, collect tax from their employees (i.e. Parish Clerks) and pass it on to HMRC. The clerk had arranged for the council to be registered and was in discussion with HMRC about future payments.

**516/4/14 9.Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman**

The chairman noted the need for more councillors, pointing out that North Molton should have eleven instead of the current six. Long-standing adverts on village notice-boards and on the village website had not had any effect and so he proposed asking the editor of the South Molton News to run an article on the issue. No objections were raised.

**517/4/14 10.Planning**

Applications approved

NDDC 56949 first floor extension to dwelling at Moul House, East Street.

Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration:

NDDC 57144 Variations of conditions of planning consent 56551 to allow alterations to windows and gate to yard entrance at Oakford Villas, North Molton. No objections.

NDDC 57180. Erection of agricultural building at Lerwil and Kellaway Brinsworthy Farm, South Molton. No objections.

NDDC 57129 Conversion of existing farm buildings into holiday accommodation with a new structure to contain a swimming pool at Nadrid farm, South Molton. Concerns were raised regarding visibility problems for traffic joining the main road. The application was agreed subject to these concerns being addressed.


Applications received after preparation of agenda: None.

**518/4/14 11.Finance**

Barclays Community account stands at £2,566.52 as at 31.3.14.

Barclays Business Saver account stands at £4,945.99 as at 31.3.14.

ii) Receipts – none.

iii) Payments
a) Clerks salary plus contribution to telephone costs £10 total £188.38
b) Booking Fee, Victory Hall £15, for special meeting, if required.
c) Playsafety ROSPA report £78.00.
        Accounts received after preparation of agenda
d) DALC annual fee £234.01.
All the above were approved unanimously.

**519/4/14 12. Correspondence**

a) Playsafety report – clerk read out relevant sections of the report.
b) Notice of audit - clerk would arrange.
c) A national data-base of playgrounds was being compiled for the benefit of parents travelling with children. The clerk would forward details of Laurels Playground.

**520/4/14 13. Reports**

Cllr Bulled reported on a recent meeting of Exmoor National Park.

Schools in West Somerset were being reorganised with some changing the age-ranges of children attending. There were a decreasing number of children growing up in the ENP and ideas were being sought on how to combat this.

**521/4/14 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor**

Cllr Edgell asked that he be informed of any specific points about the Joint Local Plan in advance of it being discussed on 30th April.

Some money for grants from the District Councillor’s fund was still available.

The District Council was planning to move out of the Civic Centre in Barnstaple within a year, in order to save money.

**Date and Time of Next meeting** Wednesday 7th May AGM/Annual Parish Meeting and 14th May Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed 9.45pm