Minutes of the meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th August 2014
In the Victory Hall

Present: Councillor Stanley, (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Procter, Councillor Bulled, District Councillor Edgell, County Councillor Yabsley, and the Clerk.

563/8/14 Apologies: Councillor O’Brien, working. Accepted, unanimously.

564/8/14 Declaration of Interests: Cllr Gammon regarding Laurels Playground.

565/8/14 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: PCSO Beverly Bray introduced herself as the new PCSO for North Molton. No incidents had been reported in the North Molton area over the past month, however properties in the Knowstone/Roachill areas, that had building work going on, had been broken into. She reported that she had carried out speed checks in North Molton and out of thirty vehicles checked only two had been exceeding the speed limit.

566/8/14 Representations from the public: Cllr Bulled reported that a member of the public had complained about the large amount of dog mess in Holdridge Lane. Unfortunately, as the area in question was legally outside the built-up area, no offence had been committed and there was therefore no point in reporting it to the Dog Warden.

The clerk reported a concern from a member of the public about internet and Wi-Fi interference, possibly caused by the new radio mast in the grounds of the Sports and Community Centre. Mr Clark of the NMSCC was present and informed the council that the mast had not yet been commissioned, was not transmitting, and could not therefore be the cause of any such problems.

As part of the Boots in Bloom event, a large “boot” had been erected near JJ Garages. Reports that this was obstructing the view of motorists had been received. Agreed; that Cllr Procter ask JJ Garages to re-site it.

567/8/14 Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th July 2014: Approved as amended- agreed with one abstention.

568/8/14 Clerks Report

The clerk had been in contact with Mr Sables of ND Highways, re-iterating concerns, some several months old, about:

The delayed replacement of the 30 mph sign in Holdridge Lane, removed as part of the Lower Pool development. Reply: Western Power were due to make the necessary reconnections imminently, after which the sign would be re-instated. This also applied to the school crossing sign.

Tidying up of the junction of Holdridge Lane with the main road through the village. Reply: also due to be done imminently.

Rock and Rapid Centre, vegetation obscuring view of traffic using the entrance. Reply: Mr Sables had examined the site and did not agree that vegetation was causing a problem here.

Broad Close, who was responsible for grass-cutting on the verge that had replaced the collapsed wall there. Reply: in all likelihood North Devon Council was responsible, but no cutting was likely to be done unless the grass adversely affected highway users.

Fore St junction with Old Rd, the widened junction meant that traffic was travelling faster through this junction, was some form of traffic calming required? Reply: There was no evidence that traffic was moving faster at this junction, unless some evidence of increased speed could be produced, he would not support any traffic calming measures there.
Additionally the clerk had contacted Libra School about staff causing congestion by parking in the square at North Molton. He had asked them to consider parking elsewhere, and suggested they contact the Sports and Community Centre. He had received the reply that the school had reached an agreement with the Sports and Community Centre and would be using parking facilities there from 1st September.

569/8/14 Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

Cllr Bulled reported that the phone box in Heasly Mill was in need of cleaning and renovation. Agreed: the clerk report this to BT.

570/8/14 8. Items for Discussion

TAP fund. After discussion, it was agreed that Twitchen should be approached with a view to forming a partnership to benefit from this fund. A possible joint scheme would be funding of drain clearance. Agreed: that the clerk invite Twitchen Parish to join North Molton in utilising the fund. Also, that the matter be further discussed at the next meeting in order to give councillors time to consider other possible schemes.

Laurals Playground. The chairman reported that the sign, required for insurance purposes, warning people not to climb on the goal had been ripped off, also that some weeding and general tidying up was required. He undertook to organise a working party for this purpose. Also agreed: that the North Molton art group be approached to see if they were interested in providing murals in the playground. The clerk reported that he had approached a couple of firms to replace the broken gate into the playground and received one quotation. Cllr Gammon repeated his declaration of interest at this point, as it was a family member who given the quotation for the work.

A request from Richard Peek that he be co-opted onto the council had been received. The clerk had received all the necessary paperwork including the Declaration of Interests, a summary of which could join those of existing councillors on the village website. The application was considered. Agreed; unanimously, that he be co-opted. Sir Richard then joined the council.

An application by Vicky Hardy to be considered for co-option had subsequently been withdrawn.

571/8/14 9. Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

None

572/8/14 10. Planning

Applications granted: NDDC 57693 Extension to dwelling at Ashpark Farm, South Molton.

Refused: 57361 Outline application for up to 45 dwellings on land to the west of the primary school, North Molton.

Applications for consideration.

NDDC 57683 Amended plans for erection of one agricultural building at South Heasley, EX36 3LE. No objections.

NDDC 57647 Extension to dwelling at Hunters Moon, Heasley Mill. No objections.

NDDC 57625 Outline planning application for 34 dwellings, associated landscaping and formation of new road access at land off Back Lane.

This had not been received before the agenda had been drawn up. In view of this, and in order to ensure that all interested parties had time to consider it, it was proposed that the application be put back to a special meeting in two weeks time. Agreed, unanimously, that it be considered at a special Parish Council meeting on 27th August.
Clr Bulled queried why application 57542, Penswell Cottage, had not appeared before the council for comment. The clerk undertook to find out.

573/8/14 11. Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £ 4,364.69 as at 31st July 2014.

Balance of Bonus account stands at £ 5,046. 61 as at 31st July 2014.

i) Receipts – none

ii) Payments:

  a) Clerks salary £142.78 plus £10.00 contribution to telephone costs total £152.78.

  b) Grant Thornton auditors, £120.00

  c) Up to £20 for Cllr Stanley to obtain a sign for Laurels Playground, warning of the danger of climbing on the goal equipment, to replace one that had been removed.

Motion passed to pay these sums. All agreed.

574/8/14 12. Correspondence

The clerk read out letters and emails from:

1. The North Molton Sports and Community Centre recording that the area adjacent to the Centre, known as the Picnic Area was owned by the NMSCC. The Picnic Area was mentioned in planning application NDDC 57449, land to the south of Old House Barns.

2. A letter from NMSCC detailing the objections of the Centre to application 57449.

Clr Edgell informed the council that he had seen a letter from trustees of the NMSCC outlining three points which, the trustees stated, if addressed by the developers involved in application 57449 might overcome their objections. Agreed: that, for future reference, the clerk obtain copies of the letter, which was already in the public domain on the NDDC planning website. This was followed by discussion, including contributions from the public, about the application. The chairman urged all the directly involved parties to discuss their disagreements and try to come to some agreement which the Parish Council could then present to the Planning Department.

3. A copy letter from North Molton Primary School, original sent to NDDC Planning Dept., reiterating support for Planning application 57361, and outlining reservations about application 57449.

4. A copy letter from a member of the public re application 57449, original sent to NDDC Planning Dept, outlining their request for a Pre-planning application, as their property was adversely impacted by the proposed development.

5. A letter from Libra School, dealt with under item 6.

6. A bill from Grant Thornton, auditors, dealt with under item 11.


8. Vodafone, outlining a scheme aimed at possibly increasing mobile phone coverage in rural areas. Agreed: that this problem was likely to be addressed by the radio mast at present under construction.

9. A member of the public asking about past plans for creating community woodland in the area near the NMSCC. Councillors recalled that there had been an aspiration to create such a woodland, but that it had
proved impossible to obtain funding, also that the land ownership had changed. As a result, it had not been possible to make any progress with the scheme.

10. An invitation to join Community Council of Devon. Agreed: not likely to be of use to North Molton.

11. A journalist on the North Devon Gazette asking about the Parish Council’s views on development in the area. Agreed: that he be referred to the Torridge and North Devon Local Plan, to which the Parish Council had contributed, after consultation with the community.

12. A genealogy request received via the village website. The clerk reported that he regularly received such requests. Agreed: that all such requests be referred to the Parochial Church Council.

13. An invitation to attend an Environment School organised by Barnstaple Town Council. Seen and noted.

575/8/14 13. Reports

In answer to a question, Cllr Edgell reported that due to financial restraints the trimming of banks was being restricted solely to those areas where safety would be compromised if the hedge/grass were not cut.

Cllr Bulled reported that she had heard rumours to the effect that the Poltimore Inn was going to be offered for sale and asked what would happen to the defibrillator lodged there, if this were to happen. Agreed: that the matter should be looked at only if and when such a situation occurred.

576/8/14 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor

Cllr Yabsley reported that the County Council had received numerous applications from farmers wishing to take over tenancies of farms belonging to the Council. He was pleased to report that South Molton Community College was due to receive a large refurbishment grant.

Cllr Edgell reminded councillors of the need to keep reporting any potholes that came to notice. The more they were reported, the greater the chance of them being repaired. Agreed: that the village website be amended to reflect this.

**Date and Time of Next meeting** 27th August North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.20pm.