MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2014 IN THE VICTORY HALL.

Present: Councillor Stanley (Chairman), Councillor Peek, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Gammon, Councillor O’Brien, Councillor Dunn, County Councillor Yabsley, The Clerk.

619/12/14.1 Apologies. Cllr Proctor, accepted.

620/12/14.2 Declarations of interests. None

621/12/14.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. Seven calls in the past month, four to Road Traffic Collisions, two regarding concerns for the welfare of elderly residents, and a theft from a vehicle in Molland Cross. The latter was believed to be opportunist.

622/12/14.4 Representations from the public.

Mr Clark presented concerns about application 57449 and called for an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the need for a Development Boundary. Various concerns about the application were presented and discussed by members of the public. Mr Charles Worthington said his wife had offered to pay for trees on the proposed site. He was thanked by the Chairman for this generous offer. Agreed: that the Parish Council organise a special meeting on 17th December to discuss whether, and where, a Development Boundary should be sited.

In response to a question from Cllr O’Brien, Mr Clarke, on behalf of the Sports and Community Centre stressed that the Centre would receive no money as a result of development on land to the west of the Primary School. {See clarification of this point in minutes of 11.2.15} Agreed: that the clerk write to NDDC Planning Department to clarify this.

623/12/14.5 Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th November 2014. A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, was proposed. All agreed.

624/12/14.6 Clerk’s report.

The clerk read out the emails he had sent to North Devon District Council Planning re applications 57449 and 57625. (Attached). Also agreed, with one abstention: that the PC contact NDDC to add to the PC’s response of 12th November that it wished for the removal of house number 1 on the plans and to include an increase of village community woodland to prevent further development up the hill.

The clerk reported on efforts to get quotes from firms interested in replacing the metal gate at the Laurels Playground. A wooden gate could be provided free by Mole Valley Farmers. It was agreed that a metal gate was needed.

625/12/14.7 Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda.
Following complaints from the feoffees about rubbish in Laurels Playground a local resident, Leanne Buckingham, had very kindly offered to put any discarded rubbish in a bag and dustbin.

Cllr Bulled reported that the Christmas tree had been organised. Arrangements were made for its erection and decoration. The question of whether draft minutes should be published was raised. Agreed: that the clerk look at what guidance is provided about this.

**626/12/14.8 Items for discussion.**

1. TAP fund. Cllr O’Brien reported that she was arranging quotations for gulley cleaning work. The cut-off date of January / February for applications under the TAP scheme was noted. Agreed: that Cllrs Peek and O’Brien liaise in order to identify where work should take place.
2. Budget. This was agreed unanimously. The need to raise funds for the continued leasing of the defibrillator was noted.
3. Precept. After discussion, it was agreed unanimously that the new Parish Precept be set at £4,054.34.
4. Jubilee Garden allotments. North Devon Council were seeking to divest themselves of legal responsibilities with regard to this. The Chairman and clerk had met the NDC officer responsible who was in the process of contacting allotment holders and suggesting that they form a management committee that would liaise with the Parish Council.
5. The new Voters Register had been received and was lodged with the clerk.
6. Road Review. Cllr Bulled gave a précis of her report which she had sent to County Council, after consultation and input from the Parish Council. Following on from this the clerk reported that South West Highways were looking to carry out a pilot scheme in North Molton to see which if any roads could be downgraded i.e. have less maintenance carried out on them. He was looking for Parish Councillors to assist him. Agreed: that Cllrs Bulled and Cllr Peek carry this forward on behalf of the Parish Council.

**627/12/14.9 Chairman’s report.**

Re the memorial on the road between North and South Molton erected by members of the family of two men killed in an accident there. The chairman had discussed this with Mr Sables of South West Highways. Apparently, Mr Sables had a remit for dealing with such matters and would be prepared to contact the family asking for something less distracting to motorists and more in keeping with the local environment. It was agreed that he be asked to do this.

The chairman had looked at the earth bank near Lower Poole Farm as requested at the last meeting. The bank was about three feet high. Agreed: that the height of the bank be reviewed in another six months.

**628/12/14.10 Planning.**

Planning approved: None.

Planning declined: None.

Applications received for consideration.
Forestry Commission, hedgerow felling/laying Barham Farm. No objections. Exmoor National Park 62/49/14/0034 LB. Heasley House, Heasley Mill, replacing a UVPC window with a hardwood one and other work. No objections. NDDC 58483. Listed building application for conversion of a barn to form one dwelling and one office/store at Higher Poole Farm, Fore Street. No objections.


NDDC 58501. Agreed: that Planning Department be asked to extend the consultation period for one month so that councillors could familiarise themselves with the application.

629/12/14.11 Finance


2. Receipts. None.

3. Payments: Clerks salary £142.78 plus contribution to telephone costs, £10, total £152.78. Agreed.

630/12/14.12 Correspondence.

The clerk presented the Local Government Boundary Commission: Electoral review of Devon. It was felt that this was unlikely to impact upon the work of the Parish Council.

The clerk read out a letter received by North Devon Council planning department. This was a petition received by them in favour of application 58144.

The clerk read out a letter from Mr and Mrs R Hill: This was a response by them to amended planning application 57449.

Community News request for financial support. Agreed; that the Parish Council not offer a contribution.

Correspondence between Mr D Clark and the Chairman regarding planning applications and the North Molton Development Boundary.

631/12/14.13 Reports

Laurels Playground was in good order. It was agreed that Cllr Stanley would use a leaf blower/sucker provided by Cllr Peek to tidy the playground.

Cllr Dunn reported on the Parish Forum he had attended and warned that huge cuts would continue to be made in the budget of North Devon Council for the foreseeable future. This would have an impact upon what service they could provide.
Cllr Bulled reported on a meeting of the Exmoor Parish Forum she had attended.

**632/12/14.14 Matters brought forward by the District or County Councillor.**

None.

**Date and time of next meeting.**
Special meeting Wednesday 17th December 2014, 7.30pm North Molton Victory Hall. Usual meeting Wednesday 14th January 2015, 7.30pm North Molton Victory Hall.

Emails to North Devon District Council Planning Department.

**Re 57449. The Parish Council voted against supporting this development. The council noted in particular: - its overbearing visual impact on the rest of the village,**

--- the inadequate and substandard road access,

--- the inclusion in the Visual and Landscape assessment of a reference to "Mixed development" which had not previously featured and which, it was feared, would lead to the inclusion of industrial development of some sort on the land,

---- a wide-spread concern that noise from the Sports Club could lead to complaints from any residents of the new development which in turn could have a severe negative impact upon the Sports Club, which is an important part of the village.

**RE 57625,**

The Parish Council agreed this application, noting that previous observations from the PC had been taken into account, and that the number of proposed dwellings had been reduced. In order to limit disruption from traffic, the council suggests that the issue of access should be considered in two parts by the planners 1) **Construction traffic** which should be routed from the northern side of the village so as to keep construction traffic out of the village as much as possible. 2) **Residential access** for people living on the development.

The council remains concerned about the impact upon one particular village resident whose existing garage, according to the plans, will be directly facing a junction and its access severely limited. You will wish to note that the applicant has stated that this issue will be raised with the architect.