MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
12th FEBRUARY 2014 IN THE NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL

Present Councillor Stanley (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Procter, Councillor Gammon, Councillor O’Brien, Councillor Bulled and the Clerk. County Councillor Yabsley joined the meeting at 7.50.

481/2/14 Apologies Cllr Edgell, on holiday.

482/2/14 Declaration of Interests None.

483/2/14 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary No police representatives were present. Their information had previously been sent to the Clerk, but was not available on the night.

484/2/14 Representations from the public

The following representations had been received. Dog mess around the Oakford Villas area. The dog warden had been informed. It was obvious that someone was regularly allowing their dog(s) to foul this area. Agreed: Councillor Gammon to arrange for more signs in that area, if possible. The Chairman pointed out that prosecutions were an option once the person(s) responsible had been identified.

Graffiti in the bus stop in the church square. Agreed: that Mrs. Lynch be recompensed the cost of suitable paint for painting over the graffiti.

Speeding traffic causing a danger to pedestrians at the junction of Fore Street with Old Road. A request for some form of traffic calming, possibly involving a raised kerb and chicane was received. The need to retain access for the occasional use of lorries was noted. It was pointed out that the Old Road had not yet been re-surfaced and that the road works were funded by the developer of Lower Poole. Agreed: clerk to contact Devon County Council Highways and request traffic calming measures.

485/2/14 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on 8th January 2014. Approved as amended.

486/2/14 Clerks Report The various representations raised at the last meeting had been brought to the attention of Mr Sables, Devon County Council Highways Team.

Mr White had withdrawn the offer to store salt as part of the Snow Warden scheme as the land in question was not suitable. After discussion, it was agreed that the absence of suitable storage in the centre of the village meant that membership of the Snow Warden scheme was not possible. The proposed move of a salt bin from the approach road to the Sports Club to a more central location had already been cancelled. Agreed: the need for suitable storage for salt be advertised on the village website.

An invoice for a defibrillator had been received and would be paid within the next day or so.

It was agreed that future agendas and minutes would include an item about Laurels Playground having been checked for safety. This was to satisfy insurance responsibilities.
**487/2/14 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda**

The clerk had been in touch with B and Q re Christmas lights and was awaiting a reply.

**488/2/14 8. Items for Discussion**

i) Public presentation and vote on proposed development of land to the west of North Molton Primary School. *Due to public interest (about 70 members of the public were present), this item was dealt with immediately after item 2 on the agenda.*

Jane Terry of Bell-Cornwell planning consultants and her colleague Simon Steel-Perkins gave a 20 minute presentation on the above. This was followed by a question and answer session, a debate and then a vote on whether or not the land in question should be included in the draft Local Plan for North Molton, as being available and suitable for development. Points raised included: The development was at a very early stage of planning and was as yet no more than an early concept. The number of houses, their design, density and tenure was not yet known. The land could accommodate 50 -60 in total, a “probable” figure was 30 – 50. The aesthetic aspects of the site (trees, hedges, amenity spaces etc) could be guaranteed by various legal methods so that future development would not be possible on those areas. The development would form part of Mr Stucley’s (the land-owner), legacy to the village and was “not just building for profit”.

The subsequent vote was FOR 24, AGAINST 31.

ii). A response to the North Devon Council’s draft North Molton chapter of the Local Plan was discussed in the light of the above. Agreed: The clerk to respond to NDC with agreed amendments to the draft chapter which would be published on the village website.

**489/2/14 9. Chairmen’s Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman**

**490/2/14 10. Planning**

Applications approved – 56551 Light Industrial Units at land adjoining Oakford Villas, North Molton.

Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.
Applications for consideration. NDDC56919 Erection of one poultry unit at Burcombe Farm, North Molton. No objections.

NDDC 56949 First floor extension to dwelling at Moulton House, East Street, North Molton. No objections.

491/2/14 11.Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £4,959.75 as at 31st January.

Balance of Business saver account stands at £4,895.38 as at 31st January

i) Receipts – £720 Refund for work not carried out at Laurels Playground.

ii) Payments: £65.00 to ROSPA annual inspection of playground. Hucknett £1731.00 last payment for equipment in the playground. Defibrillator £1600. Clerks salary £178.38 plus contribution to telephone costs £10 total £188.38. All the above payments were agreed.

iii) A sum of £20 to assist the Youth Club in their annual clean-up of the village was agreed. To be paid in the new financial year.

Councillor O’Brien left at 10.05.

492/2/14 12.Corrrespondence

a. Invitation to the Mayor’s Ball, Barnstaple.

b. Exmoor National Park Authority. Call for potential housing sites in the National Park to be notified to them. Agreed: that the clerk forward this to the Heasley Mill Village Hall committee.


d. Old School Hall committee, requesting a representative from the PC to attend a meeting at which an increase in fees, and possible changes to the constitution, would be discussed. Agreed: Councillor Dunn to attend.

e. A letter from resident complaining about the amount of litter on the road from North to South Molton. He asked if volunteers could be organised to clear it. Agreed: the clerk to contact Devon County Council Highways, again, re this matter. Previous enquiries had shown the practical and legal difficulties in using volunteers in this way.

f. North Molton Boots in Bloom. Mr Boddington of the Poltimore Inn advised the council that a number of gardening enthusiasts would be advertising and running the above group. The hope was to help make the village more colourful in summer. Judging would take place in July. An organising meeting, open to all, would take place on 22nd Feb, 10.30 am at the Poltimore Inn.
**493/2/14 13.Reports** Councillor Stanley undertook to act as Chairman of the PC until the AGM in May unless there were any objections. No objections. Cllr Dunn offered to act as Vice Chairman, this was agreed.

Councillor Stanley reported on the Town and Parish Fund. An application for funds had not been made last year, this was regrettable as it represented a missed opportunity. However, an application would be made this year which should pay for two workmen making two visits, each of a day and a half, spraying weeds in the village. He undertook to continue liaising with South Molton council about this.

Councillor Dunn reported that the recent Sports Club AGM recorded a 40% drop in turnover during the past year.

The Chairman asked that the council’s thanks to ex-Councillor White be recorded. His experience and skills would be much missed by the Parish Council and it was hoped that he would be able to rejoin the council at some time in the future.

**494/2/14 14.Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor**

None.

**Date and Time of Next meeting** Wednesday 12th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall.
Meeting closed 10.30pm