MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
8TH JANUARY 2014 IN THE NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL

Present  Councillor White (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Stanley, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Procter, and the Clerk

467/1/14 1. Apologies  Councillors Gammon and O’Brien due to work commitments. District Councillor Edgell on holiday and County Councillor Yabsley at another meeting.

468/1/14 2. Declaration of Interests  None.

469/1/14 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

A road traffic collision at Aller Cross in Simonsbath. One complaint of noise, referred to the Environmental Health Agency. A damaged vehicle parked in the street. One call from a member of the public concerned about the welfare of a relative, which proved groundless. An injured dog on the A361, taken to a vet. A barn fire at Brinsworthy Farm.

An alleged burglary at a private garage, via an insecure door, just off the A399. A diamond ring and a GPS system were reported stolen.

In South Molton, a burglary at two commercial properties.

The police establishment in South Molton was due to be increased by three police officers.

470/1/14 4. Representations from the public  A blocked drain in East Street was reported. A blocked ditch near the Sports Club was also reported. Potholes in various roads were discussed and Mr Sables, from the Neighbourhood Highway Team of Devon County Council clarified the definition of a pothole. In order to justify repairing it, it had to be a minimum of 30 millimetres deep and 300 millimetres wide. Mr Sables reported that, following the numerous complaints he had received from the Parish Council, and private individuals, repairs to some part of New Road linking North and South Molton were scheduled to take place. He was unable to give a date.

471/1/14 5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th December 2011  The minutes were accepted unanimously.

472/1/14 6. Clerks Report  South West Highways and North Devon Homes had been written to about various road and pathway issues raised at the last meeting.

473/1/14 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

With regard to the defibrillator machine that was to be housed at the Poltimore Inn, the clerk asked for clearance to order an external cabinet to house it. This would mean that the machine would be in the porch and available for use at all time. Cost would be £720.00. This expenditure was agreed.

474/1/14 8. Items for Discussion

(Councillor Gammon joined the meeting at 9.15pm).
i) The Community Infrastructure Levy, previously circulated to all councillors, was discussed. It was agreed that the council had no constructive alterations to suggest.

ii) Snow Warden scheme. Mr Sables confirmed that any salt provided would need storing on dry ground, under shelter. It was agreed that a one ton pallet of salt be delivered to the Chairman who, after necessary training, would act as Snow Warden. Also agreed, that a salt bin near the Sports Club be relocated to the Oakford Villas area. *(Clerk’s note. The offer to store the salt was later withdrawn as the land in question was likely to be unsuitable. As a result of this, the relocation of the salt bin was postponed).*

iii) Christmas lights. It was agreed that another two strings of lights with the necessary extension leads were required. The clerk was instructed to contact South Molton Town Council to see if they had any surplus lights that could be used. The chairman thanked Councillor Procter and Mr McCarthy for their help in arranging the tree and the electricity supply. In response to a suggestion from a member of the public, he undertook to contact Homebase store, as they may have Christmas lights which would otherwise be thrown out.

iv) The Parish Council’s response to the draft North Molton chapter of the proposed North Devon Local Plan was discussed. The chairman gave the background to the Local Plan, and the discussions that had already taken place about it, including a pubic meeting in May 2013 at which over 50 members of the public had voted on how North Molton should develop in future. A response to the proposed Plan had been agreed by the Parish Council and submitted. That response had been included in the draft North Molton chapter which had now been sent back to the Parish Council for final consultation.

Mr Peter Stucley informed the council that he wished to develop land next to the school, up to a maximum of forty properties, and would like another public consultation at which this could be considered. He asked that this be held before the Parish Council responded to the draft chapter. The chairman pointed out that North Devon Council required a reply by 7th February. It was agreed that a development of the size under discussion would warrant calling another public meeting at which the views of the community could be sought. *(Clerk’s note: NDC later agreed to extend slightly their deadline so that the Parish Council meeting on 12 February could discuss and vote on this matter).*

It was agreed that the draft chapter needed amending to include:

- Properties in the Lower Poole development in any planned future expansion of the village.
- That the need for a Development Boundary in North Molton was to be discussed at a public meeting.
- The need for a gas supply to the village.
- The need for a school crossing of some sort. *(The clerk was instructed to research employing a part-time crossing supervisor in conjunction with the Primary School)*.

475/1/14 9.Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

The chairman thanked Councillor Stanley for chairing the last meeting, which he had felt unable to attend due to a possible conflict of interest regarding planning matters.
476/1/14 10. Planning


Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration: Conversion of store to living/garden room at Badgers Brook, North Molton. No objections were raised.

477/1/14 11. Finance

Balance of Community account was £4,448.13 as at 31st December 2013

Balance of Business Saver account was £4,870.38 as at 31st December 2013

i) Payments

a) Clerks salary £178.38 contribution to telephone costs £10 total £188.38. Agreed unanimously.

ii) With regard to the Parish Precept, it was agreed unanimously that it should be set at £4,101.00. Also agreed, in response to a suggestion from a member of the public, that the Parish Council agendas be placed on the village website in future.

iii) It was agreed that £200.00 for community projects be ring-fenced in future budgets.

478/1/14 12. Correspondence

i) North Devon Voluntary Service. Grants available for a range of activities.

ii) Work by Parish Lengthsmen, planned for 4th to 7th March, postponed because of the need to repair damage caused by recent bad weather.

iii) A 3-dimensional model of All Saints Church had been constructed by local resident Mark Ayre and placed on Google Earth. He asked that anyone with access to accurate measurements or architectural details of the church contact him.

479/1/14 13. Reports

Councillor Stanley had been in contact with South Molton Town Council regarding the Town and Parish (TAP) fund. In preparation for joint weed-killing operations, spraying equipment had been bought and weedkiller would be purchased soon. He undertook to keep in contact with Mr Coates regarding money left in the fund.

480/1/14 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor

None

Date and Time of Next meeting: Wednesday 12th February 2014 North Molton Victory Hall 7:30pm. Meeting closed 10:00pm