MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th JUNE 2014 IN
THE VICTORY HALL

Present Councillor Stanley (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Gammon, Councillor Bulled, Councillor O’Brien and the Clerk

535/6/14 Apologies Cllr Procter, prior engagement, and District Councillor Edgell, attending another meeting. Accepted unanimously. Absent, no apologies, County Councillor Yabsley.

536/6/14 2.Declaration of Interests None.

537/6/14 3.Devon and Cornwall Constabulary The only reported crime was the theft of building equipment and gear from the Rock and Rapid centre, taken sometime over the weekend of May 23-26.

Police had received two calls regarding a concern for the welfare of an individual, who it transpired was quite well. There had been one domestic incident and one ongoing dispute between neighbours which would be dealt with by North Devon Homes. A vehicle on the A361 near Borners Bridge had had a tyre blow out.

538/6/14 4. Representations from the public The phone box in The Square badly needed cleaning. Agreed: Cllrs Bulled and Stanley would clean it.

539/6/14 5.Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM of North Molton Parish Council held on 7th May 2014 and approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th May 2014

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting – Approved unanimously.

Minutes of the AGM meeting – Approved unanimously.

Minutes of the Meeting of 14th May 2013 – Approved, as amended, unanimously.

540/6/14 6.Clerks Report

Re parking in The Square. The clerk read out the travel plan submitted by owners of the Libra school at the time of applying for planning permission. Agreed: that the clerk write to Libra school suggesting alternative parking arrangements.

Re Laurels Playground. Wire netting that had been hanging into the playground had been moved and was no longer a problem. Agreed: that the clerk write to the feofees of the Old School informing them of this. Also agreed: that the council should decline the feofees request to erect a sign instructing users of the playground not to enter the Old School building. Clerk to inform feofees accordingly.

A brief report from Mr Smith of the North Molton Charity had been received. The charity was effectively defunct, with no activity during the past year. Funds amounted to £1355.00. Mr Smith was not prepared to undertake any more work for the charity.

Richard Blackmore, the new Chairman of the Old School Management Committee had sent a short report. Barbara Cropper remains as treasurer and Lucy Perry as secretary. The past year had been dominated by complex electricity bills, although this issue seems now to have been resolved. Hire charges for rooms had risen slightly but were still affordable to local users. The role of the Committee remained to promote the use of the Old School rooms for the benefit of the local community. It was not proper to give a financial report at that stage.

As requested, the clerk had contacted the council’s insurers who confirmed that the Boots in Bloom initiative had no insurance implications for the council.

541/6/14 7.Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

Weeds and thistles in the Roberts Field area had been cut
542/6/14. 8. Items for Discussion

i) Rural Plan. The need to place the council’s views and responses to the draft Rural Plan in the minutes of the Parish Council was discussed. Agreed, with one vote against: that the Parish Council’s response to the Rural Plan, dated 15th May 2013, and the response to the draft North Molton chapter, dated 23 February 2014, both recorded on the village website, be accepted as being a true record of the wishes of the village and of the Parish Council. The documents are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

ii) Emergency Plan. It was agreed that the Emergency Plan should contain the contact details of all Parish Councillors and be distributed to all notice-boards in the village. Also that a record be kept of the distribution.

iii) Register of Interests. Councillors were asked to review their entries and to ensure they were up to date before they were placed on the village website, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

iv) Recording meetings. Agreed: that future meetings be audio recorded for a trial period of three months. Also: that the clerk be allowed to purchase the necessary equipment, up to a maximum of £100.

v) Video. Agreed: that the clerk compose a form of words to advise people of their right to video meetings.

vi) Footpath’s Warden report. The clerk presented the report by Sheila Coe. It had been submitted to North Devon Council.Agreed: that the clerk contact relevant landowners or users about issues raised in the report. Also: that the clerk and Sheila Coe pursue possible funding for repairs where necessary.

vii) Audit. The clerk reported that the annual internal audit had been completed. The following points needed to be addressed before the paperwork could be sent away for an external audit:

The clerk had been overpaid £27.00. Proposed: that this be reimbursed.

Two sets of minutes had not been signed. Proposed: that these be signed.

A typographical error meant that a refund noted as £720 was in fact £780. Proposed: that this be noted and amended.

A donation toward the cost of the defibrillator had wrongly been recorded under Items for Discussion instead of Finance. Proposed: that this be amended.

£55.00 payment for the village website had been agreed in principle, but specific agreement was not recorded. Proposed: that specific agreement be given that the sum had been correctly paid.

All the above proposals were agreed unanimously. The audit would now be sent to the external auditors.

543/6/14 9. Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

The monthly inspection of Laurels playground had shown that the wooden gate to the playground was broken. Agreed: that the clerk arrange for estimates to replace it with a metal one. The sign warning people not to climb on the goal, which had been required by the insurers, was ready and would shortly be fixed to the goal.

Hedgerows to the west of The Square had been cut by residents and the area now looked very good.

544/6/14 10. Planning

Applications approved -- NDDC 57327 Erection of agricultural building at Brinsworthy Farm, South Molton.

Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration: NDDC 57282. Insertion of a fish pass onto the North Molton weir on the River Mole. No objections were raised.
ENP62/49/14/002 Proposed extension to an existing agricultural building. Part retrospective. Lower North Radworthy Farm, Heasly Mill. No objections were raised.

Applications received after preparation of agenda: None.

545/6/14 11.Finance

Community account stands at £ 4,101.12 as at 30th May 2014

Business saver account stands at £ 4,995.99 as at 30th May 2014

i) Receipts – £27.00 from the clerk re item vii) above

ii) Payments

a) Clerks salary £124.98 plus contribution to telephone costs £10, total £134.98.

b) Community First Insurance £336.61. A previous invoice for £267.15, which had been paid, had not included tax and administration fee. The previous cheque had been returned.

c) Internal auditor, £20.

d) £12.00 re-imbursement to Cllr Stanley for purchase of sign for playground

a) to c) agreed, unanimously. d) agreed, with one abstention.

546/6/14 12.Corrrespondence

Email from feoees re Old School building

Letter from North Molton Charity.

Community First Insurance.

All dealt with in the clerk’s report.

547/6/14 13.Reports, including monthly inspection of Laurels Playground

Apart from the broken gate, the playground was in good order.

Cllr Bulled reported a proposal that in future there would be direct elections to Exmoor National Park governing body. Free workshops and advice for farmers continued to be provided.

Cllr Dunn reported that some of the wooden plant holders in the square needed repair and that one had been smashed, probably by a car hitting it. He would try to arrange for them to be repaired. Also, a hedge in the Oakford Villas area needed trimming. A member of the public present volunteered to do this.

With regard to the Parish Forum that he had recently attended on behalf of the council. The Local Plan consultation period was due to begin at the end of June. The council would need to review the document and reply on behalf of the parish. NDC budget savings would be helped by leaving their present building and investing in new recycling vehicles. NDC were still looking to reduce staff. No major changes to council tax were planned and the Parish Grant would not be decreased.

Leaflets advertising Leader Funding for rural areas were also available. Agreed: that these should be displayed.

Grass cutting on a bank outside 1 Mole Cottage had taken place but the work had not been done thoroughly. Agreed: that the clerk contact North Devon Homes to establish who pays for such work.

Cllr Dunn provided some anti-dog fouling leaflets. Agreed: that the village shop be asked to display some. She reported that the speed limit sign at the bottom of Holdridge Lane had not been replaced following building work there. Agreed: that the clerk ask that South West Highways reinstate it.
It was noted that damage to a wall in Jubilee Gardens had not yet been repaired.

548/14 14.Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor

Date and Time of Next meeting 9th July North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.40 pm

Appendix


1) The services and facilities information provided for the settlement have been reviewed and there are no amendments proposed

2) The Parish Council agrees with the proposed classification of the settlement in the draft Local Plan policy ST06 as a Local Centre.

3) The community has been engaged as part of this rural settlement planning exercise.

4) The proposals of the Rural Plan were advertised at the Annual Parish Meeting. At the Parish Council meeting a week later (15/05/13) fifty four local residents attended to hear the background to the Plan, and it’s likely effect upon North Molton village. Their views were actively canvassed before and during the meeting and this response is based upon the views expressed, and voted upon, by the public.

5) The Parish Council has not prepared a 'Vision' or 'Objectives' for the settlement, other than this response.

6) The Parish Council proposes that any further development of the settlement should be confined to NMO/025and the area of land lying between Longbarn/Holdridge lane/ the Sports Club/and Old Road; this area of land is not currently shown on the SHLAA map but a submission for it to be included has been lodged. During the meeting (see para;4), the overwhelming majority of those attending were firmly against any development on the parcels of land lying to the west of the village (NMO/421-422-045) as being out of character for a village on the edge of Exmoor, They were equally in favour of the development taking place on the land outlined above; development here is seen to be a natural infill between NMO/172-3 and the Sports club, with ready access to the existing sewage network (which will need
upgrading), a chance to upgrade Old Road as far as the Sports Club
& to improve direct access to the School, and to provide some areas for community
space & landscaping.
7) The Parish Council proposes that some 50-60 dwellings should be delivered to the
settlement over the plan period to 2031. This is slightly greater (12 – 15%) than the
minimum level proposed in the settlement planning pack of 10% for a Local Centre.
It was felt however that this level would produce a sufficient increase in the
population to maintain the current level of services provided to the community and
would help the School pupil intake.
8) It is understood that current housing policy should provide for one third affordable
housing within any new development. The Parish Council would seek to retain this
ratio, subject to development constraints, and would also encourage the provision of
some 'self-build' plots.9) The Parish Council is proposing delivery of Employment, Community
Facilities
and Infrastructure.
These comprise:
a) Landscaping, garaging, parking and housing density all need to be co-ordinated in
order to maintain the rural appearance and atmosphere of the village. It is felt that the
current 'minimum' housing density of 30 per hectare is too high for a rural settlement
and should be reduced to 20/ha and to include a wide range of house types so as to
attract an equally wide range of potential residents, from small 'maisonette' type
starter homes to large 4/5 bedroom houses for the professional family. It is felt very
strongly that the new properties should reflect the style and design of the existing
dwellings in the village, and not be, quote; 'ugly little boxes'.
b) The sewerage system in North Molton is already overstretched. Assertions by the
Environment Agency that the present arrangements are adequate are not believed by
the community. Any new development would have to take this into account.
c) The road from North Molton to the A361(New road) is already in need of repair.
Any additional traffic would increase the degradation of the surface and the subsidence that has occurred, further Highway improvement would be needed, and this should include upgrading the A361 junction at Borners Bridge. There could also be an opportunity for a gas supply to be brought to the village.

d) The Parish Council would seek commuted payments to uprate the road connecting the village to the Sports and Community club, to improve public transport links to South Molton (Present public transport is barely adequate, not “good” as described in the SHLAA), to provide for amenity space/woodland/allotments.

e) A street crossing outside the school and improved access and parking at the school would also be sought, possibly with a new link from the southern side of the school site to 'Old Road'/'Sports club', see para;6.

f) The Parish Council reflects the expressed view of the community that some light industrial units should also be allowed on the outskirts of the village, in order to offer employment and reduce commuting. In this context, “light industrial” is understood to be as defined in the planning guidelines as category B1, ie tailored for, and compatible with, a residential area. Any queries regarding this planning exercise, or the information provided in this document, should be addressed to:- Nigel Penfold, Parish Clerk

gelpenfold@aol.com or;- Graham White, Chairman, Parish Council, grawhite54@btinternet.com

UPDATE 23rd February 2014

Below is the response of North Molton Parish Council to the draft NM chapter of the Local Plan.

The draft North Molton chapter should be amended as follows:

1. The Development Boundary for North Molton should be left as it is except for the inclusion of land at NMO 025 for which planning has already been approved.

2. A proposal was put to the community that land at NMO 045 be included in the draft plan. This was debated at length with representatives of interested parties and a vote was taken. The result was 31 against and 24 for the proposal. Land at NMO 045 should therefore not be included in the draft plan.

3. Properties in the Lower Poole Development should be included in calculating the overall numbers in any planned future expansion of the village.

4. Include the need for a gas supply to the village and the need for a school crossing of some sort outside the Primary School.

5. The draft local chapter refers to land at NMO 1 as being allocated for 15 houses. Planning permission has been granted for Light Industrial use only on this site and this should not be changed