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

Present Councillor Stanley (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Procter, Councillor Gammon, and the clerk.

County Councillor Yabsley arrived later.

495/3/14 1. Apologies District Councillor Edgell, on holiday.

496/3/14 2. Declaration of Interests None.

497/3/14 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary A representative was unable to attend the meeting but the following items had previously been passed to the clerk.

Since the last meeting there had been one domestic incident which resulted in an assault, one ongoing “Neighbour issue”, and a collision between two vehicles on the road between North and South Molton.

At the previous meeting (12.2.14) the following issues should have been reported by the clerk, but due to an oversight, were not.

A complaint of noisy neighbours, and quad bikes being ridden in woodland without permission, resulted in words of advice being given by police, and one minor anti-social behaviour issue which has also, hopefully, been resolved with advice. Additionally, an offence under the Communications Act was investigated with a suspect being interviewed and no further action taken. A drink-driver who was also in possession of cannabis was charged and will be attending court. Another drink-driver was tested and the result of the blood test was awaited. Finally, a wallet had been taken from an insecure vehicle.

498/3/14. 4 Representations from the public Alan Boddington briefed the council on the Boots in Bloom scheme which, it was hoped, would help make the village more colourful. People were being encouraged to plant flowers in boots and display them. Judging would take place in the first week of July. It may be that photographs of the displays could be incorporated into a calendar.

Cllr Gammon reported that dog mess in the Oakford Villas area had been reported to the local Dog Warden. Also that a blocked gully outside Jubilee Gardens remained blocked in spite of having been treated by Devon County Council Highway’s workmen. Basically the workmen had not spent enough time on the job. Agreed: that the clerk report this to DCC Highways.

It was reported that dogs at a property in Mole View were causing concern to passers-by, again. Agreed: that the clerk write to North Devon Homes and County Councillor Yabsley, who was on the board of NDH.
499/3/14.5 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th February 2014  The minutes, as amended, were accepted unanimously.

500/3/14. 6. Clerks Report

The school had been contacted about the possibility of using a crossing supervisor to help ensure children’s safety crossing the road outside the school. The Governors’ were still against using a volunteer in case he/she were ever unable to work. The school was not able to pay for a supervisor. Agreed: that the clerk make enquiries of North Devon Council about them employing a supervisor.

Mr Sables of NDC Highways team had been in contact to point out that there was already a salt bin in Oakford Villas and turning down the council’s request for another one.

501/3/14. 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

Cllr Dunn had not been able to attend the Old School meeting to which the council had been invited. He understood however that the feofees and the committee had agreed a division of responsibility regarding paying bills. The clerk reported that the hire fees for the old School Hall would go up to £10 per session.

502/3/14. 8. Items for Discussion

i)  Defibrillator. This had been due to be delivered on 17th March, but the Ambulance Service had made an error in the invoicing which meant that it would be delayed.

ii) Footpath Inspector. The current footpath inspector had been in contact to say that she may be having hip surgery and would therefore be unable to carry out the annual survey of footpaths. Agreed: that the role be advertised and volunteers requested.

503/3/14. 9. Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

The chairman reported that on 6th March he and Councillor Bulled attended a site meeting with NDC planning department. The proposal referred to 25 houses being built on a field near Back Lane. Access had previously been a problem but the proposal suggested that entry could be via Oakford Villas with some garages being demolished to provide the necessary access. In return, North Devon Homes would be given an interest in the development.

There was a discussion about the provision of sheltered accommodation for the benefit of elderly residents being included in any future developments. Advice from NDC planning unit was that there was a better chance of ensuring such properties were included in a development if that development were outside the development boundary.
The Chairman noted that there was some confusion between the Parish Council and the Planning Policy Unit of North Devon Council regarding the Parish Council’s response to the Local Plan. He gave the background and chronology of the Local Plan. He noted that it had been agreed by the Parish Council that the Development Boundary be retained, including sites NMO 1 (land owned by Mr White) and 2 (land owned by Mr Fanthorpe). There was discussion about whether this was what had been agreed and where the DB should be drawn. Cllr Dunn and Cllr Bulled disputed the chairman’s perception of the decision at the previous meeting about the Development Boundary. Cllr Dunn proposed that a vote be taken, to exclude plot NMO 2. There was no seconder. It was agreed that the Chairman and clerk would speak to the Policy Planning Unit about this and other matters.

The Chairman went on to say that the Planning Policy Unit had included provision for seven houses on land immediately North of the site to the West of the village that at a public meeting the community had agreed should be used for Light Industrial Use only. (Designated NMO 1 at the time). He and the clerk would be speaking to the PPU about this. County Councillor Yabsley pointed out that North Devon Council were being pressurised by the government to release land for housing and that the Parish Council had only an informative role in the process. Final decisions would be taken by the NDC Planning Department.

504/3/14. 10.Planning

Applications approved:

Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration:

NDDC 56997 Vertical slate cladding of the southwest and southeast elevations at the Old Chapel, Molland Cross. Approved unanimously.

505/3/14. 11.Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £4,525.90 as at 28th February 2014

Balance of Business Saver account stands at £4,920.38 as at 28th February 2014

Figures for last month had been incorrectly reported and should have read:

Community account £4,959.75, Business Savers £4,895.38 and not the figures shown in the agenda.

Receipts – £1,462.00 s. 106 monies towards equipment for Laurels Playground.

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

**506/3/14. 12. Correspondence**

a. A letter from Bell Cornwell, Town Planners, recording their impressions of the Parish Council meeting of 12th February had been passed to all councillors.

b. A letter from John Rands suggesting that any future development of North Molton should include provision for sheltered housing for elderly people. This was considered under item 9 above.

c. The Old School Committee had asked for a Parish Council representative to attend their committee meetings. Cllr Dunn volunteered to represent the Parish Council as he would already be attending as a representative of the History Society. Agreed: that the clerk inform the Old School Committee accordingly.

D. Exmoor Society Spring Conference 2014. An invitation to this, cost £15, was circulated.

**507/3/14. 13. Reports**

The Chairman and Cllr Procter had both inspected Laurels Playground and reported that there were no safety issues. However, they noted that there were a lot of dead leaves which needed tidying, the gate was damaged and the rubbish bin was full. Cllr Gammon stated that a couple of local residents had previously been given bin bags on the understanding that they would empty the bin as needed. He undertook to contact them.

The Chairman reported that with regard to the Town and Parish Fund, the financial officer for South Molton had arranged for two employees to spend a day and a half, twice a year, weed spraying and grass trimming in the village, under Cllr Stanley’s direction.

**508/3/14. 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor**

The County Council was reviewing expenditure on the provision of meals for the housebound, youth services and day care. He urged councillors to respond to the various consultation processes going on. The County Council had £25 million less to spend this year than in the previous one, and next year would have another £50 million less. More reductions were planned leading to a cut of £110 million over four years. 20 per cent of council employees were to be cut over the next four years. No change was planned for Beech House for the next eighteen months.

**Date and Time of Next meeting** Wednesday 9th April 2014 at North Molton Victory Hall, 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.45pm.