MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2014 IN THE VICTORY HALL

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

522/5/14 1. Apologies Councillor Yabsley.

523/5/14 2. Declaration of Interests Cllr Bulled re application 57361, as her husband held an agricultural tenancy on the next field next to the proposed site.

524/5/14 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Police informed the council that in the past month there had been thefts from two vehicles with a wing mirror and wheel trims being taken. Also the curtains in a play house at the school had been set on fire. A note of apology containing five pounds was found at the scene.

525/5/14 4. Representations from the Public Complaints were received about clumps of thistles growing on the Lower Pool development area which were likely to spread. Agreed: Cllr Bulled to contact the developer about this.

Staff from the Libra school in Heasley Mill were parking in North Molton square prior to being picked up and driven to the school. This was causing congestion in the square particularly when the church was being used for funerals etc. Agreed: that the clerk contact Exmoor National Park to establish details of the travel plan submitted when the school was built.

Mr Phillips had written to Cllr Bulled objecting to the proposed development on land to the west of the school (application 57361).

526/5/14 5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 10TH April 2013 The minutes, as amended, were accepted, all agreed.

365/5/13 6. Clerks Report The various potholes and road damage raised at the last meeting had been referred to Highways department. It was established that one of the locations reported by the clerk was incorrect and should have been Bendle Cross to Ley Cross (Clerks note: Highways department were later informed of this). Cllr Stanley reported that efforts to persuade householders to prune shrubs on the west of the square had been unsuccessful. Agreed: The clerk to contact SW Highways to see if they could carry out the necessary work.

527/5/14 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

The clerk reported that a change to PAYE regulations meant that the Parish Council was legally required to deduct tax from his monthly payment and pay it to HMRC. He was arranging the mechanics of this. Practical effects were that the monthly amount he asked the council to agree, under items 11, Finance, might vary slightly over the months, and that his salary would be reduced.

The clerk had written to the feofees of the Old School Building about some wire fencing, which may be the responsibility of the feofees, hanging into the playground, and was awaiting a response.
The chairman reported that weed-killing operations funded by the TAP fund, jointly with South Molton Town Council, had taken place the previous week in East Street and part of the Square. More was to be done in the near future.

528/5/14 8. Items for Discussion

1). The Joint Local Plan (encompassing the Rural Plan and Local Plan). The consultation period for this had begun or was due to begin shortly. It was agreed that the pages relevant to North Molton should be put on the village website and people urged to respond to North Devon Council. Also that a notice about it be placed on the main village notice board. Cllr Bulled suggested that it be placed on the side facing the shop as more people were likely to read that side. (Clerk’s note: NDC have since informed the Parish Council that a six week consultation period is due to begin around the beginning of June and that the plan will be available on their website then. A link to the online consultation portal will be provided at that time from the village website and will be advertised).

Cllr Bulled pointed out that although the Parish Council’s response to the Joint Local Plan had been put on the village website it had not been formally adopted into the council’s minutes. Agreed: that the relevant minutes be amended to include the council’s response.

2). Emergency Planning. To be discussed at the next meeting.

529/5/14 9. Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

The chairman suggested that as it was widely agreed that the replacement wall in Broad Close had been well designed and efficiently erected a letter of thanks to those responsible may be in order. Agreed: that the clerk write to Mr Whitton, Head of Highways at NDC to pass on the thanks of the Parish Council.

530/5/14 10. Planning

Applications approved. None Applications refused – none.

Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration: Before considering NDDC 57361, an application to build up to 45 houses on land to the west of the school, the chairman invited Mr Fanthorpe to give an outline of an application he had recently submitted but which had not yet been sent to the Parish Council for comment. Following discussion between councillors, it was agreed that it was proper and reasonable to hear an outline of Mr Fanthorpe’s application so as to be aware of all available options and to put 57361 in context. Cllrs. Edgell and Yabsley pointed out that in order to avoid any clash of interests they were limited to providing information and answering questions. They would be unable to express opinions on what applications could and could not be granted. Mr. Fanthorpe then gave an overview of his application for about 25 houses to be built within the village.

An email from a member of the public, received by the clerk, in connection with 57361, was read out. This pointed out that the statement of Pre-Application and Community Involvement carried out by Waddetton Park, the developers, with regard to their application made no mention of
the public vote, witnessed by their representatives, at which it was decided that
development on that site should not take place. The view expressed in the statement that "
the overall impression of this meeting was that the site was well received" was strongly
contested by the writer who had also been present at the meeting.

A letter from another member of the public, received by Cllr Bulled, was read out. In it, the
writer pointed out a number of objections to the proposed development.

The chairman then called upon a representative of Waddeton Park who was present to
answer queries that might arise during the councillors discussion about the application. The
clerk, at the invitation of the Chairman, then asked a number of questions which established
that:

The Waddeton Park representative together with another colleague not present had both
been at the Parish Council meeting at which the vote previously referred to had been taken.
His colleague had taken notes throughout the meeting with the object of providing an
accurate and unbiased account of what occurred. A vote of members of the public had
taken place, and the result was against any development on the land in question. The vote
had not been mentioned in the Community Involvement statement sent by Waddeton Park
to the Planning Unit of North Devon Council. This was because the representative thought
that it was “not relevant”. He went on to say that in his opinion people at the meeting did
not understand what they were voting on. A member of the public interrupted him at this
point to say that he had been present and knew very well what he had been voting on.

After comments and questions by members of the public the chairman called upon
councillors to vote on the application. It was noted that the school governors had written
that they were in favour of the application being granted. After discussion, the council
voted against the application being granted on the grounds that it did not fit with the Local
Plan and was not in line with the growth the village wanted. There was one abstention.

NDDC 57327 Erection of agricultural building at Lerwil and Kellaway Brinsworthy Farm,
South Molton. Agreed unanimously.

ENP 62/49/14/002 Proposed extension to an existing agricultural building. In the absence of
relevant documents this was put over until the next meeting.

**531/5/14 11. Finance**

Balance of Community account stands at £4,389.10 as at 30th April 2014

Balance of Business saver account stands at £4,970.99 as at 30th April 2014

Receipts - Parish Grant £568.50 Parish Precept £2,050.50, Grant assistance £136.96

Payments-
a) Clerks salary: £124.98 plus contribution to telephone costs £10 total £134.98.
b) Youth Club: £20 to be used toward the annual village clean up.
c) Zurich insurance renewal: £267.15.

532/5/14 12. Correspondence

Draft regulations enabling members of the public to video and audio record Parish Council meetings. Agreed: that the clerk draw up a protocol with regard to this. Also that the clerk research the practicality of audio recording all Parish Council meetings.

Peregrine Mears, architect, re intention to submit planning application for Stags Paddock and Compound.

533/5/14 13. Reports

A First Aid course run by St Johns Ambulance and costing £200 for 14 people is available. Agreed: That Cllr Dunn pass on this information to the Sports Club.

Also agreed: That the clerk enquire about the availability of defibrillator courses.

Cllr Dunn stated that he would be attending a meeting of the Parish Forum, organised by NDC in the near future.

534/5/14 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor.

The District Council have given notice that they are moving out of their Barnstaple office in April 2015.

Date and Time of Next meeting 11th June North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 10.30pm.