MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2014 IN THE OLD SCHOOL.

Present Councillor Stanley (Chairman), Councillor Gammon, Councillor Bulled, Councillor O’Brien and the Clerk. Cllr Dunn and County Cllr Yabsley arrived at 7.40pm. About 45 members of the public were present.

605/11/14.1 Apologies. None.

606/11/14.2 Declarations of interests. Cllr Bulled re application 57449. She no longer had any prejudicial or financial interest with regard to this.

607/11/14.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. No representative present, the clerk had not received a report.

608/11/14.4 Representations from the public. Mr Clark read out objections to the council’s decisions with regard to proposed building developments. He proposed that the Parish Council organise an emergency public meeting at which the pros and cons of the three developments be discussed, under an independent Chairman and Secretary. The council adjourned to consider this and take advice from County Cllr Yabsley. They reconvened at 8 pm. The Chairman advised Mr Clark to organise any such meeting himself and to arrange for any petition to be placed before NDC Planning Committee as soon as possible. The public were then invited to give their opinions on the two applications that were before the council.

57449, land south of Old Barns. Concerns raised included noise from the Sports and Community Centre causing complaints from residents of any development on that site, inadequate access, and the visual impact of the development, and a reference to “Mixed development” in the Land and Visual Impact Assessment, quoted by Mr Clark. All members of the public voted to indicate that they shared these concerns. Cllr Dunn suggested that NDC be asked to perform a study of noise levels from the Sports and Community Centre at various points around North Molton.

57625, land off Back Lane. Concerns raised included parking, access, highway safety, and the mix of social/affordable housing. Of particular concern was the possible effect upon the garage owned by Mr Leaworthy.

The committee then considered representations from the public on other matters.

Cllr Gammon reported a complaint about a hedge and bank that should have been planted as a condition of obtaining permission for the erection of building at Lower Poole. (NDC 55345). Apparently this had not been done. Mr Bulled, the occupier, stated that the bank had been created and had sunk down. He invited the council to inspect it. Agreed: that the site be looked at by members of the council.
Cllr Dunn reported a concern that a memorial on the roadside verge at a crash site between North Molton and the link road, commemorating the death of two young men, was distracting to motorists and could itself be a hazard. Agreed: that the chairman contact the people who had constructed it with a view to it being replaced by something more appropriate to the surroundings.

Cllr Gammon left at 9.25pm.

**609/11/14.5 Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th October 2013.**

Agreed, as amended, unanimously.

**610/11/14.6 Clerk’s report.**
Residents had been written to regarding foliage overhanging the road or footway and they had contacted the clerk to say that the necessary work was being carried out. Councillors noted that overhanging trees were still an issue on some roads just outside the village. The clerk was instructed to contact South West Highways asking them to write to the relevant residents informing them of the possible financial consequences should the trees have to be trimmed by South West Highways.

**611/11/14.7 Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda.**
The clerk reported that he had been threatened with legal action by Cllr Bulled because of a mistake in the draft minutes. He reminded councillors that the purpose of them reading and voting on the minutes was so that any inaccuracies could be corrected. This was the standard procedure used by all councils throughout the country. Draft minutes often contained errors, that was why they were discussed. He asked the council if he was expected to carry out his duties against the background of this sort of behaviour. Agreed: that he was not.

**612/11/14.8 Items for discussion.**
1) **TAP fund.** Agreed, that Cllr O’Brien progress this in consultation with Twitchen Parish.
2) **Budget.** Agreed, to be considered at the next meeting.

3) **Application for grant/precept** Agreed, to be considered at the next meeting.

4) **Jubilee Gardens allotments.** A meeting had been requested by North Devon Council about possibly transferring ownership of the allotments away from NDC. Agreed, to be considered at the next meeting.

**613/11/14.9 Planning.**
Applications granted:  NDDC 57995. Miners Arms, partial demolition and conversion to detached dwelling.

Applications withdrawn: NDDC 58174 and 57880 . Conversion of barn at Higher Poole Farm, Fore St. North Molton.
Applications received for consideration.
Cllr Gammon returned at 10.30.
ENP 62/49/14/003. Proposed agricultural building, Yard Down Cross, North Molton. Noted: ENP appeared unable to provide the exact measurements of the building. However, from what information was available, it appeared reasonable. Agreed, unanimously.

NDDC 57625. Outline planning application for 25 dwellings (amended description and plans) at land off Back Lane / Heasley Mill Road, North Molton.

Agreed, unanimously, noting that previous observations from the PC had been taken into account, and that the number of proposed dwellings had been reduced. In order to limit disruption from traffic, the council suggested that the issue of access should be considered in two parts by the planners 1) Construction traffic which should be routed from the northern side of the village so as to keep construction traffic out of the village as much as possible. 2) Residential access for people living on the development.

The council remained concerned about the impact upon one particular village resident whose existing garage, according to the plans, will be directly facing a junction and its access severely limited.

NDDC 57449 Outline application for 25 dwellings (amended drawings and description) at land to the south of Old House Barns, North Molton.

The council voted unanimously against supporting this application, primarily on the grounds that its attention had been drawn by Mr Clark to the inclusion in the Land and Visual Impact Assessment of a reference to “Mixed development”. The council had been advised that this effectively meant industrial development. It was noted that objections voiced by the public earlier had included concerns about: the overbearing visual impact, substandard access, and possibly negative impact on the viability of the Sports and Community Centre because of noise emanating from the Sports and Community Centre.

Applications received after preparation of the agenda:
NDC 58137. Listed building application to replace a defective beam at Higher Hunstone, North Molton. Agreed, unanimously.

614/11/14.10 Correspondence.

Feofees of the Old School had emailed the clerk about leaves and other litter in Laurels Playground. They were also concerned about damage to their property that may have been caused by users of the playground attempting to recover lost balls. Agreed: Cllr Stanley to research the cost of renting a leaf blower and Cllr Bulled to organise a replacement for the local resident who had in the past helped tidy the playground.
It was noted that the removal of a wire fence by the feeoffees was likely to have resulted in more lost balls from the playground than would previously have been
the case, and that therefore the answer to this particular issue lay in the hands of the
to fees. Agreed: the clerk to reply to this effect.

615/11/14.11 Finance

Barclays community account stands £4,975.50 as at 31 October 2014
Barclays business saver account stands at £5,122.29 as at 31 October 2014
i) receipts; None
ii) Payments –
   * Clerks salary £142.38 plus contribution to telephone costs £10 total £152.38

A motion was proposed to pay the above amounts. All agreed.

616/11/14.12

Chairman’s report/urgent matters brought forward by the chairman
The chairman reported that Laurels Playground needed work to remove dead leaves.
The equipment was in good order.

An anonymous letter had been received, complaining about the use of road side signs
to advertise events in the village. Agreed: The council did not encourage anonymous
complaints of this nature, and that no action be taken.

The chairman asked that the thanks of the Parish Council be recorded for the work
done by the Parish Clerk.

617/11/14.13 Reports
Cllr Bulled agreed to email councillors about the roads conference she had recently
attended and to compile a response on behalf of the Parish Council. She reported that
arrangements were in hand to provide the Christmas tree to be placed in the square.

618/11/14.14 Matters brought forward by the District or County Councillor

None. The meeting closed at 11.30pm.

Date and time of next meeting
Wednesday 10th December 2014 7.30pm North Molton Victory Hall.