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

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

591/10/14 1. Apologies Cllr Proctor, abroad. Approved.

592/10/14 2. Declaration of Interests. Cllr Bulled re. planning application 58144 as her husband rented land adjacent to the proposed development. In response to a query from the clerk, Cllr Bulled stated that the landowner of the proposed development, Mr Peter Stucley was not her landlord.

593/10/14 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. The clerk read a report which stated that in the past month there had been:

One call regarding a family dispute,

A complaint about a tree branch overhanging the main road between North and South Molton

A search for a missing person from another force area. He was found and taken to hospital.

Also, an historic insurance fraud was being investigated and there had been a spate of burglaries of outbuildings in the Chulmleigh and Crediton areas. One person was on bail regarding these. A PCSO had been asked to speak to Libra school regarding taxis to and from the school travelling at excessive speed.

594/10/14 4. Representations from the public

The chairman bought forward planning application 58144, land to the west of the primary school. He gave the background to the application, noting that the land in question had been identified, by the public, as not suitable for development at the time that the Local Plan was being debated and formulated. He mentioned its previous rejection by the Parish Council, in accordance with the votes cast by members of the public at a previous meeting. He explained that North Devon Council had invited the developers to reapply, following an appeal against a development in Chulmleigh. He then asked councillors to express their views on it.

Cllr Edell outlined the effect on the planning process of the appeal by developers involving land in Chulmleigh which limited the scope of the North Devon Council in refusing such developments.

Cllr Bulled spoke in favour of the development. A letter from the developer was read out by the clerk. This outlined possible future arrangements for the management of public land contained in the development.

Mr Steel-Perkins of Waddeton Park outlined the advantages of the proposed development.

A number of representations were heard for and against the application from members of the public. Points raised included:

That the proposed site would have the least impact upon the village of the three currently being planned. That it was supported by the school. That the public had already voted against it.

At 8.45 pm, the chairman thanked all who had spoken and closed this section of the meeting to the public. He then asked councillors to vote on the application. Agreed: that the council reject the application.

595/10/14 5. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th September 2014 Accepted, unanimously.

596/10/14 6. Clerks Report Clerks reported that all instructions about contacting people with regard to representations from the public received at the last meeting had been carried out. North Molton Art Club did not want to become involved in painting a mural in Laurels Playground. Police would be speaking to Libra school about taxis travelling to and from the school at excessive speed. Landowners of property with trees
overhanging and causing a possible obstruction to the roadway had been written to, he had received no reply from them. Cllr Gammon reported that the overhanging trees reported at the last meeting had not been cut back and were still causing a problem. Agreed: that the clerk contact South West Highways, requesting them to cut back the vegetation, and to bill the landowner.

The clerk reported that he had contacted Twitchen and they were willing to apply for joint funding under the TAP fund for gulley and drain clearing.

597/10/14 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on the agenda.

The sign warning of the dangers of climbing on the football goal in Laurels Playground had been replaced.

598/10/14 8. Items for Discussion

i) TAP fund. The clerk undertook to obtain the necessary forms to obtain funding, and to submit the application. He noted that previously, responsibility for organising the resulting work had been that of a councillor. He recommended that the same system be adopted this year.

599/10/14 9. Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

The chairman reported that Laurels Playground appeared in good order. He stated that it was time to organise the usual Christmas tree in the square. Agreed: that Cllr Bulled organise this. Also agreed: that Cllr Gammon be authorised to spend up to £50 on more lights for the tree. The chairman noted that the lower side of the entrance to Jubilee Gardens had some fallen stonework. Agreed: clerk to contact SW Highways.

600/10/14 10. Planning

Planning approved: NDCC 57683 (Erection of agricultural building at South Heasly).

Planning declined: None.

Applications received for consideration:

57880 Conversion of existing barn to form dependant relative’s dwelling annex at Higher Poole Farm, Fore Street, North Molton. No objection.

Exmoor National Park 62/49/14/003 Proposed agricultural building for cattle at Yard Down Cross, North Molton. As the plans for this application had not been provided, the measurements of the proposed building were not known. Agreed: the council was not in a position to comment on the application at this stage and the clerk should ask for the full details to be provided for the next meeting.

Cllr O’Brien left the meeting at 9.10 pm.

601/10/14 11. Finance

Balance of Community account stood at £5,783.28 as at 30th September.

Balance of Business saver account stood at £5,097.29 as at 30th September.

i) Receipts – Notification of payment of the Parish Precept of £2,050.50 and Parish Grant of £568.50 plus grant assistance of £136.95 (total £2,755.95), was received on 26th September.

ii) Payments –

   a) Clerks salary £142.78 plus contribution to telephone costs £10 total £152.78.

   b) £30 to Royal British Legion for Remembrance Day wreath.

   c) £500 to PCC for the burial ground
d) £100 to North Molton Village Hall

e) £100 to Heasley Mill Village Hall.

f) £400 to Victory Hall Toilet fund.

Accounts received after preparation of the agenda.

1. £12.00 for a replacement sign for Laurels Playground.

2. PAYE of £107.03 on the clerk’s salary to HMRC.

Agreed (with one abstention), that all the above be paid.

602/10/14 12. Correspondence

a) NM Victory Hall committee: The Victory Hall will be in use by NOMADS at the date of the next Parish Council meeting. Agreed: That the Old School Building be used.

b) Exmoor Rural Crime Initiative, Exford Village Hall, 15th October.

c) Hastoe Housing Association, forthcoming vacancy in Mays Cottages.

d) Ilfracombe car rally overnight on 25/26th October. Unlikely to affect North Molton.

e) Tough Choices consultation document about future plans for highways in North Devon. Agreed: that the clerk draft a response to this, with input from councillors. Cut-off date for responses was 5th November.

603/10/14 13. Reports

Clr Gammon was in negotiations to provide matting around some of the equipment in Laurels Playground.

He reported that the recent road works carried out on New Road were not up to the expected standard. He reported that the high pavement near Broad Close would benefit from a handrail. Also that cut vegetation had been thrown over a hedge at 1 Mole View, onto the bank and footway. Agreed: clerk to contact Mr Sables of SWH about the first two items and North Devon Homes on the third.

Clr Bulled undertook to email councillors her report on the Highways conference she had attended recently.

Clr Dunn reported overgrown vegetation on property belonging to North Devon Homes in the Oakford Villas area. Also, that sodium bollard lights in the area were too bright and asked that they be turned off in the same way street lights were. Agreed: clerk to contact North Devon Homes.

604/10/14 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor

Councillor Edgell observed that a development site for 23 houses in North Molton had not yet been sold. He pointed out that it was open to the council to ask for a public enquiry into the appeal against planning permission on land to the west of the primary school. Agreed: that the clerk set in motion a request for the appeal to be heard in public so that all interested parties could attend, rather than, as presently planned, a paper-based system, looking only at written submissions.

Clr Edgell mentioned that local council grants were available and must be applied for by January 2015. He urged anyone with a project in need of funds to consider applying for such a grant. Agreed: that the clerk advertise the availability of such funds.

Date and Time of Next meeting 12th November 2014 Old School Hall, 7.30pm
Meeting closed 9.50.