MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2014 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present  Councillor Stanley (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Councillor Procter, Councillor Bulled, Councillor Peek, District Councillor Edgell and the Clerk

577/9/14 1. Apologies  Councillor O’Brien (working). Motion proposed to sanction these absences. All agreed.

578/9/14 2. Declaration of Interests  None

579/9/14 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary  The following report had been received by the clerk.

A complaint of noisy youths following a Young Farmers function at the Sports and Community Centre.

One vehicle had been involved in a collision on the road near Tabor Hill Farm.

A child playing with a phone had dialled 999.

One domestic dispute.

A pony was reported lost, it was later found and reunited with its owner.

A complaint about a dog that had bitten someone who was out running. The dog warden was informed, so far the dog and owner have not been identified.

580/9/14 4. Representations from the public

The chairman reported that Japanese Knotweed was growing along the side of the road near Brinsworthy Cross. Agreed: that the clerk inform South West Highways, and, if appropriate, the Environment Agency.

Councillor Bulled reported that in spite of the new telephone mast at the Sports and Community Centre no mobile phone signal was available in Heasley Mill.

Councillor Gammon reported that the proposed diversion for traffic through North Molton was causing adverse comment and would be largely ignored in favour of the Old Road. Cllr Edgell explained the rationale behind the routing of such diversions and that a road similar in size to that which was closed had to be chosen.

581/9/14 5. Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th August 2014 and the Special Meeting on 27th August.  All agreed.

582/9/14 6. Clerks Report  Clerk reported on an exchange of emails with Libra school following an erroneous report that staff vehicles were still being parked in the centre of the village. The end result was that school staff were parking at the Sports and Community Centre, as they had offered to do.

The clerk had contacted NDDC Planning Department about application 57542, Penswell Cottages, querying why the application had not been sent to the Parish Council. The response was that the work to be carried out was not something that required permission.

The telephone boxes in Heasley Mill and the square in North Molton had been reported to BT as being in need of repair and cleaning.

The North Molton Art Club had been approached and asked to consider painting murals in the Laurels Playground.
7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

Clr Bulled suggested that the phone boxes be used, as had happened elsewhere, as a miniature lending library. The chairman pointed out that the Old School already operated a successful library.

Clr Bulled pointed out that there were no 30mph speed limit signs in Heasley Mill and that traffic going to Libra school often drove too quickly for the road conditions. Agreed: that the police be asked to look at the traffic travelling along the road in question. Also, that Clr Yabsley be asked what were the criteria for a 30mph speed limit.

Clr Bulled passed on queries from the public about why the Parish Council response to application 57625 (dwellings in Back Lane) had expressed concern about access to the site, while this had not featured in the response to 57449, land to the south of Old House Barns. The chairman pointed out that in regard to 57625 the majority of concerns expressed by members of the public, to the Parish Council, and subsequently passed by the Council to the Planning Department, had centred on road access while this had not figured anything like as much in the other application. Clr Edgell also pointed out that application 57449 had specified what access was proposed, while application 57625 had “reserved” the point, which meant, practically, that the access was not decided.

8. Items for Discussion

i) TAP fund. The clerk had been in contact with Twitchen Parish about the two councils obtaining joint funding to clear gulleys and pots and was awaiting a response. Following discussion it was agreed that workmen employed by SW Highways lacked the local knowledge needed to make efficient repairs. Agreed: clerk to contact SW Highways to try and enhance this.

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

The chairman thanked Cllrs Gammon and Proctor for their help in tidying Laurels Playground. Particular thanks were also due to Sherry Lynch who had seen the working party and had joined in. Cllr Gammon was researching the possible use of matting around the play equipment to stop weeds growing.

10. Planning

Planning approved: 57647 Hunters Moon, Heasley Mill.

Applications received for consideration: none.

Applications received after preparation of the agenda. NDDC 57995, change of use of public house to detached dwelling to include partial demolition and alterations at the Miners Arms, East St, North Molton. Agreed: unanimously, but with regret.

11. Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £3,325.11 as at 31.8.14.

Balance of Bonus account stands at £5,071.61 as at 31.8.14.

i) Receipts – none

ii) Payments – Clerks salary £142.78 plus contribution to telephone costs £10 total £152.78. Agreed.

12. Correspondence

An invitation to N. Devon Voluntary Services AGM 24.9.14.

Encompass South West. An outline of the services provided by this charity in the North Molton area, including one to one advice on matters such as debt, money management etc. Details were on the noticeboard outside the village shop, and posters would be distributed to local churches and organisations.

AGM of North Devon Homes 26.9.14, councillors were invited.
11.10.14 Devon Association of Local Councils annual meeting in Exeter, councillors were invited.

North Devon Link Road strategy planning document was available for viewing and comment on the NDC website.

North Molton Primary School had written outlining the number and breakdown of children attending the school and making the point that there were vacancies in a number of year groups. Any perception that the school was “full” was incorrect.

North Devon Journal had asked for information about any objections to the various planning applications made recently. Agreed; that the journalist be referred to the minutes of the meetings.

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The chairman reported that the Laurels Playground was in good order apart from the weeds. Cllr Gammon reported that he would be reaffixing the warning notice that had previously been vandalised.

Cllr Gammon reported that numerous hedges in the area were in need of trimming and were overhanging the roadway. Agreed: that landowners be written to, reminding them of their responsibilities in this regard.

Cllr Proctor asked to tender his apologies in advance of his forthcoming holiday. He would be away until January 2015.

590/9/14 14 Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor

None.

Date and Time of Next Meeting 8th October 2014 North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.20pm