MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th AUGUST 2015
IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present  Councilor Bulled (Chairman), Councilor Dunn, Councilor Gammon, Councilor Procter, Councilor Peek, Councilor O’Brien, Councilor Wallis, Councilor Geen, Councilor Palfreyman, District Councilor Edgell, and the Clerk.

563/8/15 1. Apologies  Councilor Yabsley. Accepted, unanimously.

564/8/15 2. Declaration of Interests  Cllr Dunn re planning application 59574 as he owned adjacent land. Cllr Bulled re the agenda item concerning application 55345 as it referred to property of which her husband was tenant. After discussion it was decided that she should stay in the meeting in order to answer questions about the item.

565/8/15 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary  No police representative was present and no report had been received.

566/8/15 4. Representations from the public  Cllr Procter had received numerous complaints about the overgrown land linking Oakford Villas to Back Lane. Mr Darley who was in the public seats offered to have the overhanging vegetation cut, as he owned the property on both sides of the lane.

Cllr O’Brien had received complaints about dog mess in the village, a perennial complaint. Agreed: The clerk to ascertain the cost of suitable bins and hiring a private contractor to empty them. It was noted that this was not a County Council responsibility.

The clerk read a letter from the Parochial Church Council reporting their concerns about the state of the church yard boundary fence with the Laurels Playground. The wire was broken and rusty and could cause a hazard. Agreed: the fence was on church ground and was therefore a church responsibility. The clerk was instructed to write to the Parochial Church Council to this effect.

567/8/15 5. Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th July 2015  Approved as amended- agreed with two abstentions.


As instructed, the clerk had written to local landowners about vegetation overhanging the road. No reply had been received from one, the other had asked for clarification and been referred to the chairman. The chairman had spoken to both, one had agreed to cut hedges after the 1st of September. District Cllr Edgell noted that the County Council as highway authority had the legal authority to cut hedges and bill the landowner. Agreed; that the relevant hedges be monitored and the matter discussed further at the January 2016 meeting.

The clerk had not progressed the idea of including the council in the police Community Messaging system as details about the method of contact (emails, texts etc) as well as contact details may well not have been suitable for his successor. Agreed: that the new clerk progress this.

The Register of Interests of Parish Councillors had been updated on the council page of the village website. The clerk reminded councillors that it was their responsibility to report any changes these details.
Devon County Council Legal Department had replied to the effect that damage caused to vehicles by unfinished road surfaces at the Roberts Field development would be the legal responsibility of the building developer. It was noted that the County Council had impounded the financial bond made by the developer of Roberts Field and would be using it to pay for road surface work on the stretch of road from the southernmost end of Old House Barns to land owned by Mr Fanthorpe. Agreed: That County Councillor Yabsley be asked to investigate why the County Council was not repairing public road surfaces around the Roberts Field development.

The clerk had written to Mr Tucker of Praunsley Farm passing on the council’s thanks for his upkeep of a public right of way across his land. A letter to another local landowner about damage to a public right of way was still outstanding. Agreed: the clerk to contact the landowner.

The idea of greater liaison between the school governors and the Parish Council had not been progressed: Agreed: Following contact from various councillors with the school authorities the governors were aware that the Council were seeking closer links and that the initiative for realising them now lay with the school.

569/8/15 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

A previous offer to weedspray the Laurels Playground had not materialised in any work being done. However a proposal had been made that in return for funding the necessary licencing costs someone would undertake to weedspray the village for five years. Cllr Bulled undertook to research the likely costs and report at the next meeting.

Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 30th July 2015. Approved as amended with two abstentions. Cllr Wallis queried why there had been two abstentions when the public had demonstrated its majority opinion with a show of hands.

Clerks Report re 30th July Special Meeting.

The Parish Council’s objection to the proposed development had been sent to the Planning Unit.

Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

The clerk drew the council’s attention to a series of emails from the chairman, Mrs Bulled, to him. In these she accused him of bias and slanted reporting in the draft minutes of the Special Meeting. He considered these remarks unprofessional, unduly personal and not of the standard required of a councillor. Cllr Bulled replied that she had not meant the remarks to be personal and admitted that she was “no good at diplomacy”.

Cllr Peek urged the chairman to be more careful in her wording of emails in future. Cllr Dunn urged her to take more time in composing emails and to consider the likely effect of them upon recipients. Cllr Palfreyman stated that if he had received a similar email to that sent by Mrs Bulled, he would be “up in arms”.
570/8/15  8. Items for Discussion

i) Gail Kelland of Top Cottage, the Square, North Molton had applied to be co-opted to the council. The clerk explained the process to her, and undertook to send her the necessary paperwork. If completed in time, this would mean that she could join the council at the next meeting, following a vote to co-opt her.

ii) Cllr Dunn took the chair while the matter of the hedge and bank at Lower Poole Farm was discussed. This arose from a representation by a member of the public that the conditions under which permission had been granted for application NDDC 55345 had not been complied with. Cllr Dunn read out the details of the conditions which included the building and planting of a bank the entire length of the gable end of the property under discussion. It was noted that the applicant had been the Hartland Abbey Trust. The clerk read out a letter from the Elms Estate Office, on behalf of the Trust, which stated that these conditions had now been met. This was confirmed by Cllr Bulled who lived at Lower Poole Farm. Cllr Bulled then resumed the chair of the meeting.

571/8/15  9. Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

Noel Brooks, the new Parish Clerk was introduced. He would be on three months probation, and would begin his duties on 13th August 2015.

An email from the Fire Service introducing the Local Risk Manager for the Parish had been received. Agreed: that the clerk invite him to address the next meeting.

A meeting was taking place on the 20th of August in Barnstaple regarding grass-cutting services. Agreed: the clerk should attend this.

It was noted that road works opposite the Miners Arms were to do with replacing a faulty water hydrant.

Cllr Bulled gave a presentation to the out-going clerk and thanked him for the work that he had done.

572/8/15  10. Planning

Applications granted: NDDC 59179 Siting of mobile home, erection of agricultural building etc at Flitton Barton, Brayford.

59181 Erection of agricultural building at Flitton Barn North Molton.

Refused: None

Applications for consideration.

NDDC 59574 Removal of marquee and erection of restaurant and kitchen with recreation rooms at Riverside Caravan and Camping Park, North Molton. No objections.

NDDC 59671 Alterations and extensions to 2 Back Lane, North Molton. No objections.

NDDC 59600 Listed building application for demolition of single storey buildings, erection of single storey extension, replacement windows and internal alterations at Flitton Barn, North Molton. Approved in principle.

NDDC 59629 Conversion of redundant barn to form one holiday cottage at Western Brinsworthy Road over Brinsworthy Bridge. No objections.
573/8/15 11. Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £ 3,154.97 as at 31st July 2015.

Balance of Business Saver account stands at £ 5,349.24 as at 31st July 2015.

i) Receipts – none

ii) Payments:

a) Clerks salary £ 178.38 plus £10.00 contribution to telephone costs total £ 188.38.

b) Hire of Victory Hall for public meeting. £17.50

c) Hire of Old School Hall for special meeting £20, and for a room to interview Parish Clerk applicants, £10.

d) Chairmanship course for Cllr Bulled, £30.00.

e) Reimburse clerk for payment of £50 to South Molton News.

Motion passed to pay these sums. All agreed.

574/8/15 12. Correspondence

Community News had been received.

575/8/15 13. Reports including monthly examination of Laurels Playground.

Cllr Procter reported that the playground remained in need of weeding and looked generally scruffy.

Cllr Geen queried what provision was to be made to facilitate carers travelling to patients in the winter, in the light of cuts to the road-salting service in and around North Molton. Agreed: That this be an agenda item at the next meeting and that County Cllr Yabsley be contacted beforehand to research what, if any, provision would be made.

Cllr Wallis reported that the Sports Club was getting busier with some evening parties being booked in. He offered a laser printer for the use of the Parish Council which was gratefully accepted.

576/8/15 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor

District Cllr Edgell reported that he had contributed £50 from his fund to the South Molton Tourist Information Centre and reminded councillors that he had access to modest funds for local projects such as Youth Clubs, Parish Halls etc. He noted that the Town and Parish Fund was open for applications with a closing date some time in September. Agreed: that the clerk liaise with the administrator of the Fund, Lorna Jones, and that councillors consider what applications to make. He reported that Maclins Quarry recycling site in South Molton was likely to be closed until October.

At the end of the meeting, Cllr Dunn proposed a vote of thanks to Nigel Penfold for his services as clerk over the past few years. These had been difficult times for the council and as an ex-Chairman he wished to record his gratitude for the hard work and professionalism Nigel had displayed. Agreed, unanimously.

Date and Time of Next meeting 9th September North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.