MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th December 2015 IN VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn; Councillor Procter; Councillor Wallis (Left Meeting at 8.30 pm); Councillor Geen (Joined Meeting at 7.53 pm); Councillor Peek; Councillor Palfreyman; Cllr Clark (Left Meeting at 8.30 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks.

620/12/15 1. Apologies: Cllr Kelland; Cllr Gammon; Cllr O’Brien; Cllr Yabsley & Cllr Edgell - Accepted, unanimously.


622/12/15 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: No representative attended and the Clerk had not received an update which he had requested by e-mail. Cllrs expressed concern regarding recent local burglaries from sheds and a truck.

623/12/15 4. Representations From The Public:

Cllr Procter had been approached by various parishioners regarding a six-week-old pile of rubbish which had been left by a vacating tenant at the property known as Sunnyside. Action: Cllr Bulled would contact the owner with a view to resolving the matter.

Cllr Bulled reported that Cllr Geen had been approached by a parishioner concerning the activities at the Shooting School at Ash Park. Cllr Bulled had contacted the owner who had replied that the District Council had given permitted use for the school’s activities for up to 28 days per year. The operations were supervised - usually one-to-one with a maximum of 50 shots per session. Occasional birthday parties involved a maximum of around 300 shots. Shots were made down the valley and not across the road.

Cllr Bulled had received representations regarding SWH’s ploughing of the side of the road in New Road and dumping the mess in the lay-bys, a mess which would probably wash back onto the road. Action: Cllr Bulled to contact SWH with a view to resolving this issue.

Cllr Clark reported that he would be installing the Christmas tree on the forthcoming Thursday evening. In respect of Laurel’s Playground, he had cut away and removed the defective and superfluous fencing which was an action from previous Parish Minutes.

Cllr Palfreyman queried the latest position regarding the painting of the garages at Jubilee Gardens which had not yet been carried out. As per the October Minutes under 600/10/15 9 Cllr Bulled had been assured that this matter was in hand. Cllrs Palfreyman, Dunn and Clark had been informed by individual parishioners that the garage tenants had been given a Notice to Quit along with a deadline. There were rumours that the garages might be sold for property development. Action: The Clerk is to e-mail North Devon Homes with a view to ascertaining the position with the garages. A copy of the e-mail is to be sent to Cllr Yabsley.
624/12/15 5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on 11th November, 2015

Approved unanimously.

625/12/15 6. Clerk’s Report  Re: 11th November, 2015 Minutes

Pot Holes In New Road & Longevity Of The Memorial - The Clerk had written to Highways but was awaiting a response.

Give Way Painted Signage Required In Fore Street, Higher Poole - The Clerk had written to Highways clarifying where the signage was required but was awaiting a response.

Damaged Culvert And Road Surface Between Balls Cross And Western Ball Farm - No response had been received by the Clerk despite repeated follow-ups on this issue. The Clerk would continue to chase Highways.

Offer From NDCC For Parish Councils To Take Over Responsibility For Safety & Visibility Grass-cutting - The Clerk was awaiting a response from Rob Turner at NDCC regarding a FOI request vis-a-vis the true cost of the work annually to NDCC and the sum that was being offered to take on this work and whether or not this sum was available annually or as a one-off sum.

Invitation Of The Local MP To A Parish Meeting To Discuss Planning Issues - The Clerk recommended that councillors awaited a response from the Planning Minister before considering whether or not to invite the MP to a meeting - all agreed. Cllr Peek pointed out that it might be difficult to arrange such a meeting on a Wednesday when MPs were in session.

Parish Council’s Insurer’s Position Regarding Training Requirements For Those Inspecting Play Equipment - The Clerk reported that Zurich Insurance did not require an annual inspection of the equipment. Monthly inspections by one of the councillors were required. It was not mandatory for councillors to receive formal training. Cllrs agreed that annual inspections by RoSPA would continue for Laurel’s Playground as a matter of safety and good practice.

Legal Position On Rights To Enter Land To Complete Drainage Works - The Clerk had researched this complex issue at length. Informal verbal consent was a common-sense option - sometimes, title deeds granted rights to specific bodies to enter land to carry out such work - private individuals could obtain a Court Order to enter land under The Access To Neighbouring Land Act 1992 - Local Authorities had rights to enter land under The Land Drainage Act 1991.

The Clerk’s Contract - This required signing and was duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr Bulled.

626/12/15 7. Matters Arising From These Minutes Not on This Agenda

None

627/12/15 8. Items For Discussion
North Devon Community Fund (NDCF) 2015/6 - Application Progress - Cllr Peek reported that quotes were still awaited for the proposed hedge-trimming work. Whilst the estimated total cost of the work for the parishes involved had been based on 300 hours of labour at £30 per hour, he considered the best way of proceeding with the application would be for an hourly rate to be quoted and to then ascertain how many hours would be available through the Fund. A detailed analysis of the actual work and costs involved had not been undertaken. Cllr Bulled understood that there were 60 miles of road within the North Molton Parish. Cllr Geen estimated that it would cost circa £2k for this work in North Molton, alone. Cllr Peek stated that 50/50 match-funding would not be required, but that a contribution from the parish councils involved would be necessary; he would liaise with Lorna Jones at NDC on this aspect. Cllr Dunn advised that any such contribution would have to be paid from the Parish Council’s reserves and not from the 2016/7 Precept.

TAP Fund 2014/5 - Progress of Works - Cllr Peek reported that the contractor intended to start the drainage works during the current week. He understood from the Parish Forum notes that the Parish Council could claim for this type of project every year. He suggested that North Molton Parish Council liaise with NDCC in order to avoid duplication of effort with a view to maximising efficiency.

Budget & Precept 2016/7 - The Clerk reported that the total estimated expenditure for 2016/7 was £8,332.80. The estimated income for the same period was £1,326.55 leaving a required Precept of £7,006.25. The overall figure represented an annual increase of £7.64 per Band D household based on the available Band D data from NDC. **Action:** Cllrs agreed unanimously for the Clerk to apply for a 2016/7 Precept of £7,006.25. Cllrs debated a possible provision for replacement of the Defibrillator which was not included in the expenditure figures, but were unsure as to whether or not the item required replacement. **Action:** The Clerk is to ascertain the position on replacement from the Ambulance Service and in liaison with the Landlord of The Poltimore Inn where the equipment was housed and which had raised a considerable sum for the original purchase.

Amendment Sought by Cllr Dunn to 564/8/15 2. Declaration of Interests in 12th August, 2015 Minutes - Cllr Dunn explained that the original Minutes had recorded that he owned adjacent land in respect of Planning Application: 59574; this was not the case because his mother-in-law owned the adjacent land. He proposed that the Minutes were amended to reflect this - all agreed. The Clerk presented the amended Minutes which were duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

628/12/15 9. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward By The Chairman

None

629/12/15 10. Planning

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since The Last Parish Council Meeting

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60143</td>
<td>Poltimore Inn, East Street, North Molton Insertion of New Door &amp; Erection of New Gate</td>
<td>Supported</td>
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</tbody>
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Planning Applications For Consideration Received For Last Parish Council Meeting Requiring A Subsequent Site Visit
Case Ref | Address | Comment
--- | --- | ---
60082 | Higher Poole Farm, Fore Street, North Molton, Devon EX37 9DU Retrospective Application For Demolition Of Log Store & Erection Of A Car Port | Supported
60147 | Higher Poole Farm, Fore Street, North Molton EX37 9DU Listed Building Application Retrospective Application For Demolition Of Log Store & Erection Of A Car Port | Supported

**Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59995</td>
<td>Barns at Fliton Barton, North Molton EX36 3EP Change of use of Agricultural Building to Boarding Kennels</td>
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**Enforcement Notices Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting**

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<tr>
<th>Enf. No:</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Decision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9768</td>
<td>Higher Poole Farm, Fore Street, North Molton EX37 9DU Non-compliance with conditions attached to Planning Permission: 58482 - Height of Development</td>
<td>No Breach - The works are at early stage. There is no evidence of any breach in height.</td>
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**630/12/15 11.Finance**

The balance of the Community Account was £3,336.46 as at 30th November, 2015.

The balance of Business Saver Account was £5,449.91 as at 30th November, 2015

Receipts – None

i) Payments:

a) Clerk’s net salary £231.97 plus contribution to telephone costs of £10 and expenses of £17.55 totalling **£259.52**;
b) **£10.00** to North Molton Old School for hire of Old School Hall for Parish Meeting of 11.11.15;
c) **£71.58** to Mr K. Gammon in respect of Christmas Tree & Lighting provision.

Motion passed to pay these sums - All agreed.

**631/12/15 12.Correspondence**
Letter from MP Mr P. Heaton-Jones regarding the effect of Government Planning Policy on North Molton is covered under **625/12/15 6. Clerk’s Report** above.

**632/12/15 13. Reports**

**Laurel’s Playground** - Cllr Procter was waiting for an improvement in the weather before arranging for the leaves on the ground to be removed. The play equipment was in good order.

**Exmoor National Park** - Cllr Peek reported that The National Park had given planning permission for an **Arqua** mast on Haddon Hill - Arqua had considered the specified 31st March timescale too tight and would not be proceeding. The National Park had not given up on achieving improved broadband and would be considering how to achieve this through a different route. Through a company called **Airband**, Exmoor & Dartmoor National Parks were arranging wireless broadband with Government funds - the service was intended to be rolled out in early 2016 and would enable those interested to choose their own broadband provider.

**633/12/15 14. Matters Brought Forward by District or County Councillor** - Due to his absence, Cllr Edgell had asked the Clerk to report to councillors that he had applied for a grant of £250.00 in respect of fireworks for North Molton.

**Date and Time of Next meeting:** Wednesday 13th January, 2016 at 7.30pm in the **Victory Hall**, North Molton

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.