MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
11th FEBRUARY 2015 IN THE NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL

Present Councillor Dunn, (Chairman), Councillor Procter, Councillor O’Brien, Councillor Bulled, Councillor O’Brien, Councillor Peek, District Councillor Edgell and the Clerk.

481/2/14 Apologies County Councillor Yabsley, other meetings, Councillor Gammon detained at work.

482/2/14 Declaration of Interests Cllr. Edgell as chairman of ENP Planning, re planning application ENP62/49/15/001.

483/2/14 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary No police representatives were present. No report had previously been sent to the Clerk.

484/2/14 Representations from the public

Mr D. Clark asked that correspondence between him and the previous chairman of the council be recorded in minutes of the PC meeting on 10.12.14. Agreed. Also that the wording of the minutes of the PC meeting on 10.12.14 be amended to read “ In response to a question from Cllr O’Brien, Mr Clark on behalf of the Sports and Community Centre stated that the centre would receive no money directly from the developer of land to the west of the Primary School”. Agreed.

Cllr Bulled gave a copy of a letter from Mr Smaldon about the recent dangerous state of the road up Burcombe Hill, which had resulted in a lorry jack-knifing with potentially dangerous consequences. Cllr. Dunn reported that a pedestrian had recently slipped on ice on the road in North Molton and been knocked out as a result. The clerk read out a letter from Mr G. Lee complaining about the state of roads in and around North Molton which had resulted in accidents. Agreed: that the clerk draft a letter to Mr David Whitom, Head of Highways at North Devon District Council bringing all these matters to his attention and re-iterating the concern of the Parish Council at the lack of proper maintenance of the road system there. Also to Mr Stuart Hughes, NDDC Member for Highways. The chairman suggested that Mr Clark, on behalf of the Sports and Community Centre do the same.

Cllr Bulled reported that Mr Terry Wallis of Oakford Close was interested in becoming a Parish Councillor. Agreed: that the clerk provide him with the necessary documentation to become a co-opted councillor.

485/2/14 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on 14th January 2015 and special meeting on 17th December 2014 Approved as amended.

486/2/14 Clerks report from these minutes

Building application 58501 (Land adjacent to Moorland View, East Street) had been sent to the Parish Council last month for consideration. The council had pointed out to NDDC Planning Unit that the named applicant had recently died and that questions of conflicting interests may have arisen. The clerk had received a reply from NDDC Planning stating that as the executor of the deceased owner was her nephew, Brian Greenslade, Chairman of North Devon Council, delegated powers had been removed and the
application would therefore be heard at a meeting of NDC Planning Committee, probably on 8th April 2015.

487/2/14 7.Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

The clerk reported that a new set of guidelines on transparency in Parish Councils had been produced by central government. However, it was not clear what was obligatory and what was voluntary. He read out advice from the Devon Association of Local Councils which reinforced this ambivalence. He undertook to send copies of the code to all councillors.

Cllr Bulled asked that Mr J Stanley’s letter of resignation from the Parish Council be placed on the village website and paid tribute to his work as Chairman. Agreed, that the letter be published with the minutes of the relevant meeting.

488/2/14 8.Items for Discussion

1. Model Standing Orders produced by the National Association of Local Councils were discussed and amended as necessary for future use by the Parish Council.

2. Consideration of the Clerk’s contract was put back to the next meeting, due to time limitations.

489/2/14 9.Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

None.

490/2/14 10.Planning

Applications approved – NDDC 58483 Listed building application for conversion of a barn to form one dwelling at Higher Poole Farm, Fore Street, North Molton.

ENP62/49/14/004LB. Listed Build consent to replace upvc windows with hardwood box sash windows and other work.


Applications withdrawn – none.

Applications for consideration. ENP 62/49/15/001 Erection of agricultural building to house livestock and store equipment. Higher North Heasley Farm, Heasley Mill. No objections.

Applications received after preparation of the agenda:

NDDC 58737 Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling at Lambscombe Farm, North Molton.

NDDC 58752 Erection of detached garage at 14 Broad Close, North Molton. As the Parish Council had not had the opportunity to advertise these applications, it was felt that they should be held over for consideration at the next meeting. Agreed, unanimously, that the clerk ask for an extension of the usual consultation period.

491/2/14 11.Finance
Balance of Community account stood at £3,612.53 as at 30th January.

Balance of Business saver account stood at £5,197.93 as at 30th January.

It was noted that the funds appeared to be less than expected. Although this may be due to the various sums paid out over the past month, it was agreed that the clerk would provide a detailed break-down of this at the next meeting.

i) Receipts —£37.50 from North Molton History Society, annual fee, as joint funders of the village website.

ii) Payments: £65.00 + VAT to ROSPA annual inspection of playground.

iii) Clerks salary £142.78 plus contribution to telephone/admin costs £10, total £152.78.

Expenditure agreed unanimously.

492/2/14 12. Correspondence

a. Letter from Mr and Mrs McCarthy which had been submitted to Devon County Council by the clerk in support of the Parish Council’s response to proposed plans not to grit roads in North Molton.

b. Exmoor National Park Authority: Historic cars would be crossing areas of Exmoor from February 13th to 15th.

c. Letter from Mr R Smaldon, copied to Devon County Council, about the dangerous state of the road on Burcombe Hill.

d. Letter from Mrs G. Lee re the dangerous state of roads in and around North Molton.

493/2/14 13. Reports

Cllrs O’Brien and Peek reported on their work in applying for funds from the Town and Parish Fund, in tandem with Twitchen Parish, for work to be carried out in clearing gullies and drains. Agreed, that the clerk collate the information and carry forward the application.

Cllr Bulled reported on a recent meeting of Exmoor National Park Authority. Some funds for uprating mobile phone signals may become available as a result of work on Hinkley Point power station, which was scheduled to become the biggest building site in western Europe.

494/2/14 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor

Cllr Edgell reported that the County and District Councils would be moving out of the Civic Centre to other locations in Barnstaple by June this year. Funds from central government continue to reduce and a question that all councils, including North Molton Parish Council, may have to address in the near future was would there be any central government funding at all for them in future?

Date and Time of Next meeting Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall. Meeting closed 11.10pm.