MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY 2015 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present Councilor Bulled, (Chairman), Councilor Geen, Councilor Gammon, Councilor Procter, Councilor Wallis, Councilor Palfreyman, and the Clerk.

549/7/15 1. Apologies. Cllrs O’Brien and Dunn, work commitments. Accepted. Cllr Peek likely to be delayed due to a clash of commitments. Accepted. He joined the meeting at 8pm.

550/7/15 2. Declaration of Interests. Cllrs Wallis and Geen re Planning Application 59407 due to their involvement with North Molton Sports Club, which opposes the application. Cllr Geen re application 59343 as he was the applicant.

551/7/15 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. One person mistakenly reported missing. A camera found. One instance of “domestic violence”. Sheds had been broken into in rural areas and trailers and equipment stolen from the Rock and Rapid centre in the past month. The clerk mentioned an email circulating among riding clubs “reporting” the theft of dogs for use in dog-fighting, in which the registration number of a vehicle had been quoted. He had asked local police to look into this and they had confirmed that no dogs had been reported stolen in either Devon and Cornwall or Avon and Somerset police areas during the time in question. The email appeared to have no basis in fact. Following discussion it was agreed that the council arrange to be included in the Community Messaging system so that relevant information could be sent from police via email or telephone.

552/7/15 4. Representations from the public. The clerk read out a letter complaining about overhanging vegetation on the road leading North out of the village which was forcing large vehicles to travel in the centre of the roadway. Agreed: Clerk to write to the landowners in question and to County Cllr. Whiton, Head of Highways, asking that South West Highways be tasked to cut the verge and, where appropriate, bill the landowner.

Cllr Gammon reported that someone had noted that the Register of Interests of Parish Councillors on the village website was incomplete. The clerk apologised and undertook to update it.

553/7/15 5. Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th June 2013. The minutes were approved unanimously.

554/7/15 6. Clerks Report

NDDC legal department had replied to the effect that NDDC was not liable for damage caused to vehicles by unfinished road surfaces at the Roberts Field development. Agreed: clerk to contact Devon County Council Legal Department for their view.

555/7/15 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

It was agreed that interviews for the clerk’s job should take place between 24th July and 12th August. Cllrs Bulled, Dunn and Gammon to form the interview panel, with Cllr Wallis as reserve.

556/7/15 8. Items for Discussion

i) Agreed: the terms of employment for the new Parish Clerk be the same as for the present incumbent, but be reviewed after six months.

ii) Sheila Coe presented her report on the state of footpaths in the area. Agreed: clerk to write to Mr Tucker of Prausley Farm thanking him for the improvements made to signposting etc of the footpath crossing his property. Also to a local landowner about improvements that could be made to a footpath on his land. The council proposed a vote of thanks to Sheila Coe for her work.

iii) Agreed: that the school governors be invited to meet the Parish Council to discuss having a representative from the council on the board of governors.
iv) The Exmoor Local Plan was noted. A key feature was the more flexible approach by ENP to a range of issues, including housing.

v) Agreed: A public meeting at which parishioners could vote on planning application 59407, development of land to the South of Old Barns, should be held on 30th July. Miss Tracy Blackmore of NDDC Planning Unit be invited to answer questions about the application. A special Parish Council meeting should immediately follow the public meeting at which councillors would vote on the application. It was noted that the latest date for public comments on the application via the NDDC website or by letter, was 24th July.

557/7/15 9.Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman.

The chairman had met Mr Sables of South West Highways and reiterated the council’s concerns about road maintenance in the area. Mr Sables had indicated that money was available to him to carry out drainage repairs. It was noted that this could have a good impact upon the roads if carried out in the right place and in the right way.

The impact of the withdrawal of road salting upon carers travelling to housebound patients in winter was noted.

558/7/15 10.Planning.

NDDC 59343. Cllr Geen left the room while this was discussed. Agreed unanimously that there were no objections. Cllr Geen re-joined the meeting.

NDDC 59487 to be considered on 30th July.

559/7/15 11.Finance

Balance of Community account stands at £4,413.95 as at 30.6.15

Balance of Business Saver account stands at £5,324.24 as at 30.6.15

Receipts – none.

Payments

i) Clerks salary £124.98 plus contribution to telephone costs £10, total £134.98.

ii) North Devon Journal for advertising for clerk’s job. £330.00

iii) South Molton News- ditto - £60.00

iv) HMRC PAYE contribution on clerk’s salary £124.00.

v) South Molton Tourist Information Centre £50.

All the above were agreed unanimously.

560/7/15 12.Correspondence

a) Exmoor Local Plan Consultation, publication draft.

b) South Molton Tourist Information Centre, appeal for funds.

c) Letter from H. Delbridge regarding overhanging vegetation on the road to the north of North Molton.

561/7/15 13.Reports

Cllr Procter reported that the Laurels Playground had not yet been weed-sprayed and as a result was looking very scruffy.
Clr Wallis reported that the Sports Club was in a quiet period at the moment but that twelve football games had been booked for this season.

Clr Bulled reported on the Exmoor National Park Forum meeting of 11th June. See appendix.

**S62/7/15  14.Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor**

None.

**Date and Time of next meeting** 30th July Old School Hall, North Molton 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 10.10 pm.