MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
20th MAY 2015 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present Councillor Bulled (Chairman), Councillor Procter, Councillor Dunn, Councillor Wallis, County Councillor Yabsley, and the Clerk

522/5/15 1.Apollogies District Councillor Edgell, a clashing meeting, and Councillor Peek, stewarding at the Devon Show. Councillor O’Brien, illness. All accepted.

523/5/15 2.Declaration of Interests Cllr Bulled stated that she wished to allay rumours about any possible clash of interests resulting from the tenancy agreement under which her husband held his property. Her husband was a tenant of Hartland Abbey Maintenance Trust, a body in which Peter Stucley, who had successfully applied to develop land west of the Primary School, had no financial interest. She emphasised that Peter Stucley was not her landlord and had no control over her husband’s tenancy.

524/5/15 3.Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Police had informed the clerk of the following:

March: A dispute between neighbours, a report of a missing person who was later found and five calls in relation to road traffic incidents. A vehicle had had fuel stolen by having the fuel line cut.

April: An abandoned 999 call. A motorcycle rider coming off his bike due to a puncture. A missing person who was out with friends in Barnstaple. A burglar alarm at Bulled’s shop caused by a system fault. A cow in the road on the A361. Two vehicles involved in a collision at Borners Bridge junction on the A361 and one “neighbour issue”. Two more vehicles had fuel lines cut.

One dog bite that was being investigated.

May: One suspected drink driver – he was not drunk, and a dispute over money/purchases that was being investigated to see if any offence had been committed.

525/5/15 4. Representations from the public Various reports had been received of blue paint appearing on roads and pavements. It was believed that this was something to do with water supply staff identifying sites.

326/5/14 5.Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th April 2015 The minutes, as amended, were accepted, all agreed.

365/5/13 6.Clerks Report

Re. overgrown vegetation outside 1 Mole View, North Molton. North Devon Homes had been working to out of date plans and as a result of the clerk sending photographs were now aware of the situation “on the ground”. Although NDH accepted that some of the overgrown vegetation may originate from their property and would deal with it, they were of the opinion that the bank and attendant brambles etc were the responsibility of Highways Department. Agreed; clerk to contact Highways Department about this, pointing out that the Department had cut the bank last year.
A reply had been received from Mr Whitton Head of Highways at NDC about the poor state of roads in North Molton. The reply repeated previously stated points about the lack of finance available for the upkeep of the road network.

The informal memorial on the side of the main North – South Molton road had again been bought to the attention of Highways Department and, as instructed, the clerk would continue to do so every two month.

527/5/14 7. Matters arising from these minutes not on Agenda

Cllr Procter reported on planning for the Boots in Bloom event later this year. Funds raised would not now be going to Chemo-Heroes, another charity would be decided upon soon.

The Local Plan, to parts of which the council had objected, would probably be put before an independent Inspector in August this year.

528/5/14. 8. Items for Discussion

1) Mr Ken Gammon was unanimously approved to be co-opted as a councillor and joined the council.

2) Mr Rhys Davies of North Devon Council gave an overview of the North Molton Pilot Road Scheme to councillors. He stated:

That very large cuts in funding had been made and would continue to be made. This meant that the Highways Department had to find savings. Increasing efficiency was one method being pursued, (two and a half million pounds had already been saved by overhauling the supply chain), another was to identify roads that could be downgraded, ie still maintained but not to the current standard. He invited the Parish Council to consider the roads in North Molton and identify any that served little use. He stressed that no roads had yet been identified as falling into this category and no decisions had been made or would be without consulting the public. Agreed: That more detail was needed from Highways Department on the practical, long-term effect of downgrading roads. Also agreed: clerk to invite Mr Rhys to repeat a presentation given a few weeks ago to some councillors which had contained more detail.

3) Cllr Peek, having previously expressed his willingness, was nominated as the Parish Member to serve on the Exmoor National Park Authority.

529/5/14 9. Chairmans Report/Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman

Cllr Bulled had weeded the Laurels Playground and removed a large quantity of nettles and weeds. Otherwise the Playground was in good order, apart from leaves on the ground. Nothing else to report.

530/5/14 10. Planning

Applications approved. None.
Applications refused – : 57449, outline planning for erection of 25 dwellings and associated work. NDDC planning had, when asked by the clerk, confirmed this and apologised for not having previously informed the Parish Council.


NDDC 58943: Proposed patio doors, patio area log store and greenhouse and retrospective pump shed for water treatment plant at Flitton Mill, North Molton. No objections.

NDDC 59241 : Outline application for erection of dwelling at 15 Oakford Villas, North Molton. The following objections were raised by councillors.

The proposed building will not fit in with the general street scene.

It is on a raised level and would dominate other buildings, in particular it would overlook number 43.

Access to the proposed building would be through a car park and would therefore lead to the loss of car parking ability.

It is opposite the entrance of an already granted application for 25 dwellings and would increase congestion in an already congested area.

Numbers 16 and 17 Oakford Villas do not appear to have been notified of the proposal.

It would be likely to lead to the "landlocking" of other properties.


Applications withdrawn – none. Applications received after the agenda was drawn up -none.

With regard to a 59090 which had been agreed by NDDC Planning, having refused an extension of the normal consultation period. Agreed; that NDDC Planning Unit be asked to email the Parish Council notification of all applications that would be passed for consultation, as delays in posting sometimes meant, as in this case, that the council would not have time to consider the paper plans and forms of the application. Prior email notification would allow the council to spot applications that had not been received.

**531/5/14 Finance**  Barclays community account stands £5,086.45 as at 30th April 2015
Barclays business saver account stands at £5,273.53 as at 30th April 2015
i) receipts : Parish Grant £568.50. Grant Assist £115.87, Parish Precept £2,027.17.
ii) Payments –
 a) clerks salary £176.71 plus contribution to telephone costs £10, total £186.71.
b) NM Victory Hall £75.00 as payment for extra meetings.
c) Zurich insurance renewal £272.13.

d) Annual grants to: North Molton Victory Hall  £100.00
Heasley Mill Village Hall £100.00
PCC Burial Ground  £500.00.

All the above were agreed.

Any other accounts received after preparation of agenda. None.

The clerk noted that as the council cheque books were still with the internal auditor, as part of the annual audit, payment of the above accounts may be delayed.

532/5/14 12. Correspondence

Nomination papers for Parish Members to serve on Exmoor National Park Authority.

Barnstaple Town Council offer of training for councillors.

533/5/14 13. Reports

Cllr. Bulled would be attending the Devon Show and would attempt to obtain maps of the footpath network which were sometimes available at the event.

Cllr. Wallis reported that the Sport and Community Club were holding a Maintenance Day on 24th May, to carry out painting, decorating and repairs. All volunteers would be welcome.

534/5/14 14. Matters brought forward by District or County Councillor.

County Cllr Yabsley drew the council’s attention to the consultative document on electoral boundary changes in Devon, which proposed that in future North Molton would be paired with Combe Martin instead of South Molton as at present. Councillors were urged to make individual responses to the proposal in advance of the subject being discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Date and Time of Next meeting 10th June North Molton Victory Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.45pm.