MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th April, 2016 IN VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn; Councillor Procter; Councillor Kelland; Councillor Wallis; Councillor Geen; Councillor Palfreyman; Cllr Edgell; Cllr Yabsley and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

045/04/16 0. One Minute’s Silence: Cllr Bulled called for one minute’s silence in respect of the sad passing of John Rands who had served, in the past, as Chairman of the Parish Council.


047/04/16 2. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Bulled declared an interest in respect of Planning Application No: 60822 due to her husband renting a field in the vicinity of the land to the west of the school.

048/04/16 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: The Clerk reported on behalf of PCSO Beverley Bray who had been unable to attend due to her being on holiday. In the past month there had been: concern for the welfare of a young child; a sudden death; concern for the welfare of a young female walking on the road near North Molton who was crying; two over-turned cars on the A361; a tree which had blocked the road between North Molton and the A361; a sheep dog in the road that had appeared to be lost; suspicious door-to-door charity collectors, 3 males in green coats - the occupant at the address had phoned Macmillan Cancer Support who had said that no one was scheduled to be collecting in the area; suspicious males had been seen in the yard near the Court House where motor homes were stored.

049/04/16 4. Representations From The Public:

Cllr Procter had been approached by a parishioner who was concerned about the increased risk of a head-on collision due to vehicles parking partly on the pavement and road in Middle Poole, Fore Street next to the barn conversion - traffic coming down Fore Street was being forced into the opposite lane with all the possible attendant consequences. Cllr Yabsley advised cllrs that whilst, ultimately, the police would be involved in any enforcement, any instruction for this would need to be made by Highways in the first instance. Action: The Clerk is to contact Highways with a view to resolving the issue.

Cllr Procter had received a complaint from a parishioner in Roberts Field regarding a street light which remained on, permanently. Actions: Cllr Procter is to provide the Clerk with the number of the light in question following which the Clerk is to write to NDDC with a view to resolving the issue.

Cllr Bulled reported that some parishioners in Roberts Field were not happy with the potential obstruction caused by cones placed in the road opposite the Holdridge Cross Joinery in Old Road. The Clerk had contacted Highways and the Police for their involvement to resolve the concerns. Cllr Procter clarified that the owner of the Joinery had taken this action to prevent people from parking opposite his entrance which would make deliveries difficult. Cllrs debated the negative effects caused by unfinished road-surfacing and planting/finishing of the bank in Old Road. Cllr Wallis reported that the grass bank had been used for stacking pallets. One parishioner had damaged the axle on his vehicle due to the raised height of the drain gulley and manhole covers. There were concerns over parking on the bank. Action: The Clerk is to write to Matt Collins at NDCC in Barnstaple in order to establish what could be done under the terms agreed with the developer to resolve the issues within the shortest possible timescale.
Cllr Wallis raised the problem caused by the parking of cars in the turning area of Oakford Close. **Action:** Cllr Wallis is to erect a suitable sign to highlight the piece of road in question as a turning area with a view to mitigating inconsiderate car-parking.

Cllr Bulled had received a request from a parishioner for the Parish Council to become involved in the issue of the Model Aircraft Flying Club near Nadrid Cross which was allegedly operating beyond the 28 days per annum limit - as the Enforcement Officer had been informed of the situation by the complainant, Cllr Bulled had informed him that the Parish Council would become involved as part of the usual planning process if required to do so by NDDC.

Cllr Geen had reported various potholes on Highways’ website some three or four months previously but had noted that no remedial works had been undertaken. Whilst this was considered to be unfortunate, Cllr Yabsley reiterated the importance of continuing to report potholes as without this input, the defects wouldn’t be logged and scheduled for repair. The Clerk said that he had been informed by Highways that reporting wasn’t necessary as all roads received a six-monthly sweep by County’s staff but Cllr Yabsley stated that whilst such sweeps may be scheduled, they weren’t necessarily happening in practice due to the vast cut-backs in Highways’ staff. Central Government had made an extra £50k available for North Devon for patching. Cllrs should inform Cllr Yabsley of any defects by e-mail and copy in Highways.

050/04/16 5. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on 10th February, 2016**

Approved unanimously with minor amendment initialled by Chairman Bulled to 036/03/16.6. where the Clerk had referred to Lower Poole Phase I when it should have been Lower Poole Phase II.

051/04/16 6. **Clerk’s Report Re: 9th March, 2016 Minutes**

**Danger Of Fallen Branches From Trees In New Road** - the Clerk had written a formal letter to the landowner on 23rd March, 2016 warning of the issue and potential danger and requesting inspection and preventative measures - there had been no response to date.

**Investigations into Lengthsman Scheme for Drainage, Hedge & Grass works** - Gay Hill had responded that DALC had misunderstood her involvement and that no such scheme was in operation and she couldn’t provide advice.

**Queen’s Birthday Beacons at Two Barrows** - The Clerk had retracted the application as instructed.

**Proposed Street Party 12th June** - The Clerk had arranged for closure of the Square for Sunday 12th June, 2016 from 9 am to 7 pm. Evidence of a consultation was required. Cllr Palfreyman confirmed that the Queen’s 90th Birthday Party Committee would be handling the consultation with the residents affected and alternative parking would be provided by Mr A. Darley.

The Clerk reported that SWH Civils had made an offer to be accepted by the Parish Council by 26th May to provide signage and staff in connection with the closure of The Square for £75.00. The Clerk asked cllrs to consider their agreement to and payment for this facility - all agreed.
The Standing Orders had been amended to accommodate three from four signatories for authorising financial transactions.

Latest Local Plan Consultation and Planning Enforcement Review - Responses had been made in line with the March 2016 Minutes.

Highways Conference Notes - these were not yet available but the Clerk had this diarised and would forward the documentation to clrs as soon as possible.

Previous Minutes’ Issues Outstanding:

Drainage Issues at Upcott & Yarde Down Cross - Awaiting response.

Letter to MP on Planning Issues - acknowledgement had been received from the MP who had sent a letter to the Head of Planning in Barnstaple - a full response was awaited.

052/04/16 7. Matters Arising From These Minutes Not on This Agenda

Cllr Wallis reported that the Sports Club’s Chairman would be meeting with Devon Air Ambulance later in the week in order to discuss the possible provision of a Helipad site.

053/04/16 8. Items For Discussion

a) Proposed Village Street Party on Sunday 12th June, 2016 at 3 pm to celebrate H.M. Queen’s 90th Birthday - Road Closure Requirements & General Update - Cllr Bulled reported that she had asked Cllr Clark to consider holding the Moped Race in aid of the Defibrillator on the same day as the Street Party. Cllr Dunn reported that the Planters in the Square had been fixed and partly-planted. He wondered whether or not the Parish Council would agree to granting a sum of money to provide further plants. Cllrs acknowledged that a further £12 was available in the budget already agreed for the Party Committee and agreed to providing a further sum of £18.00 on top of this towards such plants - all agreed.

b) Parish Councillor Vacancy - Cllr Bulled informed clrs that there had been two interested parties who had forwarded CVs. One of those parties had been unable to attend on the night due to business commitments. Initially, clrs agreed for both applicants to provide short presentations to clrs in between the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM with a decision being made at that time. However, towards the end of the meeting, one of the prospective councillors, Mrs Smaldon, magnanimously agreed to withdraw her application because she didn’t want to see another genuine person who was willing to give up her free time for the community, being potentially rejected for applying to do so. Accordingly, clrs agreed for Mrs Innes Milne to be appointed forthwith as a Parish Councillor. Action: The Clerk is to forward the necessary paperwork to Mrs Milne for her completion and signature.
c) **North Devon Community Fund 2015/6 - Application Progress** - The Clerk reported that whilst an application had been made for £1,500.00, NDDC had agreed a grant of £750.00 for safety/visibility hedge-trimming works which would be carried out on or before the end of July 2016. The grant would be subject to submission of relevant invoices and require utilisation on or by 31st March, 2017. Cllr Peek commented that the application had been made with Twitchen but that he would be speaking with that Parish Council with a view to concentrating the funds within the North Molton Parish because Twitchen had been the main benefactor under the previous joint TAP Fund in respect of drainage works. Before any works could commence, it was essential to ascertain what works would be carried out by NDCC in order to avoid duplication of effort. **Action:** The Clerk is to write to Highways with a view to obtaining a schedule of the safety/visibility hedge-trimming works to be carried out by NDCC this year. The schedule should include locations and dates for the completion of such work.

d) **RoSPA Play Area Safety Inspection Report March 2016** - Cllrs had read the report and agreed that no actions were necessary.

e) **CPRE Devon - “Our Outdoors” Competition 2016** - With judging in August cllrs considered it to be too late this year to become involved. **Action:** The Clerk is to diarise this matter for discussion in November.

f) **Annual Parish Meeting 11th May, 2016 - Agree Broad Format & Content** - Cllrs agreed to keep the format the same.

g) **Appointment of Internal Auditor 2015/6** - Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to appoint Mr G. Collier.

h) **Bank Signatory Issues** - Cllrs provided further signatures for the bank to bring the signatory arrangements up to date.

054/04/16 9. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward by The Chairman

**Litter-picking** - Cllr Bulled reported that she had picked up rubbish the equivalent of 13 bags between the Link Road and the Council Depot. 90% of the rubbish was from McDonalds. Cllr Bulled would be meeting the Assistant Manager of McDonalds on 14th April with a view to discussing ways to mitigate the problem.

055/04/16 10. Planning

**Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Decision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58501</td>
<td>Land Adj Moorland View, East Street, North Molton O.S. Grid Ref: E274022 - N129760 Erection of New Dwelling (Amended Certificate &amp; Plans) (Further Amended Plans) Cllrs objected to the application on the grounds that the garage was considered to be a danger to pedestrians using the raised pavement;</td>
<td>Objection</td>
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any car manoeuvring out of the garage would represent a danger to both pedestrians and drivers of vehicles at this very busy point in the road with the public house opposite.

60822 Outline Application For Development Of Up To 45 Dwellings, Comment Only
Approximately 4.5 HA Of Public Open Space, Playground Forest School & Additional Parking For The School, Access, Foot & Cycle Paths, Pumping Station, Attenuation Ponds & Associated Landscaping & Infrastructure At Land West Of North Molton Primary School, Main Road, North Molton
The parish councillors neither supported nor objected to this application but made the following comments: ‘The proposed amendment is better than what had been proposed previously’.

62/49/16/ South Radworthy Farmhouse, Heasley Mill, South Molton Supported
01 Proposed Installation Of A Mobile Telecommunications Pole and Ancillary Equipment (12m High Timber Telegraph Pole Above Ground Supporting Radio Equipment and Cabinet).

Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Decision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58865</td>
<td>Barton Farm, North Molton</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prior Approval Application For Erection of Replacement Agricultural Storage Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>60703</td>
<td>Nadrid Farm, North Molton</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approval of Details in Respect of Discharge of Condition 4 (Corten Steel Shoe Details) Attached to Planning Permission 55110</td>
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<tr>
<td>60728</td>
<td>15 Oakford Villas, North Molton</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reserved Matters Application for Erection of Dwelling (Outline Planning Permission: 59241)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cllr Palfreyman pointed out that the Clerk was supposed to have obtained an extension on this case following a site visit by some parish councillors. This case had been approved by the District Council before parish councillors had had time to comment. <strong>Action:</strong> The Clerk is to investigate this matter and report back to councillors.</td>
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056/04/16 11.**Finance**

The balance of the Community Account was £2,715.27 as at 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 2016.

The balance of the Business Saver Account was £5,551.26 as at 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 2016.

i) **Receipts:**
   a) 17\textsuperscript{th} March, 2016: £35.00 from **North Molton History Society** in respect of shared website fees;
   b) 21\textsuperscript{st} March, 2016: £1,169.30 from NDDC In Respect of 2014/5 TAP Fund.

ii) **Payments** –
   a) **Clerk’s net salary** £275.62 plus contribution to telephone costs of £10.00 and travel expenses of £17.55 all totalling £303.17.
   b) **I. C. Woolacott** - £1,506.00 in respect of TAP Fund 2014/5 works;
   c) **Playsafety Ltd** - £79.80 in respect of the 2016 Annual Inspection Report on Laurel’s Playground;
   d) **HMRC** - £206.70 in respect of PAYE for the period: Jan-Mar 2016;
   e) **Internal Auditor** - £20.00 - Authorisation required for an additional £20.00 to the Internal auditor in respect of his work last year to June - £25.00 had been agreed in the 12\textsuperscript{th} June, 2015 Minutes but £45.00 had been utilised by cheque in this respect on 13\textsuperscript{th} July, 2015 without any authorisation in the Minutes for this further sum

   **Cllrs agreed to authorise items ‘a’ to ‘d’ above** but requested that confirmation be sought by the Clerk from the Internal Auditor that he had received gift vouchers in this sum.

057/04/16 12.**Correspondence** - The Clerk had received an e-mail from a parishioner who had been taking a commendable proactive role in respect of litter-picking.

058/04/16 13.**Reports**

**Laurel’s Playground** - Cllr Procter reported that leaf clearance works had been largely completed but that the grass matting required lifting and cleaning.

**North Molton Sports Club** - Cllr Wallis reported that football and archery were going well - indoor cricket had finished and outdoor cricket was due to start by the end of the month - **BT Sport** was now available.

**Mothers’ Meeting At The Old School** - Cllr Bulled had attended the meeting. The emphasis was on helping older people, particularly through the **Befriending Scheme** where volunteers were matched for interests with those they would be meeting. **Helping at Home** was a new service which offered housework, gardening and shopping services for circa £13.00 per hour.

059/04/16 14. **Matters Brought Forward by District or County Councillor** - Cllr Yabsley informed cllrs that an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting would be held on Wednesday 18\textsuperscript{th} May, 2016 in order to seek agreement to send the proposed **Local Plan** to the Inspector in order to commence the process of its adoption.
Date and Time of Next meeting:

Wednesday 11th May, 2016 at 7.30pm: Annual Parish Meeting & AGM of North Molton Parish Council;

Wednesday 18th May, 2016 at 7.30 pm: North Molton Parish Council Normal Monthly Meeting.

All meetings to be held in the Victory Hall, North Molton

The Meeting closed at 9.55 pm.