MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th January, 2016 IN VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn; Councillor Procter; Cllr Kelland; Cllr O’Brien (left meeting at 8.01 pm); Councillor Wallis; Councillor Geen; Councillor Peek; Councillor Palfreyman; Cllr Clark (left meeting at 8.45 pm); Cllr Edgell (joined meeting at 8.10 pm); Cllr Yabsley (joined meeting at 8.25 pm and left meeting at 9.25 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks.

001/01/16 1. One Minute’s Silence: Cllr Bulled called for one minute’s silence in respect of the recent sad passing of Cllr and previous Chairman Ken Gammon and previous Chairman Mary Moore both of whom had given great service to the local community over many years. Condolences were passed on to both families.

002/01/16 2. Apologies: Cllrs Edgell & Yabsley due to a conflicting District Council Meeting - they arrived later as shown above.

003/01/16 3. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Bulled declared an interest in Agenda item 8c (Planning App. No: 59487) - she was a neighbour adjoining the land in question - in addition, her husband had purchased land in the vicinity of the land in question, but not actually adjoining it. Also in respect of Agenda Item 8c Cllrs Geen and Clark declared interests due to their involvement with the Sports Club, respectively, as trustee and committee member. Cllr Bulled declared an interest as a neighbour in the Planning Appeal 58797 concerning Pullens in East Street.

004/01/16 4. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: In PCSO Beverley Bray’s absence, the Clerk reported on the following crimes, suspicious activity and policing issues in the area within the last month:

Suspicious persons called at a property wanting to buy a puppy - they decided that they wanted to purchase all of the puppies; concern for the welfare of a youth; suspected illegal hunting; damage to a school bus by a vehicle which didn’t stop; two damage only, road traffic crashes; vehicle tyre slashed and on-going neighbourhood problems.

005/01/16 5. Representations From The Public:

Cllr Procter had received further representations regarding a two-month-old pile of rubbish which had been left by a vacating tenant at the property known as Sunnyside. The owner was present at the meeting and said that he would look into the matter.

Cllr Bulled had received a report from a parishioner regarding vandalism in Roberts’ Field - a well-known couple had been observed bending wing mirrors the wrong way. The parishioner didn’t want to cause any trouble but would refer the matter to the police if it were to happen again.

Cllr Wallis reported on the ever-enlarging pothole outside the garage workshop. Cllr Bulled recommended that he report this using NDCC’s on-line pothole reporting facility.

006/01/16 6. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on 9th December, 2015

Approved unanimously.
007/01/16 7. Clerk’s Report  Re: 9th December, 2015 Minutes

Pot Holes In New Road & Longevity Of The Memorial - R. Sables of Highways had informed the Clerk that New Road came under Maintenance Category 6 and was subject to a safety inspection every six months by an accredited inspector from a moving vehicle. Individual potholes were passed straight to the contractor whilst multiple potholes were delayed for verification first, by an officer. The memorial had no legal status. Mr Sables had tried to encourage the family to remove the memorial of its own volition rather than consider the enforcement route - subsequently, he had passed this issue up the line for advice. **Action:** The Clerk is to diarise and chase Mr Sables on this issue.

Give Way Painted Signage Required In Fore Street, Higher Poole - Highways had reported that *The Department for Transport* imposed tight national rules on signage to maintain consistency across the country. Regrettably, the parish’s request did not fit within the parameters. Highways considered the junction to be appropriately signed as it was not normal to warn of junctions within a 30 mph limit. Cllrs considered the issue - the point in the road in question was not considered to be a junction. Cllrs agreed that no change was required bar repainting the existing markings on the road and lowering the metallic ‘Give Way’ sign. **Action:** The Clerk is to request that Highways repaint the existing worn ‘Give Way’ markings and lower the metallic ‘Give Way’ sign.

Offer From NDCC For Parish Councils To Take Over Responsibility For Safety & Visibility Grass-cutting - The Clerk was awaiting a response from the County Council.

Damaged Culvert And Road Surface Between Balls Cross And Western Ball Farm - The Clerk would continue to chase Highways.

Painting of Garages at Jubilee gardens North Molton - Notices to Quit - Sales for Property Development - Current Status Sought - Alison Bird of North Devon Homes (NDH) had confirmed that NDH no longer owned garages at Jubilee Gardens. She confirmed ownership of a block of four garages on East Street (address was Wilson) that were in the process of being sold to a private buyer. To her knowledge, no plans had been submitted for development.

Defibrillator - Position on Replacement - The Clerk reported that the package ran for four years with renewal in 2018. Current renewal costs were £2,160 inclusive of VAT but that this could be higher by 2018. The Defibrillator was to be checked once a month. The apparatus warned when servicing was required by changing the rescue ready light to red. Servicing costs were included within the package. Serviceable parts were replaced but the overall unit shouldn’t require replacing. Cllrs discussed ways of funding this future cost. Cllrs agreed to arrange fundraising events at *The Poltimore Inn* and to approach local businesses for assistance, in addition. **Action:** Cllr Clark is to be responsible for all fundraising activities in respect of the defibrillator.

008/01/16 8. Matters Arising From These Minutes Not on This Agenda

Noise from Shooting at Ash Park - Cllr Geen had advised an affected and concerned parishioner to keep a log of times/incidents.
009/01/16 9. Items For Discussion

a) **TAP Fund 2014/5 - Progress of Works** - Cllr Peek reported that drainage clearance work, organised under the Parish Council’s TAP Project, had commenced in *Bendle Lane* with the drain opened up at Ley *Cross* in order to prevent the water from running all the way down the road. Whilst some gutters had been cleared, some of them led to soakaways which were no longer functional. New pipe-work had been installed at *Bendle Bridge* which would help to mitigate the water which normally pooled there. The contractor would be assessing the cost so far in order to evaluate how much further work could be done within the agreed budget. In order to meet the TAP Fund invoicing timescales, any works had to be completed within the next six weeks. Cllrs identified the road from *Reeds Cross to Yarde Down* and, also, *Heasley Mill*, as further areas for the contractor’s attention. Cllr Peek would be liaising with Mr Sables at the County Council in order to agree a future programme of works in order to avoid duplication of effort. He considered that it might be prudent to consider making provision within the Precept for future projects. Cllr Bulled asked cllrs to consider other methods of funding, for example, other grants.

b) **North Devon Community Fund (NDCF) 2015/6 - Application Progress** - Cllr Peek reported that a meeting was scheduled for Friday 15th January, 2016 with the other parishes involved with a view to finalising the application paperwork. No further quotes had been obtained. Cllr Bulled queried the legal implications of parish councils controlling work such as hedge-trimming. *Action:* The Clerk is to research the legal and insurance implications in this regard.

c) **NDDC Negotiation With Old House Barns Developer (Planning App.:59487) - Identification of Open Space Projects** - The Clerk explained that this planning approval was subject to the *Community Infrastructure Levy* which came into force on 1st April, 2015 where councils and other interested local groups were required to identify Open Space projects in advance rather than wait for receipt of funds before identifying and carrying out projects under the provisions of the previous S.106. North Devon District Council (NDDC) was in the process of agreeing the legal work and required a wish-list of projects rather than detailed costs at this stage. Cllr Bulled explained that the sum available for Open Space projects under this planning application was £47,282.40. This sum was in addition to works being carried out by the developer on the site in respect of the proposed children’s playground, allotments and community woodland. Since the setting of the Agenda, NDDC required, also, a list of the Parish Council’s Open Space priorities on planning application No: 57625 involving the land off Back Lane/Heasley Mill Road. *Action:* After a considered debate cllrs agreed for the Clerk to write to NDDC with priorities for both planning applications as follows: Enhancement of Open Space and related elements at:

- The North Molton Sports Club, North Molton and, or;
- Victory Hall, North Molton and, or;
- Heasley Mill Village Hall, Heasley Mill and, or;
- The Old School, North Molton and, or;
- The Children’s Play Areas, North Molton and, or;
- The Methodist Hall (Community Elements), North Molton.

d) **Review of Bank Signatories**
Cllrs agreed for Cllr Bulled to be added as a new signatory.
e) **Hedge-trimming Review**
Cllrs agreed to investigate the parish-wide position and review the matter again in February.

f) **Consideration of Minister Brandon Lewis’s Response on Planning Issues**
This matter had been discussed at length in the Minutes of 14th October, 2015 (599/10/15 8.v) - the issues received similar debate during this session. **Action:** Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to arrange for Cllrs Bulled and Kelland to attend the next available surgery of MP Mr P. Heaton-Jones in order for them to explore with him the detrimental effect of Government Planning Policy on North Molton.

g) **Devon Air Ambulance - Community Helipad**
Cllr Bulled noted that the Clerk had forwarded a communication from the Devon Air Ambulance Service requesting sites for Community Helipads. **Action:** After a considered debate, clirs agreed that the Clerk should write to the Chairman of the North Molton Sports Club concerning the possibility of their providing the open space required for helipads and whether or not they would be willing to discuss provisions of suitable sites further with Devon Air Ambulance. **Action:** Cllr Bulled agreed to contact the Head of North Molton Shoot in the same regard.

h) **Future of North Devon Records Office & Local Studies Centre**
Cllr Edgell informed clirs that a new charity known as *South West Heritage Trust* would be running the Office and Centre. The County Council would continue to provide about 50% of the operational funding required and the charity would endeavour to raise funds. Cllr Dunn emphasised the importance of an accessible records office for local people. Barnstaple Town Council had contributed £10k towards the operational costs. He had calculated that North Molton Parish Council would need to increase its Precept by 2% in order to provide an equivalent percentage sum which would work out at around £150.00. **Action:** Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to respond to Barnstaple Town Council by acknowledging the importance of the facility and by conveying the Parish Council’s contemplation of a future increase in its Precept by £150.00 in order to aid funding.

i) **Queen’s Birthday Beacons**
Cllr Bulled had contacted the *Fyldon Ridge* landowner who had cooperated concerning a similar previous event. The landowner would consider the practicalities and revert. Also under consideration was the **Queen’s Official 90th Birthday** to be held on 12th June, 2016 and the attendant possibility of a Street Party or similar celebration. **Action:** Using the Parish’s website and Notice-boards, the Clerk is to seek suggestions from parishioners on how they would like to celebrate this memorable event.

010/01/16 10. **Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward by The Chairman**
Cllr Bulled reported that the *Goldmines* footpath had been re-opened and appeared safer since completion of the recent works. Redirection of the footpath at *South Leigh* around one of the fields rather than through its middle was in the process of being considered and agreed. Difficulties caused by 4 x 4 vehicles on the footpath at *Holdridge* were also under consideration. Cllr Bulled asked clrs to consider the recent communication from Lorna Jones regarding North Devon Community Funding and to identify any grants for which North Molton might qualify and benefit from.
011/01/16 11. Planning

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since The Last Parish Council Meeting

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<th>Case Ref</th>
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<tr>
<td>60426</td>
<td>Barn Adj. Oakford House Road From Stonybridge Cross To</td>
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<td>Oakford Cross, North Molton</td>
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<td>Improvements To Agricultural Access</td>
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<td>Lawful Development Certificate For Existing Occupation Of The</td>
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<td>Dwelling In Breach Of Agricultural Occupancy Condition Of</td>
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Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

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<td>Retrospective Application For Demolition Of Log Store &amp; Erection</td>
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<td>Of A Car Port</td>
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<td>60147</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Demolition Of Log Store &amp; Erection Of A Car Port</td>
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<td>60143</td>
<td>Poltimore Inn, East Street, North Molton</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Insertion of New Door &amp; Erection of New Gate</td>
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Enforcement Notices Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

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<td>Unauthorised Advertisement</td>
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Planning Appeals Notified Since The Last Parish Council Meeting

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<td>App/X1118/3137433</td>
<td>Retrospective Application For Erection of Stables With Yard</td>
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012/01/16 12. Finance

The balance of the Community Account was £2,970.36 as at 31st December, 2015.

The balance of Business Saver Account was £5,475.58 as at 31st December, 2015.

i) Receipts – £0.67 interest received on Business Saver Account for the period: 7/9/15 to 6/12/15.

ii) Payments:

   a) Clerk’s net salary £275.62 plus contribution to telephone costs of £10 and expenses of £17.55 and payment to One.com in respect of web-space and annual domain fees for the Parish Council’s website of £23.76 all totalling £326.93;
   b) Previous Clerk’s unpaid net salary of £220.65;
   c) £168.23 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for the period Oct. To Dec. 2015
   d) £46.24 to Tekline Publishing in respect of annual website administration fee

iii) Accounts received after preparation of the Agenda:

   a) £16.00 to Mr D. Loosemore in respect of provision of electricity for the Christmas Tree Lighting

Motion passed to pay these sums - All agreed.

013/01/16 13. Correspondence

The Letter from Minister Brandon Lewis regarding the effect of Government Planning Policy on North Molton was considered under 009/01/16 9. Items For Discussion above.

014/01/16 14. Reports

Christmas Tree - Cllr Procter had received many favourable reports on the quality of the Christmas Tree lighting which had been arranged by the late Cllr Ken Gammon. Action: Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Mrs R. Gammon in respect of her sons’ help in dismantling the tree. Cllr Dunn asked for a vote of thanks to be given to all of the people who had helped to put up the Christmas tree.

Laurel’s Playground - Cllr Procter had not inspected the playground due to the inclement weather. Cllr Peek would attend to the build-up of leaves as soon as the ground was dry.

Sports Club - Cllr Wallis reported that only four games had been played at home in the last thirteen weeks due to the wet weather. Some pitches had been damaged by vehicles but access was now denied by a re-hung gate.

015/01/16 15. Matters Brought Forward by District or County Councillor - Cllr Edgell reported that the District Council’s funding from Central Government had been reduced in the forthcoming year by £733k (15%). Funding for the County Council was being reduced by £30m. This made budgeting difficult. Unforeseen costs in respect of children’s services had led to an over-spend in this vitally important area.
The provision of green waste and recycling services was currently under review - no decision on the future had been made to date. Cllr Edgell paid tribute to the late Cllr Ken Gammon who had been a stalwart for the Parish Council as both Chairman and in his general role.

**Date and Time of Next meeting:** Wednesday 10th February, 2016 at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall, North Molton

The Meeting closed at 10.00 pm.