MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th March, 2016 IN VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn; Councillor Procter; Councillor Kelland; Councillor O’Brien; Councillor Wallis; Councillor Geen; Councillor Palfreyman; Councillor Clark (joined Meeting at 7.45 pm); Cllr Edgell; Cllr Yabsley (left Meeting at 9.20 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

030/03/16 0. One Minute’s Silence: Cllr Bulled called for one minute’s silence in respect of the sad passing of Herbie Geen whom she considered to be one of the most influential Parish Councillors and Chairmen in the recent history of North Molton where he had served for some 25 years - additionally, Herbie had served as Chairman of the District Council and Feoffees. Cllr Bulled would miss his sound advice.

031/03/16 1. Apologies: Cllr Peek due to a training course on Dartmoor.

032/03/16 2. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Bulled as a next-door-neighbour in respect of Planning Application 60523 (Holdridge Cross Joinery) - Cllr Bulled asked for it to be noted that she, along with other immediate neighbours, had not received Notice from the District Council on this case. With regard to Planning Application 58501 (Moorland View) Cllr Bulled referred to a previous response from the Parish Council which stated that a member of the Parish Council could have a family interest in the case - she noted that the person could only have been herself and clarified the position in that the applicant’s aunt who was her husband’s step-grandmother, had been the occupant of Moorland View - thus, Cllr Bulled had had no prejudicial interest in that application.

033/03/16 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: No representative was present - The Clerk had not received any updates by e-mail.

034/03/16 4. Representations From The Public:

Under her prerogative as Chairman, Cllr Bulled decided to bring forward planning matters as there were members of the public present who were intending to make representations.

Cllr Wallis had received a representation regarding branches which had been falling from the trees in New Road along the stretch from Portfolken and Burcombe woods. The situation had been made worse for car drivers due to the traffic lights. Action: The Clerk is to write to the landowner at Barton Farm making him aware of the situation with a request for him to carry out any necessary preventative works.

As the immediate neighbour to the applicant (Mr R. Peacock) on Planning Application No: 60738 involving the change of use of land to a Shooting School at the road from Nadrid Cross to Aller Cross, Mr T. Hooper read out his objections which included: the proximity of the proposed school to his home and garden; the attendant noise levels; the ever-increasing frequency of shooting; lead-shot and clay debris entering a neighbour’s field and the effect of the shooting operation on property saleability and values.

Mr M. Hooper of Wheatlands Farm considered the School to be in the wrong place. Clay and lead-shot debris entered his land. The noise from the shooting restricted, effectively, his enjoyment of the outdoors at his property. Mr R. Peacock maintained that the School was helping the local tourist industry. He had letters of support from B & B and holiday-let businesses. Shooting was part of life in the area. The noise levels would need to be measured and monitored to establish whether or not they were onerous. He could change the position of the traps if that were recommended after any such analysis.
Cllr Dunn cited the noise levels and frequency of use as major issues. He thought that the School might just be in the wrong position. District Cllr Edgell stated that, if necessary, he would call the case into the Planning Committee. Cllr Geen considered the benefits of a Shooting School but thought that the School was in the wrong place. It was unrealistic to expect neighbours to wear ear defenders on a Sunday afternoon when outdoors. Chairman Bulled was all in favour of Shooting Schools and considered it commendable that the Parish had a qualified teacher. However, she considered the location of the School to have too much impact on the neighbours. Pheasant shoots only impacted for forty minutes and up to twice a week during the shooting season whereas the proposed School was open seven days a week from 10 am to 4 pm. Cllr Dunn proposed a motion that the application be objected to on environmental grounds, the proximity of the proposed Shooting School to neighbours, lead-shot and clay debris falling onto neighbouring land and possible egress and proximity issues at the A399. All agreed.

035/03/16 5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on 10th February, 2016
Approved unanimously

036/03/16 6. Clerk’s Report Re: 10th February, 2016 Minutes

Lowering of Give Way Sign Height & Re-painting of Give Way Signage In Fore Street, Higher Poole - Highways would not be making any changes to the road sign’s height which complied with The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002. Usually, road markings were re-marked when 70% worn which was not the case in this instance.

Offer From NDCC For Parish Councils To Take Over Responsibility For Safety & Visibility Grass-cutting - After cllrs agreed last month not to pursue this matter due to a lack of a response from Highways and to the offer being out of time, Highways had since responded with an offer of £51.00 per annum for the Parish Council to take over this responsibility. Cllrs agreed not to take up this offer.

Damaged Culvert And Road Surface Between Balls Cross And Western Ball Farm - The Clerk reported that Highways did not consider there to be any distress evident to the highway. The condition would continue to be monitored.

Clerk’s Investigations Into The Possible Operation of a Lengthsman Type of Scheme In Respect of Drainage, Hedge-trimming & Grass-cutting Works - The Clerk had not received a response from Gay Hill but had made a further attempt at contact via the www.devoncommunities.org.uk website in order to ascertain more information on the procedural, legal & insurance aspects of running such a scheme with other parishes.

Drainage Issues at Upcott & Yarde Down Cross - The Clerk was awaiting a response from Highways.

Section 106 Monies in Respect of Lower Poole Phase II - A response was still awaited from the District Council.

Devon Air Ambulance (DAA) - Community Helipad New Site Availability - The Clerk had requested DAA to contact the Sports Club Chairman direct.
Queen’s Birthday Beacons - 21st April - The Clerk had registered the event with Bruno Peek as agreed. Cllr Geen had received subsequent business advice and regretted that he would not be able to host the event, after all. **Action:** The Clerk is to retract the application.

**Letter to MP Regarding Planning Issues** - this had been sent and a response was awaited.

**Rural Services Network** (RSN) - The Clerk had completed the SurveyMonkey questionnaire on the lines agreed with a link on the Parish Council’s website to the RSN. Cllr Wallis and Cllr Geen had been appointed on the Rural Parish and Rural Business Sounding Boards, respectively.

**Bank Signatories** - As agreed, the Chairman & Clerk had been added as signatories on 7th March but any March authorisations would be unaffected due to the administrative time-lag.

**Laurel’s Playground** - The Clerk had inspected the playground and had found the No Climbing signage in respect of the goal-posts to be in place.

**037/03/16 7. Matters Arising From These Minutes Not on This Agenda**

Cllr Bulled would be attending a talk by Volunteer Befriending at the Mothers’ Union on 21st March - she would report back if there were any identifiable ways in which the Parish Council could help.

**038/03/16 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** - Sherry Lynch and representatives of the Committee organising the celebrations requested: financial support from the Parish Council for the event; road closure of The Square between 9 am and 7 pm on the day and confirmation of adequate public liability insurance for the event. Cllrs agreed to support this Community Event financially up to the sum £100.00 on the proviso that costs attracting VAT were billed to North Molton Parish Council in order to allow reclamation of VAT from HMRC. The Clerk explained that Devon Highways was covering this as a Special Event with no requirement for the Parish Council to provide liability insurance cover. **Action:** The Clerk would endeavour to ascertain more details concerning the insurance cover and would revert. **Action:** The Clerk is to arrange the road closure of the Square under the Special Event provisions as per the times above. **Action:** The Clerk is to request R. Sables at Devon Highways for the provision of appropriate road signage for the road closure on a non-cost-basis. **Action:** Cllr Clark is to approach John Bragg, who is Chapter 8 trained, with a view to requesting his voluntary support to put up and take down any road signage obtained. **Action:** Cllr Dunn is to request a volunteer to liaise with Sherry Lynch over the maintenance and replacement of the planters in The Square.

b) **Parish Councillor Vacancy** - The Clerk reported that there had been no appropriate request to The Returning Officer for an election - the vacancy should be filled through co-option for which there was no set process. DALC had suggested that the post be advertised on the main Notice-board and website, requesting CVs to be sent to the Chairman which should include a brief resumé of why applicants wanted to become a parish councillor and what skills and experience they would bring to the role. All agreed.
**Action:** The Clerk is to draft and post a suitable advert.

c) **Standing Orders - Agreement to Accommodate New Bank Signatory Arrangements** - In view of a previous decision to include the Clerk as a financial signatory with the stipulation of three signatures required from four to effect financial transactions, the Clerk recommended that he amend the Standing Orders to reflect the position. All agreed.

d) **Proposed Diversion: Public Footpath 3 - South Leigh Farm, North Molton** - Cllrs agreed to the proposed diversion.

e) **Local Plan Consultation Affordable Housing & Wind Farms** - Cllr Yabsley commented that the affordable housing issue was less contentious with less room for manoeuvrability. Following a lengthy debate on the issues involved, cllrs decided not to formally respond on the affordable housing aspects. A further debate ensued on the Wind Farm issue. **Action:** Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to respond that the map specifying the size limitations for wind turbines for certain areas in North Devon be removed from the proposed Local Plan and that the Local Plan reflect the House of Commons Written Statement that ‘in the future, wind turbines should only get the go-ahead when local people have said they want them and where and that there was no requirement for local authorities to identify suitable areas for wind energy development in their local plans’.

f) **Planning Enforcement Review** - The Clerk explained that cllrs views were being sought on planning enforcement priorities. **Action:** Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to respond that enforcement was enforcement with no particular priority.

g) **TAP Fund 2014/5 - Progress of Works** - The Clerk reported that Cllr Peek who was handling the TAP Fund Project had received the contractor’s invoice in the sum of £1,506.00. The Clerk had requested Cllr Peek to apply to the District Council for payment of the relevant TAP funds to the Parish Council and provided him with banking details. Upon receipt of the funds, the invoice would be paid in the usual way.

h) **North Devon Community Fund 2015/6 - Application Progress** - Cllrs agreed to await Cllr Peek’s return for an update.

i) **Hedge-trimming Review Precise Locations for Discussion and Action** - Cllrs identified the hedging at Lyme Cottage in Back lane as requiring attention. **Action:** The Clerk is to contact Webbers Estate Agents with a view to arranging for the owner to attend to this matter.

j) **Planters In The Square - Tidying -up & Repair (J. Dunn)** - this was covered under ‘a)’ above.

k) **Unsigned 17th December, 2014 - Minutes** - As a matter of good form, the Clerk reported that he had found these unsigned Minutes during investigations concerning planning matters. Under the 1972 Local Government Act the Clerk was charged with ensuring that all Minutes were signed by the Chairman. The Clerk had taken advice from the SLCC which advised that it would be acceptable for the Minutes to be signed and dated by the current Clerk with the current Parish Council’s endorsement - all agreed.
039/03/16 9. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward by The Chairman

Garages at Jubilee Gardens - North Devon Homes had sold the garages - Cllr Bulled understood that two of the garages were being converted into a double garage - Building Control was aware of works being carried out on the site.

Highways Conference - Cllr Bulled reminded cllrs of the Highways Conference taking place at Exeter City Football Club on Wednesday 16th March - no cllrs were available to attend. Action: The Clerk is to request a resumé of the issues discussed.

Neighbourhood Plan Roadshow in Newton Abbott - Cllr Bulled asked the Clerk to explain the broad aspects of the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs agreed not to attend this event.

Clean Up For The Queen For Her Majesty’s 90th Birthday - Cllr Bulled had received a letter from Rosemary Courtney requesting volunteers to clean up litter in the village and surrounds. In view of the red-tape affecting formal, organised, volunteer groups, Cllr Bulled encouraged individuals to act on their own in this capacity - all agreed.

040/03/16 10. Planning

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting

<table>
<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</td>
<td>Objection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O.S. Grid Ref: E274022 - N129760</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erection of New Dwelling (Amended Certificate &amp; Plans)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Further Amended Plans)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cllrs objected to the application on the grounds of the external design being out of keeping with neighbouring dwellings and the garage representing a danger to pedestrians using the raised pavement.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>58865</td>
<td>Barton Farm, North Molton</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prior Approval Application For Erection of Replacement Agricultural Storage Building</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>60523</td>
<td>Holdridge Cross Joinery, Holdridge Cross, North Molton</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demolition of Workshop &amp; Erection of 3 Dwellings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60728</td>
<td>15 Oakford Villas, North Molton</td>
<td>Extension to be sought by Clerk for 14/04/2016. Site Visit agreed for 11th March, 2016 at 11 am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reserved Matters Application for Erection of Dwelling (Outline Planning Permission: 59241)</td>
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60738 Road from Nadrid Cross to Aller Cross, South Molton Objection
Change of Use of Land to Shooting School
(Filleigh P.C. Case Referred to North Molton due to adjoining land)
Cllrs objected to the application on environmental grounds, the proximity of the proposed Shooting School to neighbours, lead-shot and clay debris falling onto neighbouring land and possible egress and proximity issues at the A399.

Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting
None

041/03/16 11.Finance
The balance of the Community Account was £1,839.14 as at 29th February, 2016.
The balance of the Business Saver Account was £5,525.58 as at 29th February, 2016.
i) Receipts – None

ii) Payments:
   a) Clerk’s net salary £275.62 plus contribution to telephone costs of £10 and expenses of £17.55 all totalling £303.17.

iii) Accounts received after preparation of the Agenda: £35.00 received from North Molton History Society in respect of shared website facilities.

Motion passed to pay the relevant sum - All agreed.

042/03/16 12.Correspondence - None

043/03/16 13.Reports

Heasley Mill Village Hall - Cllr Procter, as the Parish Council’s representative on the Hall Committee, reported that it was intending to apply to the District Council to close the public toilets due to a £650.00 shortfall in funding. The Hall Committee would be raising its booking fees to £10.00. There had been some trouble with inebriated young farmers. There was a dampness issue at the property but this was considered to be due to a lack of ventilation because of lack of use, rather than a structural issue.

Laurel’s Playground - Cllr Procter reported that leaf clearance works were imminent due to the improving weather outlook.

044/03/16 14. Matters Brought Forward by District or County Councillor - District Councillor Edgell commented on council taxation issues which were covered in the February 2016 and previous Minutes.

Date and Time of Next meeting: Wednesday 13th April, 2016 at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall, North Molton
The Meeting closed at 10.25 pm.