MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th October, 2016 IN VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn (Vice Chairman); Councillor Geen; Councillor Kelland; Councillor Milne; Councillor O’Brien (left meeting at 10.10 pm); Councillor Palfreyman; Councillor Peek; Councillor Procter; Councillor Smaldon; District Councillor Edgell (joined meeting at 8.30 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks - Absent: County Councillor Yabsley

131/10/16 1. Apologies: Cllr Edgell had informed Cllr Peek of his likely late arrival due to his attendance at another meeting.

132/10/16 2. Declaration of Interests: Following an allegation that a member of the Parish Council had voted in favour of Planning Application: 61687 in September, solely on the grounds of the applicant being a friend, Chairman Bulled reminded clrs of their obligation to declare such interests and withdraw from any attendant discussion and vote. The following interests were declared: Cllr Dunn as a past member of the Royal British Legion in connection with the proposed payment in respect of the Remembrance Day Wreath; Cllr Geen as Chairman of the Feoffees in respect of Planning Application: 61506; Cllr Peek with regard to Planning Application: 61866 due to his mother-in-law residing at 9 Broad Close and Chairman Bulled regarding Planning Application: 61926 due to her being a friend of the applicant.

133/10/16 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: PCSO Bray reported that in the last month there had been an R.T.C. in Station Road involving two vehicles as well as an R.T.C. in which two vehicles had blocked the road on the stretch between the A361 and North Molton.

134/10/16 4. Representations From The Public: Cllr Procter had received a representation from a member of the public who had encountered difficulty manoeuvring her pram on the pavement outside New Oaks in Middle Poole due to a vehicle (thought to be the property owner’s) parked on it. Action: The Clerk is to write a letter to the owner of New Oaks requesting that the pavement be kept free and that parking at this point should be avoided for traffic safety reasons as discussed at previous meetings. Cllr Peek raised the issue of traffic signs regarding slippery roads/gritting not being removed by contractors when no longer appropriate. Action: The Clerk is to write to Highways with a view to resolving this matter. With regard to Planning Application: 61866, various parishioners attending the meeting expressed their objection to it on the following grounds: the effect on privacy; the removal of soak-away land leading to likely drainage issues; the likely effect on property values and the alleged original lack of a right of way onto Broad Close.

Mr Darley noted that the road accident memorial on the New Road towards the A361 was conspicuous again. He thought that this had been resolved with Highways. There was concern that it might distract drivers and cause a further accident. Action: Cllrs agreed that this issue would be raised at the intended forthcoming meeting with Richard sables of Highways in the first instance.
### Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting

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<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
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| 61787    | **Stitchpool Farm, South Molton**  
Construction of Livestock/Fodder Storage Building | Supported |
| 61856    | **Higher Hunstone, North Molton**  
Listed Building Application For Erection of Storm Porch | Supported |
| 61866    | **Garden of 2 Stonemans Cottages, East Street, North Molton**  
Erection of One Dwelling With Vehicular Access Onto Broad Close  
Parish Councillors objected to this application with concerns over: loss of privacy; loss of soak-away with likely drainage issues for the property and properties in the vicinity; the safety of children playing in the area; questionable access rights onto Broad Close and the impracticality of access for building works. | Objection |
| 61926    | **Sannacott Farm, North Molton**  
Prior Approval for A Change of Use From an Agricultural Building to Form a Dwelling (Class Q (A&B)) | Supported |
| 61506    | **Bakery Cottage, The Square, North Molton**  
Listed Building Application For Refurbishment of Property to Include Partial Demolition/Removal of Roof  
Parish Councillors supported this application with reliance upon and subject to the District Council’s expertise in relation to listed buildings. | Supported |
| 62/63/16/003 | **West Twitchen Ball Farm, Twitchen**  
Proposed Agricultural Building (442.86m2) for Livestock Housing | Supported |

### Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

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<th>Case Ref</th>
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| 60957    | **The Poltimore Inn East Street North Molton**  
Outline Application For The Erection Of Four Detached One-Bedroom Units To Provide Ancillary Accommodation For Inn Some Matters Reserved (Appearance, Layout) (Amended Description & Plans) | Withdrawn |
61537  Extension & Alterations To Dwelling (Including Conversion of Stables & Tack Room To Form Additional Living Accommodation) At Stable Cottage, The Square, North Molton  

61538  Listed Building Application For Extension & Alterations To Dwelling (Including Conversion of Stables & Tack Room To Form Additional Living Accommodation) At Stable Cottage, The Square, North Molton  

Planning Enforcement Cases Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting  

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<th>Case Ref</th>
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136/10/16 6. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 14th September, 2016  
- Approved unanimously.

137/10/16 7. Clerk's Report Re: 14th September, 2016 Minutes

Overgrown Nettles Along the Pathway Near The Bungalow & Garages in Oakford Villas - The Clerk had e-mailed North Devon Homes requesting the organisation to attend to essential maintenance in the future, in a timely manner.

Condition of the Rowan Tree Within The Circle/ Triangle of Back Lane - Highways had agreed for Cllr Kelland to perform the necessary surgery and maintenance.

Raised Manhole Cover Damaging Vehicles in Old Road, Lower Poole - Richard Sables of Highways had referred the issue to Paul Young - a response was awaited.

Sinking Drains Past Jubilee Gardens - The Clerk had informed Highways of the exact location of the issue outside Rumbelows cottages following its failure to identify where the problem was during a site visit but a fresh response was still awaited.

Erosion of River Bank Down-stream at Stonybridge, North Molton, Devon EX36 Area - Potential Undermining of Bridge - Ian Glover of D.C.C. had reported that erosion of the downstream bank was the responsibility of the field’s owner - the apron on the downstream side of the bridge required some repair/alterations - this would require consultation with the Environmental Agency’s Fish Team and D.C.C.’s Flood Risk Team - it was envisaged that works would commence at start of next financial year.

Slippery Road Surface for Horses Descending The Hill From Roberts Field on The Newly-surfaced Part Of The Old Road, North Molton - The Clerk informed cllrs that no supporting evidence had been provided by the public to date, following Cllr Dunn’s action to encourage provision of such
information from the public with a view to securing remedial works by Highways. In response, Cllr Dunn was able to supply such evidence from his recent experience of riding a freshly-shod horse on the new tarmac in question - new shoes should not have slipped but they had slipped on this part of the road. **Action:** The Clerk is to revert to Highways with this evidence along with a request for appropriate action.

**Request For Bollard at the Entrance to Jubilee Gardens, North Molton** - Highways had agreed to the nearby redundant bollard being used and for the Parish Council to carry out the works - the Clerk had informed Cllr Palfreyman who had agreed, kindly, to execute the task.

**Painting of The Walls in Laurel’s Playground** - **Action:** Cllrs agreed for Cllr Peek to procure three pots of *County Cream* paint together with sufficient brushes and rollers in order to allow cllrs to carry out the works.

**Street Light Permanently on in Roberts Field** - The site was still un-adopted - The Clerk had been unable to contact the original developer to date to resolve this issue.

**Drainage Issues at Upcott & Yarde Down Cross** - Cllrs reported that all works had been completed.

**Bank Signatory Issues** - The Clerk reported that the agreed mandate changes were in place.

**Copies of Drainage & Easement Mapping For Cllrs** - **Action:** Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to provide appropriate mapping to the Parish Council’s Highways Project Team to assist it in its work.

**Roberts Field S. 106 Open Space Funds - Completion of Expression of Interest Forms** - N.D.D.C. had acknowledged receipt of the forms and would revert when any funds became available. The Clerk had written to Mike Mansell, the Chief Executive of N.D.D.C., requesting an explanation as to how and why security had not been obtained for the S 106 Open Space monies and what steps the District Council would be taking to remedy this in the light of an allegedly insolvent developer. No response had been received to date.

**Concern Over D.C.C.’s Lack of Attention To Its Statutory Responsibilities vis-a-vis Hedge-trimming & Drainage** - The Clerk had e-mailed Devon County Council’s Leader, John Hart, who had responded broadly as follows: D.C.C.’s current spending had been £200m less than in 2009; hedge-cutting was the responsibility, largely, of landowners; D.C.C. had reduced its cutting to Visibility Splays only some years ago; gullies were cleaned at regular intervals with residue sent for treatment - it was not dumped on verges; parishes had access to the TAP Fund in order to keep their areas tidy - it had been agreed this year for TAP Fund cash to be used for drainage and ditching issues. He was not expecting any improvement in funding in the future - the County Council had a reducing budget but an increasing demand for services from both the Children’s and Adults’ departments to support the vulnerable in the Devon. He recommended that representatives of the Parish Council meet with the Highways Officer with a view to resolving issues within the financial constraints mentioned.
**Action:** The Clerk is to forward a copy of the e-mail to cllrs for their perusal.

**Inappropriateness of Road Works Carried Out In Recent Weeks**

The Clerk had e-mailed D.C.C.’s Leader, John Hart with a list of recent road-works which appeared to be un-referenced to local need and a list of road-works which cllrs considered to be a priority but which had not been carried out - an explanation had been sought as to how and why the seemingly un-referenced decisions had been arrived at - The Clerk had sought the Leader’s ideas on improving the decision-making processes/mechanisms in the future - a response was awaited.

**Exmoor Young Voices Grant** - The Clerk had asked E.Y.V. to write to him requesting the agreed grant of £50 each year over the next three years - for audit purposes.

**138/10/16.8 Matters Arising From The 14th September, 2016 Minutes Not On This Agenda**

Cllr Edgell commented that he would be raising the reduction of the numbers of lengths-men in North Devon from four to two at a forthcoming Highways Meeting. He explained that the recent top dressing of some stretches of road which appeared in a reasonable condition anyway, had been carried out as a cheap way of prolonging the life of such roads. He would be pressing for more substantive works for roads with apparent higher usage and repair needs. He underlined the shortfall in road-funding of £36m..

**139/10/16 9. Items For Discussion**

**Parish Councillor Vacancy** - Chairman Bulled thanked former Cllr Terry Wallis for all of his hard work on behalf of parishioners - he had recently resigned from the Parish Council. **Action:** The Clerk is to attach Mr Wallis’s resignation letter to the October 2016 Minutes to enable parishioners to understand his reasons for leaving the Council - all agreed. The Clerk informed cllrs that the Vacancy Notice supplied by the Elections Office and offering parishioners the option of calling for an election in relation to the filling of the post, had been posted both on the main notice-board and website. If ten or more parishioners hadn’t called for an election on or by 2nd November, 2016, then the post would be advertised on a co-option basis. The Parish Council was obliged to maintain the impetus to fill the post.

**Drainage, Hedges, Weeds & Salting/Gritting - (DHWS but hereinafter, Highways) Project Team Update** - In summary, Cllr Milne had ascertained that there was an, in principle, once-a-year, rolling programme in place for maintaining the drains - due to current funding levels this might not be achievable in practice. The County Council attended to safety and emergency Visibility Splays only in respect of hedge-cutting. Landowners were responsible for all other such work. The County Council no longer attended to weeds. In respect of salting/gritting, the New Road link to the A361 would be maintained by D.C.C. but local use of the salt bins would have to be relied upon in all other instances - the bins were replenished upon request, only. In general, there was a need to identify the detailed extent and cost all of the work which D.C.C. would be undertaking in 2017/8 in order for the Parish Council to form its budget in November 2016 to meet the cost of the remaining works which required specification. **Action:** Cllr Milne is to arrange a meeting between the Highways Project Team and Richard Sables of Highways with a view to obtaining detailed works and costs data in order to formulate a budget for inclusion in the Parish Council’s general budget discussion at its November 2016 Meeting.
TAP Fund 2015/6 (Hedge-trimming) - Progress of Works - Actions: Cllr Peek would ascertain the extent and cost of the works completed to date from the contractor in order to calculate the remaining funds available. Cllrs Peek & O’Brien would join the Highways Project Team in order to consolidate knowledge and resources.

TAP Fund 2016/7 (Drainage Works) - Update - Actions: The Clerk is to sign and return the acknowledgement of the £961.40 which the District Council had offered in this respect. The Highways Project Team would co-ordinate the planning of the execution of the works.

Latest Local Plan & Traveller Site Allocation Consultation - Cllrs agreed that the latest Plan did not affect the Parish Council to such an extent where any decisions were required by it - there was no need to respond to the consultation.

Consultation on Plan to Cap The Precept of Parish Council - Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to respond to the on-line survey on behalf of the Parish Council along the lines that the Parish Council was against the referendum principles proposed and the capping of precepts. Action: The Clerk is to respond to the survey.

BT Consultation Regarding Proposed Removal of Phone Boxes & Consideration of The Adoption of The Heasley Mill Telephone Box - After an animated debate, cllrs agreed, unanimously, to adopt the telephone box in The Square, North Molton and to object to BT’s decommissioning of the telephone box in Heasley Mill. Cllrs agreed to accept BT’s position with regard to the decommissioning of the telephone box in East Street, North Molton. Action: The Clerk is to respond to the consultation in line with cllrs’ wishes and to handle any attendant documentation at the appropriate time.

CPRE ‘Our Outdoors’ 2017 Competition - Cllrs agreed to hold any decision in abeyance until a further discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

140/10/16 10. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward by The Chairman

Overgrown Hedge in Play Area at Oakford Villas - Chairman Bulled had contacted North Devon Homes (NDH) - whilst the hedge was owned by a parishioner and not NDH, the latter agreed, kindly, for its handyman to cut back the excess growth due to the parishioner’s reluctance to cooperate.

McDonalds Litter Bin Disappearance - Chairman Bulled reported that the bin had gone missing - she had made enquiries as to whether or not the District Council had been involved and was awaiting an investigation and response.
141/10/16 11. Finance

Barclays Community Account  
Balance as at 30th September, 2016: £5,655.03
Barclays Business Premium Account  
Balance as at 30th September, 2016: £5,702.65

Revision of interest receivable on both accounts to 0% from 5th December, 2016

i) Receipts:  
5th September, 2016: Interest on B.P.A. for 6th June-4th Sept.: £0.70. 
26th September, 2016: Parish Grant: £568.50; Parish Grant Assist: £94.77 & Parish Precept: £3,503.12;

ii) Payments:  
a) Clerk’s Net Monthly Pay & Expenses - £319.77 - Net pay: £275.62 plus contribution to telephone & office costs of £10.00 and travel expenses of £34.15;  
b) HMRC - £206.70 - PAYE due for the period: July - Sept., 2016;  
c) Royal British Legion - £30.00 - Remembrance Day Wreath;  
d) Parochial Church Council - £500.00 - Burial Ground Grant;  
e) North Molton Village Hall - £100-00 - Grant;  
f) Heasley Mill Village Hall - £100.00 - Grant;  
g) Victory Hall Toilet Fund - £400.00 - Grant.

i) Any other accounts received after preparation of agenda: None

Unanimously, cllrs agreed to pay the above sums.

142/10/16 12. Correspondence - None

143/10/16 13. Reports

Laurel’s Playground - Cllr Procter informed cllrs that the annual autumnal leaf-fall would be handled by himself and Cllr Kelland whenever there was a sufficient build-up.

Exmoor National Park Parish Forum - Chairman Bulled provided cllrs with a brief overview of some of the issues discussed at the Meeting.

144/10/16 14. Matters Brought Forward by District Councillor - Cllr Edgell encouraged both individuals and Parish Councils to make representations regarding the North Devon Hospital Consultation - Action: The Clerk is to include this item on the November Agenda. The creation of Libraries Unlimited had allowed libraries to continue to flourish in North Devon and had set the library service free to obtain funding from other sources such as the recent £200k grant from the Arts Council. Good progress was being made on the design aspects in connection with the proposed improvements on the Link Road between South Molton and Bideford.

Date and Time of Next meeting: Wednesday 9th November, 2016 at 7.30pm to be held in The Old School, The Square, North Molton.

The Meeting closed at 10.17 pm.
Dear Councillors, it's with regret after spending all day mulling it over that I have to resign from the parish council with immediate effect. I am suffering from depression and I can't handle the stress like last night's meeting causes, after the meeting on the 14th of September 2016 I no longer feel that the parish council has any place in the world of politics, it seems North Devon council takes no notice or has any interest in what parish councils have to say, there should be more to the parish council other than pot holes, ditch cleaning and hedge cutting.

It seems the application for planning, planning number 61687 had been decided before it came to the meeting and I feel that this is very wrong, and I feel that this will not change in the very near future.

I'm also saddened and disappointed that councillors keep on approving more and more building in the village and that Miss Blackmore has the power to make decisions that are killing our village as a very close community and it seems that our district councillor is happy with this. And as for changing the priority of the traffic flow in Oakford Villas in my opinion which I know some councillor's do not listen to or care about will not make it safer but will infact make it more dangerous as cars will not be required to slow down or stop at the end of the road, where as they have to currently, this is bound to make it more dangerous for the children that play in this part of Oakford Villas as vehicles will just have a corner to drive around.

When I moved into the village back in the 90s I was so pleased that this was a community that still all knew and cared for each other which set North Molton apart from most other places, but with this amount of planning permission granted in the village which if all get built will make the size of the village almost half as big again and in doing so will make this as is now a beautiful village and wonderful place to live just become a bog standard village without the magic that makes it so special now.

I have always been pleased to serve the people of this parish which includes 14 years as a school governor 12 of which were as chairman, 16 year's as a volunteer at the sports club, and some time when my oldest son was of the right age helping with the youth club and finally my time as a parish councillor.

Finally I would like to wish you all the best for the future and that the parish council will be able to get the power to have a real say in the future.

Terry Wallis