MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th September, 2016 IN VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn (Vice Chairman); Councillor Geen; Councillor Kelland; Councillor Milne; Councillor O'Brien; Councillor Palfreyman; Councillor Peek; Councillor Procter; Councillor Wallis (left at 08:46 pm); District Councillor Edgell; County Councillor Yabsley (left at 10:15 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

116/09/16. Announcement: Chairman Bulled welcomed Rosemarie Smaldon as a new Parish Councillor and wished her well in her new role.

117/09/16 1. Apologies: None

118/09/16 2. Declaration of Interests: None

119/09/16 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: The Clerk informed cllrs that PCSO Bray had been unable to attend the meeting but had provided the following report on crime affecting the parish since 10th August, 2016: concerns raised for a person with learning difficulties - help given and information passed to the person for other agency intervention; suspect vehicle on Tabor Hill, Heasley Mill; RTC damage-only on Heasley Lane; concerns for elderly people standing beside the A361 - assistance given as the vehicle they were travelling in had broken down; person in a vehicle blocking the road in Broad Close; person drunk and in charge of a vehicle on the A361; vagrant begging for money within North Molton; horses manes believed to have been platted by unknown persons at Stitchpool Farm and lorries causing an obstruction on Fore Street. Cllr Wallis reported that he and the Chairman would be meeting with PCSO Bray to observe her speed-monitoring work in East Street on 15th September at 3.15 pm.

120/09/16 4. Representations From The Public: During the debate regarding Planning Application No: 61687 below, various members of the public expressed their concerns regarding the following: the number of houses involved which were in addition to the 141 already agreed in the Local Plan which was also a concern expressed by both Chairman Bulled and Cllr Wallis; the negative effect of the proposed development on the residents in Oakford Villas; the potential length of the time-span involved from the building of the first to last houses; weekend working on the site and the possible creation of a ‘rat-run’ through Oakford Villas, Oakford Lea and New Road.

121/09/16 5. Planning

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Proposal &amp; Address</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tr>
<td>61588</td>
<td>Extension To Existing General Purpose Agricultural Building At Upper Heasley, Heasley Mill, North Molton</td>
<td>Supported</td>
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<tr>
<td>61599</td>
<td>Conversion Of Agricultural Building To Form One Unit Of Holiday Accommodation At Higher Hunstone, North Molton</td>
<td>Supported</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Listed Building Application For Conversion Of Agricultural Building To Form One Unit Of Holiday Accommodation At Higher Hunstone, North Molton

Outline Application For Erection Of 5 Open Market Self-Build Dwellings (All Matters Reserved Except Access) Against

At Land At Oxford Lea, Oxford Villas, North Molton

Subject To The Conditions Below:

a) During any building works there should be only one access to the site and preferably via New Road, granted already in respect of the proposed industrial units under Planning Application: 56551, in order to mitigate the negative impact of on-going works on existing residents, including any emerging and undesirable ‘rat-run’ from Oxford Villas through the site and onto New Road;

b) Post completion of the new-build works, consideration should be given to there being only one access and to the possibility of sole mixed access from New Road to both the above-mentioned industrial units and proposed open-market, self-build dwellings in order to mitigate the negative impact of the new developments on the residents in Oxford Villas and to prevent a ‘rat-run’ should dual access via Oxford Villas and New Road ever be allowed to become established, unadvisedly, during the building phase;

c) Should sole mixed access under ‘b’ above not be feasible for any reason, then access through Oxford Villas to the completed residential new-builds should be improved by changing the traffic-flow priority from the Oakford Close end;

d) Consideration should be given to restricting work on the new-builds to weekdays and Saturday mornings only.

Proposed Installation Of A Mobile Telecommunications Pole And Ancillary Equipment (12m High Timber Telegraph Pole Above National Exmoor Ground, Supporting Radio Equipment And Cabinet). As Per Amended Plan 16.03.16 And 30.08.16. As Per Additional Plan 06.04.16 And 30.08.16 - South Radworthy Farmhouse, Heasley Mill, North Molton

Lawful Development Certificate For The Existing Occupation Of The Dwelling In Breach Of Condition 2 (The Development Hereby Permitted Shall Only Be Used As Grooms’/Farmworkers’ Accommodation In Conjunction With The Existing Dwelling And Farm Known As Higher Flydon) Of Application 62/49/98/005

Prior Notification For A Proposed Agricultural Building (442.86m²) - West Twitchen Ball Farm, Twitchen, South Molton

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Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

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<th>Case Ref</th>
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<th>Decision</th>
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<tr>
<td>61328</td>
<td>Listed Building Consent For Re-location Of Door, Insertion Of New Window, Erection Of Internal Stud Wall &amp; Erection Of Porch - Higher Hunstone, North Molton</td>
<td>LB (Execution Works)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61180</td>
<td>Application For Conversion Of Barn To Form Approved Dependent Relatives Annexe/One Unit Of Holiday Accommodation At Browns Marsh, North Molton</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>61181</td>
<td>Listed Building Application For Conversion Of Barn To Form Approved Dependent Relatives Annexe/One Unit Of Holiday Accommodation At Browns Marsh, North Molton</td>
<td>LB (Execution Works)</td>
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Planning Enforcement Cases Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

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122/09/16 6. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 10th August, 2016 - Approved unanimously.

123/09/16 7. Clerk’s Report Re: 10th August, 2016 Minutes

Provision of Agreed Church Warden Contact To PCSO Bray - completed

Parishioner Complaint Regarding Speeding Vehicles In East Street Between Jubilee Gardens and Broad Close - covered under Representations From The Public, above.

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 this essential maintenance issue - Cllr Procter reported that he had cut the nettles back himself.

**Action:** The Clerk is to write to North Devon Homes informing the organisation that a Parish Councillor had done the work on this occasion but that it should attend to such maintenance itself in a timely manner in the future.

Condition of the Rowan Tree Within The Circle/ Triangle of Back Lane - Andy Jones of NDDC had advised that the most likely cause of the death of a single limb was a bacterial infection known as *Erwinia Amylovora* (*Fireblight*). The recommendation was to simply prune out the infected part of the tree. As the Rowan was DCC’s responsibility, the Clerk had e-mailed Richard Sables at Highways but had received no response to date. Kindly, Cllr Kelland offered to attend to the affected limb.

**Action:** In the first instance, the Clerk would seek Highways’ permission for Cllr Kelland to carry out surgery on this particular tree.
Raised Manhole Cover Damaging Vehicles in Old Road, Lower Poole - Richard Sables of Highways had asked Paul Young to outline the options available on this and other raised covers and the issue of water still running onto the road from the easement the developer had diverted and closed off - he understood that the Roberts Field developer responsible had ceased trading - response awaited.

Sinking Drains Just Beyond Jubilee Gardens - Highways had been requested to investigate - no response had been received by the Clerk to date. Chairman Bulled reported that Highways’ workers had been seen in East Street. They had sought to identify where the sinking drains were located, without success. Cllr O’Brien clarified the location as outside Rumbelows Cottages.

Action: The Clerk is to inform Highways of the location.

Erosion of River Bank Down-stream at Stonybridge, North Molton, Devon EX36 Area - Potential Undermining of Bridge - The Clerk was continuing to chase Ian Glover at DCC.

Slippery Road Surface For Horses Descending The Hill From Roberts Field On The Newly-surfaced Part Of The Old Road, North Molton - Following Highways’ initial disinclination to help, Cllr Yabsley advised clirs that evidence would be required from either affected horse-riders or from the British Horse Society in order to support a request for authorisation of provision of an improvement/treatment for the road surface concerned. Action: Cllr Dunn is to request any affected horse-rider/s to e-mail the Clerk with their formal observations/complaints for onward transmission to Highways for further consideration.

Request For Bollard At The Entrance to Jubilee Gardens, North Molton - The Clerk had sought permission from Highways for the Parish Council to move the redundant bollard to the entrance of Jubilee Gardens to help improve road safety at that point - response awaited.

Action: The Clerk is to provide Cllr Yabsley with a bullet list of all outstanding matters notified to Highways.

Weeds Poster - The poster had been published on the website and around the village - The Clerk thanked Cllr Kelland for laminating the outdoor posters.

Painting Of The Walls In Laurel’s Playground - Cllr Procter had reported that RGB had recommended three pots of paint to achieve one coat at an estimated cost of £57.53 including VAT.

Action: Cllr Peek is to purchase the paint using his RGB account and invoice the Parish Council in order to comply with audit requirements. Action: Cllrs are to liaise with one another following procurement of the paint with a view to agreeing times for their carrying out the painting works.

Risks Associated With Vehicles Parking Outside The Barn Conversion in Middle Poole, Fore Street - The Clerk was continuing to chase this issue and would copy-in Cllr Yabsley.

Street Lights Permanently On in North Molton (One in Roberts Field) - It was established that only a few of the lights in the village were remaining on, permanently. Action: Cllrs agreed to report individual lighting issues directly to Highways using the reporting facility on its website.

Action: The Clerk would endeavour to make contact with the management arm of the Roberts Field Development with a view to resolving the lighting issue on the site.
Drainage Issues at Upcott & Yarde Down Cross - **Action:** The Clerk would continue to chase Highways.

Bank Signatory Issues - Despite sufficient ID having been supplied to Barclays Bank and certified by a Banking Official in front of Chairman Bulled, Cllr Procter and the Clerk, the Bank’s centralised Administration Centre in Leicester had refused to authorise mandate changes agreed by the Council until fresh certified ID had been supplied by the Clerk in respect of the Clerk. **Action:** The Clerk is to visit Barclays Bank in Barnstaple with a view resolving this on-going debacle.

Copies of Drainage & Easement Mapping For Cllrs - **Action:** The Clerk is to attend to this as soon as possible.

Roberts Field S. 106 Open Space Funds - Completion of Expression of Interest Forms - Initially, cllrs considered the failure of the District Council to obtain security regarding the circa £28k of monies ear-marked for Open Space funding under the S.106 Agreement in the light of the developer becoming allegedly insolvent. **Action:** The Clerk is to write to the Chief Executive of NDDC requesting a full explanation as to how and why the afore-mentioned security hadn’t been obtained and an understanding of what steps the District Council was taking to remedy this in the light of the alleged insolvency of the developer. **Action:** It was agreed that the Clerk should submit the S.106 Open Space Expression of Interest Form utilising the quote obtained for a new slide at Laurel’s Playground.

Concern Over Devon County Council’s Lack of Attention To Its Statutory Responsibilities Vis-a-vis Hedge-trimming, Drainage And Weed-spraying - The Clerk had sent an e-mail to Cllr Yabsley requesting his attendance to explain why sufficient works were not being undertaken and to discuss the effects of the County Council’s apparent policy of dumping drainage waste on roadside verges. Cllr Geen maintained that the County Council was causing flooding by dumping the waste on the verges which blocked the drains and gullies - the dumping was not being managed. Additionally, visibility and safety hedge-trimming was not being undertaken. Cllr Edgell defended the dumping policy by highlighting the alternative which was landfill costs at circa £100 per tonne. **Action:** Cllr Yabsley recommended that the Clerk write to the Leader of Devon County Council regarding the above concerns.

Request by All Saints Church For Funds Towards Restoration of Church Clock - The Clerk had requested evidence and information regarding alternative quotes and had suggested that the Church contact NDDC regarding the possibility of a S.106 Grant.

124/09/16.8 Matters Arising From The 10th August, 2016 Minutes Not On This Agenda

Road-works Carried Out In The Parish In Recent Weeks - Chairman Bulled raised the issue of the inappropriateness of some of the road-works undertaken by the County Council. Cllr Yabsley agreed that there would appear to have been instances where there had been a failure to reference the decisions to local knowledge. **Action:** Cllrs are to e-mail the Clerk with specific instances of illogical road-works priorities (roads which should have been attended to but weren’t
and vice-versa) for onward transmission to the Leader of Devon County Council with a view to obtaining an understanding as to why this had been happening and to remedy any failings in the process for the future.

125/09/16 9. Items For Discussion

The Road Warden Scheme - Cllrs had received a report from Cllr Milne and had had time to accommodate and assimilate its contents. Cllrs agreed that the Parish Council wouldn’t join the Scheme. Cllrs agreed that the Parish Council would have to take on, inevitably, four Highways responsibilities: road-drainage; hedge-trimming; weed-cutting and salting/gritting. Funding for this would come partly from any grants available, such as the TAP Fund and partly, from raising the Parish Council’s regular income (Precept). The Clerk emphasised that the Parish Council’s Budget for 2017/8 would need to be discussed at the November 2016 Meeting and that estimates justifying any increase would need to be to hand at that time. To this end, cllrs formed a Project Team comprising: Cllr Milne; Chairman Bulled; Cllr Geen; Cllr Smaldon and the Clerk.

Actions: In the first instance, Cllr Milne is to contact Highways with a view to ascertaining exactly what works would be carried out by the County Council in respect of the four responsibilities above. A list of essential remaining works would then be considered by the Project Team and estimates obtained for their completion. The financial information gleaned, would then be discussed with the Clerk with a view to agreeing a figure for inclusion in the 2017/8 Budget.

TAP Fund 2015/6 (Hedge-trimming) - Progress of Works - Cllr Peek had agreed with the contractor where the works were to be carried out on a map. There had been no progress due to the contractor prioritising work in favour of the local Shoots.

TAP Fund 2016/7 (Drainage Works) Application Progress - Requirement of Additional Funding From Reserves - Whilst the TAP Fund Application Form had indicated that the maximum sum available to the Parish Council was £875, the District Council had reverted with a higher possible figure of £961.40 which Cllr Peek had duly applied for. The cost of the works was estimated at £1,000 but this figure was variable and dependent on the actual works undertaken which could only be determined with the onset of the winter weather. It was axiomatic that a small sum would be required from the Parish Council’s funds and this could be agreed when the final cost was known.

126/09/16 10. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward by The Chairman

Footpath No 3 Diversion - South Leigh Farm - Devon County Council would be providing appropriate signage, shortly.

Mines Bridge - Exmoor National Park had built a ‘magnificent’ new bridge.

Exmoor Parish Forum Meeting - Exmoor Young Voices - A part-time co-ordinator was being sought at an annual expense of £8,850. Grants of £50 per annum over an initial three year period were being sought from smaller parishes to help fund this cost. Cllrs agreed to provide funding in line with this request, unanimously. Action: The Clerk is to contact the Forum in order to obtain a formal written request for a grant which would be authorised for payment at the next Parish Meeting.
127/09/16 11. Finance

Barclays Community Account  Balance as at 31st August, 2016: £1,816.81
Barclays Business Premium Account Balance as at 31st August, 2016: £5,676.95
(These figures were verified from the Bank Statements by Chairman Bulled.)

i) Receipts: None

ii) Payments:
   Clerk’s net salary £275.62 plus contribution to telephone costs of £10.00 and travel expenses of £17.55 - all totalling £303.17;

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

Unanimously, cllrs agreed to pay the above sum.

128/09/16 12. Correspondence - None

129/09/16 13. Reports

Heasley Mill Village Hall Committee - Cllr Procter reported that the Fete Night had proved successful, generating a profit of £753.21. However, there was a shortage of manpower for arranging events, and, in particular, the annual Duck Race. Action: Following a request from the Clerk, under the provisions of the original conveyance where the Parish Council was the main trustee and responsible to the Parish generally in its oversight of the Hall, Cllr Procter is to seek a set of the latest accounts and a listing of the current trustees for perusal by cllrs.

Laurel’s Playground - Cllr Kelland reported that rendering on the top of the wall owned by the Feoffees was damaged and represented a potential safety risk. Action: Cllr Geen, acting in his capacity for the Feoffees, would investigate the matter and revert. Cllr Kelland had identified that the wooden railings on the rope ladder had split. This was not considered dangerous at present but it should continue to be monitored.

130/09/16 14. Matters Brought Forward by District Councillor - District Councillor Edgell reported that there would be two trial areas involving new ways of managing refuse and recycling. Charging an annual £36 per household for provision of the green bin facility would commence in the next financial year.

Date and Time of Next meeting: Wednesday 12th October, 2016 at 7.30pm to be held in the Victory Hall, North Molton

The Meeting closed at 10.21 pm.