MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th December, 2017 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn (Vice Chairman); Councillor Geen; Councillor Milne; Councillor O’Brien; Councillor Palfreyman; Councillor Peek; Councillor Smaldon; District Councillor Edgell; County Councillor Yabsley (arrived at 7:40 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks


159/12/17 2. Declaration of Interests: Chairman Bulled regarding Planning Application: 64037 and Cllr Smaldon regarding Planning Application: 64073. Both cllrs stood down from the debate and vote on the relevant applications.

160/12/17 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: The Clerk had not received a December report for onward transmission to cllrs.

161/12/17 4. Representations From The Public: Mr Darley raised the issue of flooding on New Road which he considered to be dangerous. Chairman Bulled had spoken with the Highways Officer at the local office - an Emergency Skanska Team had been allocated to resolve the issue.

162/12/17 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64037</td>
<td>Land At High Bullen Cross, North Molton EX36 3EW</td>
<td>Supported subject to the comments below in italics. Parish councillors voted, in support of the above application subject to NDC arranging a Historic Landscape Assessment and accommodating their concern over the possibility of this setting a future precedent for infill development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64073</td>
<td>Withygate Farm Lane To Withygate Farm, Brayford, Barnstaple</td>
<td>Supported Conversion Of A Group Of Traditional Redundant Agricultural Buildings To Form A Wedding &amp; Events Venue (use Class D2), Associated Accommodation, Car Parking &amp; Associated Works, Including Small Single Storey Extension &amp; The Demolition &amp; Rebuild Of Small Modern Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64156</td>
<td>Poltimore Inn, East Street, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HR</td>
<td>Supported Approval of Details In Respect of Discharge of Condition 5 (Soft Landscaping Works) &amp; 6 (External Lighting) Attached to Planning Permission 63677 Parish councillors voted in support of the above application subject to the hedge being planted with mixed species rather than the sole beech element proposed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64102</td>
<td>Lee View, South Molton, Devon EX36 3EW</td>
<td>Supported Erection Of One Replacement Agricultural Building (Storage Shed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63677</td>
<td>Poltimore Inn, East Street, North Molton</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reserved Matters Application Following Outline Permission</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62513 For Erection Of Four Detached Two-bedroomed Units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To Provide Ancillary Holiday Accommodation To Public House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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163/12/17 6. Approval of the Minutes of The Meeting of North Molton Parish Council Held on 8th November, 2017 - approved unanimously by those cllrs who had attended the meeting.

164/12/17 7. Clerk’s Report on 8th November, 2017 Minutes

Non-functioning Street Lights In Roberts Field - The Clerk had chased both Dave Black and Paul Young of DCC requesting that the Highways infrastructure be adopted with a view to lighting being provided for the well-being and amenity of local residents. Paul Young had responded by confirming that matters had been progressing regarding the calling in of the Bond. He had appreciated that this was not a quick process and that it could cause difficulties at this time of year. However, for the previous reasons provided, DCC was not yet in a position to take responsibility for the lighting. Chairman Bulled had raised the issue at the recent Highways Conference in High Bickington with Mike Newcombe who handled legal matters in relation to Highways and Planning matters. He regarded the issue to be one of safety and for this reason thought that the lighting aspect should be removed from the Bond/adoption element to enable DCC to provide the lighting required within the shortest timescale. **Action:** The Clerk is to write to Paul Young requesting action along these lines.

Overgrown Hedge at 22 Oakford Villas - (Enq. No: 171051471) - DCC had commented that the hedge had not been cut back sufficiently enough to restore the width of the footway - a letter would be sent to the occupier, in the first instance.

Loose Coping Stones in East Street - (Enq. No: 171051478) - DCC’s R. Sables had informed the Clerk that the days when the Highway Authority had a large resource of skilled masons readily available for this type of work had long since passed. Repairs had been made in response to a safety defect where the objective was to make the edging safe - a barrier around the defective stones would have been acceptable. He considered that the workforce had done what it could with the tools available. He agreed that the work was by no means professional. He was intending to make a bid for the entire length of raised footway which if successful in attracting funding would be allocated to the Bridges Section for completion in the next financial year.

NMPC’s Dissatisfaction With DCC’s Service - Chairman Bulled and Cllr Peek had raised the issue with Meg Booth at the Devon Highways Parish & Town Council Conference in High Bickington - they had highlighted the lack of communication from Exeter right through to the workers on the ground. The Parish Council’s Highways Project Team needed to know the exact details of work to be undertaken by DCC and its contractors in order to avoid duplication of effort but this level of information had not been available. Additionally, the carrying out by DCC of what was considered to be unnecessary work whilst avoiding more pressing Highways issues in the parish had also been mentioned. Chairman Bulled remained confident that Meg Booth would address these criticisms.

TAP Fund 2017-18 - The Clerk had forwarded the completed and scanned application form to NDC and provided attendant additional information in support of it.

Highways Publicity Flyer - **Action:** The Clerk had produced the final flyer.
Further HMCEF Application For £5,000 - The Clerk had applied for a further tranche of £5,000 in November - a decision on the application would be made by DCC sometime in December.

Audit Position With Regard to the Carrying-over of Ear-marked Funds Into The Next Financial Year - DALC had confirmed that earmarked funds could be carried over.

Precept Application 2018-19 - The Clerk had applied for £10,580.74 which was £14.80 more than had been agreed by cllrs in November - the increase was due to a shortfall in the Grant Assist of £14.80 - all agreed.

Cancellation of Monthly Bank Standing Order Into Reserves of £25.00 - The Clerk had executed this request by cllrs.

Clerk’s Annual Review - Financial Aspects - Unanimously, cllrs agreed for the Clerk’s salary to be raised by one incremental point to SCP17 which equated to an hourly rate of £9.237 and a gross monthly payment of £369.48.

Review of Open Space Funding Priorities - The Clerk had informed NDC of NMPC’s revised priorities as per the November 2017 Minutes.

Livestock Escaping Into The Village Through The Dure Lane Gateway - (ENQ171063350) - DCC had confirmed that an assessment would be carried out on or by 3rd January, 2018. Chairman Bulled reported that the Footpath Warden, Sheila Coe, was also pursuing this matter via the Rights of Way Officer, Simon Houghton.

Mr W. Smaldon’s Letter Concerning The Poor State of The Road Surface at Burcombe Hill - The Clerk had replied by letter explaining that this matter was being actively pursued by County Cllr Yabsley with DCC. County Cllr Yabsley and R. sables of Highways had been provided with scans of the letter to aid their case for improvement. County Cllr Yabsley confirmed that £50k of funding had been secured within the current financial year and that the works would be carried out although no exact timescale was available.

Village Fireworks - Letter of Thanks To Mike Courtney & His Team - The Clerk had written a letter of thanks to Mike and his team.

Memorial - The Clerk had twice chased Exeter Police on this issue but to no avail.

165/12/17.8 Matters Arising From The 8th November, 2017 Minutes Not On This Agenda - None

166/12/17 9. Items For Discussion

North Molton Churchyard - The Reverend David Baker informed cllrs that there was limited useful space for new graves in the churchyard. The Church would be entering into the formal process (thought to take some twelve months) of closing the churchyard for new burials and passing its maintenance on to the Parish Council. The Clerk clarified the position by explaining that the Parish Council would have a three month time period after being served with a Notice by the Church, in which to serve Notice on the District Council to take over responsibility for such maintenance. In respect of procuring a new churchyard, the Clerk informed cllrs that the Parish Council had powers to buy a plot of land and run and maintain a new cemetery but that it was not obliged under the law to do so. DALC had suggested that the views of members of the local community be sought before formulating any plan on the way forwards. Reverend Baker informed cllrs that the Archdeacon had intimated that the Church would not be willing to run any new facility. 

**Actions:** The Clerk is to forward NALC’s legal topic note on the subject to all cllrs for their perusal and consideration. The Clerk is to contact the Bishop’s Nympton Parish Council which runs a cemetery with a view to gaining a greater insight into the running and financial aspects involved. The Clerk is to invite Martin Williams who runs the Burial Ground Service at NDC along to the next meeting of the Parish Council with a view to him explaining the details involved and fielding questions. The Clerk is to set the Churchyard as an issue for the January 2018 Meeting of the Parish Council in order to allow further discussion on the matter.
Highways Project Team Update - Cllr Milne informed clirs that the Parish Council’s contractor, Forks2You, would be addressing the drainage issues from Saturday 16th December on its Priority 4 roads. A maximum of £4.5k had been allocated for this work. Indeed, in the current financial year, drainage issues on all Priority 4 and 5 roads would be addressed, along with two Priority 7 roads (one of which would be attended to by DCC) and one Priority 9 road. **Action:** County Cllr Yabsley agreed to report the serious flooding issues on New Road.

Adopted BT Phone Box Update - Cllr Palfreyman would attend to the maintenance issues when the weather improved. Cllrs discussed various ideas for the usage of the facility. **Action:** Cllr Milne agreed to approach the local school for further ideas.

Financial Aspects Of Clerk’s Annual Review - This is covered under the Clerk’s Report, above.

**167/12/17 10. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward by The Chairman**

Chairman Bulled reported that the flooding issue caused by a collapsed drain below Rumbelows would appear to have been resolved.

**168/12/17 11. Finance**

Barclays Community Account Balance as at 30th November, 2017: £9,751.46
Barclays Business Premium Account Balance as at 30th November, 2017: £6,028.36

i) **Receipts:** None

ii) **Payments:**

a) **Clerk’s Net Monthly Pay & Expenses - £313.44** - Net pay: £282.24 plus contribution to telephone & office costs of £15.00 and travel expenses of £16.20;
b) **North Molton Old School - Hire of Old School Hall - 8/11/2017 - £10.00**;
c) **North Molton Victory Hall - Hire of Hall For Meetings - Nov. 2016 to Oct. 2017 - £150.00**;
d) **Mrs I. Milne - Mapping Copies for Highways Project Team - £24.78**.

iii) Any Other Accounts Received After Preparation of Agenda: None

Unanimously, clirs agreed to pay the above sums.

**169/12/17 12. Correspondence** - None

**170/12/17 13. Reports**

**Snow Warden’s Report** - Snow Warden, Cllr Geen, reported that salt would be delivered to and stored on land owned by Mr Darley with his kind consent. The majority of salt bins were already full.

**171/12/17 14. Matters Brought Forward by The District Councillor & County Councillor** - District Cllr Edgell reported that the Boundary Commission’s latest proposal involved North Molton Ward remaining unchanged.

**Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 10th January, 2018 at 7.30 pm in The Victory Hall, Fore Street, North Molton

The Meeting closed at 9.17 p.m..