MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th May, 2017 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn (Vice Chairman); Councillor Kelland; Councillor Milne (arrived at 7.45 pm); Councillor O’Brien (arrived at 8.45 pm); Councillor Palfreyman; Councillor Procter; Councillor Smaldon; District Councillor Edgell and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

060/05/17 1. Apologies: County Councillor Yabsley & Cllrs Geen, Peek and Platt - agreed unanimously.

061/05/17 2. Declaration of Interests: None

062/05/17 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: No representative was present and no report had been submitted. The Clerk had requested a new police liaison officer and regular monthly reports in view of PCSO Bray’s maternity leave, but a response was still awaited.

063/05/17 4. Representations From The Public: Cllr Kelland had received a complaint regarding the damaged coping stones in East Street from Jubilee Gardens down to the bottom of the village. This was considered to be potentially dangerous. Action: The Clerk is to refer this matter to Highways.

Cllr Procter had reported the damaged ‘fingers’ on the signpost in the Triangle to DCC.

064/05/17 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>62797</td>
<td>2 Rumbelows, East Street, North Molton</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conversion Of Front Garden To Create Off Road Parking For 2 Cars</td>
<td></td>
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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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62552</td>
<td>East Marsh Farm, North Molton</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prior Approval For Change Of Use Of Agricultural Building To Dwelling (Class QA)</td>
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065/05/17 6. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th April, 2017 - approved unanimously.

066/05/17 7. Clerk’s Report on 12th April, 2017 Minutes

New Street Lighting In East Street - Not Lighting The Pavement Sufficiently On The Opposite Side Of The Road Where There Are No Street Lights - The Clerk had logged the issue on DCC’s Highways’ internet reporting facility and was still awaiting positive action following further clarification regarding the location of the problem.
Concerns Regarding The Withdrawal Of The ‘Free’ Green Bin Service For Garden Waste - The Clerk had arranged for Ricky McCormack of NDC to attend the Parish Council’s 14th June, 2017 Meeting in order for him to provide a fuller explanation of the District Council’s new policy on waste disposal.

On-going Traffic Lights in Station Road, South Molton - Timescale Sought For Completion of The Works - Elan Homes had responded to the Clerk’s e-mail in that the matter had been referred to the Construction Director for an informative response which was still awaited.

Update Requested By Owners On Re-painting Of Disabled Markings Outside ‘Two Gables’ In East Street - Cllr Procter had updated the owners on the situation as documented in previous minutes.

Old School Hall Committee’s Request For The Parish Council’s Minutes To Be Placed In The Post Boxes of The Old School Hall & Victory Hall For Perusal By Parishioners At Morning and Lunchtime Meetings - The Clerk had carried out this request from April.

Blocked Drains At The Bottom Of Broad Close and In Heasley Mill Just Below The Telephone Exchange - The Clerk had referred the matters to Highways.

Blocked Drains On The Old Road Caused By Grass Cuttings On The Bank Outside The Sports Club - Roadside Rubbish at Same Vicinity - Chairman Bulled had raised the issue with the Sports Club’s Chairman who would endeavour to ensure that grass clippings would be handled more tidily in the future with any roadside rubbish cleared away.

Alleged Inefficiency Of DCC’s Outsource Contractor, Skanska - The Clerk had written a letter to Meg Booth, Head of Highways, and was awaiting a response.

Raised Manhole Cover Damaging Vehicles in Old Road, Lower Poole - DCC was relying on NDC to secure funding to finish the works on the Old Road under the terms of the attendant S.106 Agreement with the Roberts Field Developer - The Clerk had chased Damien Hunter of NDC’s Legal Dept. and a response was awaited.

Slippery Road Surface For Horses Descending The Hill From Roberts Field On The Newly-surfaced Part Of The Old Road, North Molton - Action: Following Cllr Dunn’s observation that the road had ‘gritted-in’ over time and was providing adequate grip, the Clerk is to contact the BHS and DCC and explain that the situation would be monitored with no action required by DCC in the meantime - all agreed.

Memorial On New Road - The Clerk had continued to chase the Police Sergeant involved on the case.

Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund - DCC had responded to the effect that the 2016/7 funding was approved - the £3,900.00 should be received shortly.

Litchaton Farm - S.106 Open Space Funds of £2,330.48 - The Clerk had invited the village halls and Sports Club to apply directly to NDC for the funding as agreed - the Clerk had informed NDC of cllrs’ wish for the funds to be split equally between any applicants.

Pilot Removal of Litter Bin Following RoSPA’s Inspection Report On Laurels Playground - Cllrs Kelland & Procter had removed the bin and were monitoring the litter situation.

Consideration of How The Adopted BT Phone Box In The Square Is To Be Utilised - Cllr Dunn had spoken with the Chairman of the History Society - the Chairman had asked the Society’s members to contact the Parish Clerk directly with any ideas for consideration by the Parish Council.
Parish Council’s Commitment To a 50% Grant to All Saints Church In Respect of Its Clock’s First Annual Maintenance Cost Following Its Refurbishment Subject To Review Thereafter - The Clerk had written to All Saints Church confirming this position.

Letter Of Support For All Saints Church’s Application For Heritage Lottery Funding - The Clerk would bring this back on the agenda once details of to whom and where to write were known by the Church and conveyed to the Clerk.

Introductory Training Courses For New Councillors - Organising Local DALC Course - Chairman Bulled had phoned various local parish clerks who would revert.

067/05/ 17.8 Matters Arising From The 12th April, 2017 Minutes Not On This Agenda - None

068/05/17 9. Items For Discussion

Highways Project Team Update - Cllr Milne acknowledged that the 2016/7 Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund (HMCEF) tranche of £3,900 had been approved by DCC - this along with the increased Precept would enable the proposed drainage works to be commenced. A problem had arisen where it had not been possible to obtain competitive quotes for the work because only one firm, A & B, had been identified which could carry out the full range of tasks required, including water-tableing. **Action:** Cllr Milne is to contact Highways Services Manager, Lucy Barrow, in order to ascertain the names of other councils carrying out similar works with a view to identifying other contractors in the area which could be requested to provide competitive quotes. A detailed A & B quote would be presented to cllrs at the next June meeting along with any competitive quotes should any other firms capable of carrying out the full range of drainage works be identified.

Cllr Milne informed cllrs that the contractor, I. C. Woollacott, still owed the Parish Council one day’s work under the 2017/8 TAP Fund - the contractor would be tackling blocked easement issues in Pitt Lane as soon as the weather was conducive for the carrying out of such work.

Chairman Bulled commented that Cllr Geen would be chasing County Cllr Yabsley regarding certain jetting works which needed to be carried out by DCC before the Parish Council’s contractor could finish his drainage works at Great Heasley.

Cllr Milne reported that the first weed-spraying had taken place on 9th May, 2017 with Chairman Bulled confirming that nine hours work had been completed. **Action:** The Clerk is to chase South Molton Town Council for the bill for the weed-spraying works together with a full breakdown of costs.

Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund 2016/7 & 2017/8 - The Clerk informed cllrs that £3,900 in respect of 2016/7 had been approved by DCC and should be in the Parish Council’s bank account, shortly. **Action:** Cllrs agreed unanimously for the Clerk to apply immediately for a further £3,900 in respect of the 2017/8 pot of monies in order for the Parish Council to stand the best possible chance for obtaining further funding. The Clerk informed cllrs that an immediate application in May would be considered for approval by DCC in June. 50% match-funding (from the Precept) would be required in the event of the Parish Council appointing contractors to do the work.

Consideration Of How The Adopted BT Phone Box In The Square Is To Be Utilised - Whilst cllrs debated the possible uses of the phone box, they were mindful, in the first instance, that its essential refurbishment was a priority. **Action:** Cllr Palfreyman is to prepare a report on the condition of the phone box for consideration by cllrs at the next meeting.

Review of Asset Register 2017/18 - Cllrs approved the Register unanimously subject to the Clerk amending the nine bench seats documented to only six. **Action:** The Clerk is to obtain the last audited accounts for Heasley Mill Village Hall along with a copy of its current insurance schedule and policy document for perusal by cllrs under the Parish Council’s role as main trustee.

Review of Emergency Plan 2017/8 - Cllrs identified various minor amendments in respect of contact details but unanimously approved the Plan subject to such changes being incorporated within it.

Insurance Renewal - The Clerk informed cllrs that the circa £38 increase in premium had been due largely to H.M. Government increasing Insurance Premium Tax to 12%. Chairman Bulled noted that the policy under ‘Exclusion 7’ would not provide cover for ‘damage resulting from an alteration to subterranean stores of groundwater or to flow patterns’ which was considered to be a poignant inhibiting factor in any consideration towards any potential intervention, drainage-wise, at Heasley Mill Village Hall. Unanimously, cllrs agreed to continue with cover with Zurich Insurance. **Action:** The Clerk is to inform the insurers of the change in the number of bench seats from the quoted twelve to only six and obtain any refund due.

069/05/17 10. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward by The Chairman - None

070/05/17 11. Finance

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance as at 28th April, 2017:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barclays Community Account</td>
<td>£6,670.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barclays Business Premium Account</td>
<td>£5,878.36</td>
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i) Receipts: 
   a) 13th April, 2017 - HMRC VAT Reclaim - £499.93;
   b) 24th April, 2017 - NDC (Precept: £5,033.50 - Parish Grant: 568.50 & Grant Assistance: £73.69) - £5,675.69.

ii) Payments:
   b) Annual Grants to: North Molton Victory Hall - £100.00
      Heasley Mill Village Hall - £100.00 &
      PCC Burial Ground - £500.00;
   c) Community First Trading - £304.61 - Zurich Insurance Premium Renewal 2017/8 due on 1st June;
   d) Exmoor Young Voices - £50.00 - Grant towards the funding of a Young Coordinator to help people remain living and working on Exmoor.

Unanimously, cllrs agreed to pay the above sums.

071/05/17 12. Correspondence - None

072/05/17 13. Reports

North Molton Primary School - Cllr O’Brien had attended its Annual Meeting. The School had received a ‘Good’ OFSTED designation. Twenty or so children would be moving up to the Secondary School in September. Partnerships with other schools were being developed in what was considered to be a transitional period. Fencing around the perimeter of the school would be improved for safety reasons. Cllr O’Brien offered the Parish Council’s support in assisting, where possible, with any issues arising.
Laurel’s Playground - Cllr Kelland reported that the pilot removal of the litter bin had resulted in no build-up of litter until one recent incident but the situation would continue to be monitored. The re-painting of the walls had been hindered by on-going deterioration of the render, particularly to the wall owned by the Feoffees. Whilst the Feoffees’ Chairman would be notified by Cllr Kelland of the situation, Cllr Palfreyman would endeavour to make good the render sufficient to allow the continuation of the refurbishment works. Tree debris including leaves was an on-going issue. The mats would require lifting, re-setting and re-tying.

District Cllr Edgell informed cllrs that the Old School’s green bin in which leaf debris was collected, would qualify for free collection due to its Community aspect. Cllrs agreed to raise this issue with NDC’s, Ricky McCormack who would be attending the Parish Council’s next meeting.

Diseased Rowan Tree (Sorbus Family) In The Circle - Cllrs agreed for Cllr Kelland to cut the middle part out of the tree and to generally prune it back with a view to further monitoring of the situation. Cllr Kelland kindly agreed to carry out this work but reminded cllrs that the tree would die eventually and would need replacing which could be considered at a later date.

073/05/17 14. Matters Brought Forward by District Councillor & County Councillor - Chairman Bulled congratulated District Councillor Edgell on his recent election success. District Cllr Edgell informed cllrs that a six month trial involving the introduction of food waste caddies would be piloted in an area involving Goodleigh, Bratton Fleming and part of Brayford with an intended general roll-out thereafter - the intention was to prevent contamination of the black and green bins with such waste. In the current financial year, District Cllr Edgell had been allocated an overall Local Community Grant of £1,000 for local projects which he would endeavour to split fairly between the five parishes within his remit. District Cllr Edgell urged the Parish Council to send a representative to the next Parish Forum should an item appear on its Agenda regarding the phasing out of the Parish Grant which was being considered by NDC. In his view, the Parish Grant should not be dispensed with because this would only force parish councils to raise their precepts in order to maintain their support to their local communities and in North Molton’s case, to its village halls and burial ground.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th June, 2017 at 7.30 pm in Victory Hall, North Molton

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m..