MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th September, 2017 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Geen; Councillor Kelland; Councillor Milne; Councillor O’Brien; Councillor Palfreyman; Councillor Peek; Councillor Procter; Councillor Smaldon; District Councillor Edgell; County Councillor Yabsley (joined meeting at 9.10 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks


117/09/17 2. Declaration of Interests: Chairman Bulled regarding Planning Application No: 63543 - the Chairman stood down from the debate and voting on this case with Cllr Geen taking the Chair.

118/09/17 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: Cllrs had no significant issues for the Clerk to raise with the local Beat Officer.

119/09/17 4. Representations From The Public: Cllr Procter had received representations from parents whose children had been stung by nettles on the pathway from Back Lane to Oakford Villas. Action: Kindly, Mr A. Darley agreed to cut the nettles back although he emphasised that he was not legally responsible for their maintenance. At a recent meeting at The Old School Cllr Smaldon had been asked by the owners of Two Gables in Upper East street to thank the Parish Council for its efforts in arranging for DCC to re-paint the disabled markings on the road outside their home. Cllr Geen had been asked to raise the issue of overhanging trees which were forcing lorry drivers into the middle of the road between Yarde Down and Kinsford Gate. Action: Cllr Geen is to raise the issue with the landowner. Cllr Kelland had received representations regarding speeding traffic by Corner Cottage - this had been reported as being due to shoot-related vehicles. Action: Whilst cllrs acknowledged that speeding was a general phenomenon, they agreed for Chairman Bulled to raise the issue informally with members of the two shoots. Chairman Bulled had received representations regarding vehicles parked outside Corner Cottage which were considered to be raising the potential risk of an accident. Cllr Milne raised the issue of erecting ‘slow down’ style signs around the village.

120/09/17 5. Planning

Chairman Bulled asked District Cllr Edgell why the recent planning applications in respect of Back Lane and Land to the South of Old House Barns had been designated as delegated decisions when the original applications had been referred to Committee. Action: The Clerk is to write to the Head of Planning requesting an explanation.

The Clerk raised concerns with District Cllr Edgell regarding various administrative issues with NDC’s Planning Dept and wondered whether or not he was aware of any staffing/other contributory factors which might be affecting the standard of service being offered. District Cllr Edgell was not aware of any generic issues within the Department. Action: The Clerk is to write to NDC’s Head of Planning setting out the Parish Council’s concerns, citing specific examples of administrative problems and requesting a full explanation as to why the Parish Council had been experiencing a diminishing standard of service - all agreed.

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>63543</td>
<td>Lower Poole Barns, Fore Street, North Molton</td>
<td>Against - See Reasons why below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Removal of Conditions 9, 10, 16 (Pre-Commencement Conditions For Stone Walling, Dwelling Enclosures, Soft Landscaping) Attached To Planning Permission 50080 (Extension Of The Time Limit For Implementation Of Planning Permission 41090 - Erection Of 23 Dwellings Together With Associated Off Site Highway Works) To Allow For The Approval Of Details In Relation</td>
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To The Above Conditions

Parish councillors voted unanimously **AGAINST** this application due to a lack of justifiable reasons presented by the applicant/NDC on the Planning Portal for removal of the above conditions - no alternatives/proposals had been offered in their place.

63677 **Poltimore Inn, East Street, North Molton**
Reserved Matters Application Following Outline Permission 62513 For Erection Of Four Detached Two-bedroomed Units To Provide Ancillary Holiday Accommodation To Public House

Whilst a majority of parish councillors had supported Case No: 62513, they were unable to comment on Case No: 63677 due to there being no information available on NDC’s Planning Portal or in the Case Officer’s notification e-mail explaining what the ‘Reserved Matters’ were.

Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63078</td>
<td><strong>Lower Poole Barns, Fore Street, North Molton</strong></td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erection Of One Dwelling (Plot 11)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>63275</td>
<td><strong>Moorland View, East Street, North Molton</strong></td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Floor Extension Over Garage Together With Refurbishment Of Outbuilding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63269</td>
<td><strong>East Marsh Farm, North Molton</strong></td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prior Approval For Change Of Use Of One Agricultural Building To One Dwelling (Class Q (A) (B))</td>
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121/09/17 6. Approval of the Minutes of The Meeting of North Molton Parish Council Held on 9th August, 2017 - approved unanimously by those clrs who had attended the meeting.


Barbara Rands’ Proposal To Erect a Memorial Seat Opposite The Miners - Chairman Bulled reported that Barbara Rands had agreed to pay and arrange for erection of the new seat. Unanimously, clrs agreed for the Parish Council to be responsible for on-going, future, maintenance costs. Kindly, Cllr Procter volunteered to carry out any such maintenance work.

Potholes Reported By The Public In New Road - Action: Cllr Procter had logged the issue with DCC.

Electoral Review of North Devon - Warding Arrangements - The Clerk had e-mailed the Boundary Commission with NMPC’s view that the reduction in wards was a sound idea, in principle, but that the Parish Council could not comment further until a detailed proposal had been made available.

Laurels Playground - Replacement of Goal Post Cladding - Following an inspection by the Clerk, Chairman Bulled had secured the crossbar cladding with cable-ties and water-proof tape. Clrs agreed to monitor the situation further before exploring alternatives involving potential costs. The Clerk had noticed the general
considerable weed-growth and leaf debris. Kindly, Chairman Bulled and her husband had brushed the leaves aside and had removed the weeds including those underneath the matting.

Non-functioning Street Lights In Lower Poole & Roberts Field - The Clerk had chased Paul Young of DCC by phone and e-mail for progress regarding the calling in of the Bond to complete the infrastructure works up to an adoptable standard. There had been no response to date.

Footpath 1 - N. Molton to S. Molton Via R. Mole - Improvement of Section of Bridleway Under Link Road To Make It Safer for Walkers & Horse-riders - ENQ171020368 - DCC had commented that repairs would be carried out in the autumn subject to weather and ground conditions.

Footpath 1 - Cast-aside Damaged Gate in Dure Lane and Its Pending Replacement - The Clerk had chased the Footpath Warden on this issue and was awaiting a response.

Applications For Free Green Bin Service For Laurels Playground and All Saints Church - NDC had ruled that both the Parish Council and All Saints Church were not eligible for a free green bin service due to their already receiving grants from NDC. Kindly, Chairman Bulled agreed to accommodate future leaf debris from Laurel’s Playground on her home composting facility.

Lower Poole Development - Second Phase - 50% S.106 Funds Due Upon Commencement of Works - The Clerk had chased NDC’s Case Officer, Jean Watkins, both by phone and e-mail for an update on progress on the S.106 Agreement which was under review, apparently. There had been no response to date.

Roberts Field Development - Unpaid S.106 Public Open Space Contribution & Related Raised Manhole Cover Damaging Vehicles in Old Road, Lower Poole - NDC’s Legal Department had been seeking further opinion from Counsel following a written response from Mr Higson to NDC’s 14 day, final demand before action.

Memorial On New Road - The Road Traffic Accident Prevention Officer in Exeter had phoned the Clerk with the progress that the family member in Australia would be contacted by e-mail by the F.L.O. with a view to resolving the issue due to the impracticality of any face-to-face meeting.

Purchase of Paint to Refurbish the BT Phone-box - The Clerk had delivered the paint to Cllr Palfreyman on 2nd September.

Overgrown Hedge At 22 Oakford Villas - The Clerk had written to the home-owners requesting their attention to this matter.

Loose Coping Stones in East Street - The Clerk reported that DCC was aware that the recent works had not been completed to a satisfactory standard - DCC would be referring the matter back to the contractor.

123/09/17 8 Matters Arising From The 9th August, 2017 Minutes Not On This Agenda - None

124/09/17 9. Items For Discussion

Highways Project Team Update - Cllr Milne reported that Darren of Forks2U would be meeting certain members of the Highways Team on 26th September with a view to agreeing the drainage works to be carried out in October and November. In conjunction with Forks2U, Ian Woollacott would revisit the flooding black-spots along with any which hadn’t been addressed previously. Hedge-trimming and weed-spraying works had been completed. £2,800 of the Highways Community Enhancement Fund had been spent. £4,500 was earmarked for edge-ploughing and gulley clearance works with a further £800 to be allowed for flood black-spots and £500 for any contingency. Action: Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to liaise with Cllr Milne with a view to producing a flier explaining the broad schedule of the Parish Council’s forthcoming Highways drainage works to parishioners. The flier would be circulated amongst cllrs for comments/amendments before publication. Cllr Milne would be inviting Richard Sables of DCC Highways along to the next Highways Team Meeting with a
view to establishing DCC’s programme of drainage works and road-surfacing works. It had been difficult to find any DCC proposed work schedules. Cllrs wanted to avoid duplication of effort in respect of drainage works - they wanted to gain a greater of understanding of the basis for DCC’s road-surfacing priorities. **Action:** County Cllr Yabsley is to endeavour to find a programme of works and revert to cllrs before 11th October. **Action:** Cllr Milne is to provide the Clerk with details backing up the reasons why the Parish Council is dissatisfied with the Highways Dept. The Clerk is to write to John Hart, Leader of DCC, and County Cllr Stuart Hughes responsible for Highways, expressing the Parish Council’s dissatisfaction with the Highways service citing such detailed examples. **Action:** With the arrival of the latest invoice for £1,800 for drainage works, cllrs agreed for the Clerk to show DCC evidence of the works completed to date under the Highways Community Enhancement Fund and to question DCC as to whether or not the Parish Council was eligible to make a further application for funds and, if so, when and for what amount. 

Chairman Bulled drew cllrs’ attention to the excellent and much-appreciated hedge-trimming work between North Molton and Bampfylde Cross which was understood to have been funded by North Molton Shoot and completed by the Jones family from Barham & North Radworthy farms with the kind consent of landowners Peter Stucley & Sally Worthington.

**TAP Fund 2017-18** - The Clerk had forwarded an e-mail to cllrs detailing the basic rules for the current year’s scheme which required co-operation with at least one other parish or committee organisation and could be utilised towards drainage works although the envisaged scheme in 2018-19 would not accommodate this type of work. **Action:** Cllr Milne is to include this topic on the Highways Team’s Agenda for 9th October and revert to cllrs at the 11th October Meeting of the Parish Council.

**Adopted BT Phone Box Update** - Chairman Bulled had spoken briefly with the History Society’s, Richard Carder, who had appeared to be keen to start formulating ideas for the use of the facility. Cllr Palfreyman would re-paint the phone-box as soon as practicable - he would await clearer ideas on the required usage before considering any changes to the internal layout.

**125/09/17 10. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward by The Chairman**

**Commando Run**

Chairman Bulled informed cllrs that the Commando Run would be taking place on 15th October - volunteers should contact the Hospice.

**126/09/17 11. Finance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance as at 31st August, 2017:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barclays Community Account</td>
<td>£7,324.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barclays Business Premium Account</td>
<td>£5,978.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

i) **Receipts:**

a) **£1,000.00 - Libra School** - Donation towards general highways-related work to be undertaken by North Molton Parish Council - 2nd September, 2017;

ii) **Payments:**

a) **Clerk’s Net Monthly Pay & Expenses - £377.88** - Net pay: £282.24 plus contribution to telephone & office costs of £15.00, travel expenses of £45.60 and settlement of Unicorn Paint Invoice No: 11707 (Adopted Phone-box Refurbishment) which the Clerk procured using his personal debit card: £35.04;

b) **K L Chugg - £90.00** - Invoice No: 101299- Internal Audit Fee;

iii) Any Other Accounts Received After Preparation of Agenda: **I. C. Woollacott - £1,800.00** - Hedge-trimming.

Unanimously, cllrs agreed to pay the above sums.
127/09/17 12. Correspondence - The Clerk read out a letter dated 12th September from NDC’s Legal Dept regarding an application for a lawful development certificate for the existing use of The Old Waterworks, Westland Bridge, North Molton EX36 3LP as one dwelling. The solicitor was seeking specific information from cllrs as to whether or not the building was being used for any other purpose other than residential with the frequency of use being immaterial. **Action:** Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to respond that to the best of their knowledge, cllrs understood that the usage had been and was, residential only.

128/09/17 13. Reports

**North Molton Sports Club & Community Centre** - Cllrs Palfreyman had volunteered to be a car parking marshal for the forthcoming **Mission Impossible** event on Sunday 15th October. Cllrs Kelland, Milne & Smaldon volunteered to help, in addition. The Bank Holiday weekend had proved very successful with £3,600 profit generated from the clay pigeon shoot, stag night, wedding and cricket competition. The cricket team had won promotion by ending up top of the league. The first team for football was top of the Premier League. The second team was currently second in Division 1.

**Heasley Mill Village Hall Committee** - Cllr Procter had attended the Meeting of 29th August. The **Duck Race** had proved successful. The Committee would be looking for the PTA, which organised the Race and which used the Hall’s facilities, to contribute, in future, towards its funds. Following the Committee’s recent installation of a new notice board, it was recognised that this was not big enough to accommodate the Parish Council’s agendas and minutes. The Committee would be happy to allow the Parish Council to erect its own notice board on the Hall’s site. Cllr Procter had provided the Clerk and Chairman with a rough idea of the financial cost involved for this (circa £189). Following advice from the Clerk, cllrs agreed for agendas (which are much shorter in length) to continue to be displayed on the existing Heasley Mill Village Hall Notice Board but for minutes to only be displayed on the notice board outside the village shop. The Committee had thanked the Parish Council for suggesting that it apply for S.106 Open Space Funding; it had received £2,076 which had been utilised towards the repair to the roof.

**The Old School Management Committee** - Cllr Smaldon informed cllrs that whilst the Treasurer had reported the finances as being on a sound-footing, there were, according to Richard Carder, insufficient funds to carry out the much-needed re-plastering, redecoration and roofing repairs due to the Feoffees’ current efforts being concentrated on the refurbishment of Bakery Cottage. An application for railings for the front of the building to assist with access to the toilets for the Disabled had been turned down by NDC’s Planning Dept on the grounds of conservation. Richard Carder had commented that a toilet for the Disabled would be difficult to establish because it would take up existing space.

**Laurel’s Playground** - Chairman Bulled raised the issue of the Feoffees’ wall requiring repair. Cllr Geen informed cllrs that the Feoffees would be attending to repairs in the Spring.

129/09/17 14. Matters Brought Forward by District Councillor - In respect of the forthcoming **Warding Arrangements Review** by the **Boundary Commission**, District Cllr Edgell reported that several district cllrs had proposed that no change be made for the Parish of North Molton - this would be put to NDC’s Main Committee for presentation to the **Boundary Commission. Leader 5**, E.U. Funding was available before Britain’s E.U. exit date in March 2019 - local farms and small businesses were welcome to make further enquiries - £2.5k to a maximum of £70k was available per project with a 40% ceiling against overall project cost.

**Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 11th October, 2017 at 7.30 pm in Victory Hall, North Molton

The Meeting closed at 10.14 p.m.