Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn (Vice Chairman); Councillor Darley; Councillor Geen (arrived at 8.02 pm); Councillor Kelland (left at 9.15 pm); Councillor Milne; Councillor O’Brien; Councillor Palfreyman; Councillor Procter; Councillor Smaldon; District Councillor Edgell; County Councillor Yabsley (arrived at 7.40 pm and left at 8.51 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks.

214/04/18 1. Apologies: Councillor Peek - agreed unanimously.

215/04/18 2. Declaration of Interests: Councillor Smaldon regarding planning application no: 64666 - Marsh Hall Lodge - Cllr Smaldon stood down from the debate and vote on this case.

216/04/18 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: Chairman Bulled commented that it was nice to have PCSO Beverley Bray back on duty.

217/04/18 4. Representations From The Public: Cllr O’Brien had received a representation from Mr Hildrew concerning the height of the Poltimore Inn chalets currently under construction. Action: The Clerk is to ask the case’s Planning Officer to investigate the building levels to ensure that the plans are being complied with. Following a complaint from a member of the public regarding the smell of sewage at Bendle Lane Cross, Chairman Bulled had contacted both South West Water and Environmental Health with the latter due to investigate the issue with a view to initiating enforcement. During the reading of the Clerk’s Report, Chairman Bulled re-raised the representation concerning parking at Oakford Villas where it joins New Road. One homeowner had had her driveway blocked and was wondering if a parking restriction could be brought into effect. DCC had informed her that the Parish Council would need to report the matter which would be considered in the round along with other such requests. Four residents regarded parking by staff and customers at the nearby salon to be adding to the problem. In order to help the situation, Chairman Bulled had e-mailed North Devon Homes (NDH) regarding whether or not the salon staff and patrons could park in the NDH car park but had received a negative response. Action: The Clerk is to write to NDH high-lighting the general issue of parking in the Oakford Villas area and asking the organisation to explore the possibility of their empty garages being utilised to alleviate the problem - all agreed.

218/04/18 5. Planning

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting

64666 Marsh Hall Lodge, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HQ Extension To Dwelling Supported

64773 Barn At South Leigh Farm, South Molton Prior Approval For Proposed Change Of Use Of Agricultural Building To Single Dwelling House & Associated Operational Development (Class Q, A & B) Supported subject to NDC giving due consideration to the possibility of limiting the ‘associated operational development’ to exclude the storage of combustible materials.

Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

64037 Land At High Bullen Cross, North Molton EX36 3EW Erection of One Supervisory Rural Workers Dwelling and One Agricultural Building Approved

219/04/18 6. Approval of the Minutes of The Meeting of North Molton Parish Council Held on 14th March, 2018 - approved unanimously by those cllrs who had attended the meeting.
Request For Signage To Deter Large Vehicles From Using The Road Between Molland Cross and Holewater Cross - Whilst the Clerk had e-mailed the County Councillor and received no response, Chairman Bulled had been in further contact with Mr Brown who had raised the issue originally. He had been informed by DCC’s Highways Dept that it would be unwilling to provide signage on the evidence supplied. **Action:** County Councillor Yabsley is to endeavour to visit the stretch of road concerned with the Highways Manager in some two week’s time and keep the Chairman and Clerk informed of when the visit would be happening and whether or not the findings of such visit justified DCC supplying signage.

**Incomplete Refuse Collection On Thursday 8th March** - The Clerk had e-mailed NDC on 28th March - NDC’s Customer Services Dept (Andrea Beasley) had responded by e-mailing that it would require a detailed list of the houses affected in order to refer the matter to the Waste & Recycling Team. Cllrs agreed that this issue was too far in the past and wouldn’t justify further pursuit. However, the previous week’s recycling collection had been incomplete in that it had stopped at Jubilee Gardens. **Action:** The Clerk is to report this latter incident to NDC via the e-mail address: miscollections@northdevon.gov.uk.

**Difficulties and Danger Posed To The Public By Parking of a Caravan and Cars On The Pavement at Oakford Villas** - Cllr Kelland had monitored the situation at various times of the day but had not witnessed any inconsiderate parking to date. Unanimously, cllrs agreed for Cllr Kelland to continue to watch the situation with any further action held in abeyance for the time being.

**Slippery and Dangerous Path From Back Lane To Oakford Villas** - Anne Humphreys of NDH had confirmed that contractor **Bowdens** aimed to be on site on 6th April. Cllr Procter confirmed that an excellent job had been carried out. **Action:** The Clerk is to write to NDH, thanking the organisation for resolving the issue to such a commendable standard.

**Memorial in New Road** - The landowners had responded by confirming, on reflection, that they didn’t want to get involved in the matter but that the Parish Council should do whatever it felt was right. **Action:** The Clerk is to write a letter to the erectors of the memorial and place the letter at the memorial site, setting out the Parish Council’s understanding of their situation but also the Parish Council’s concern regarding the distraction the memorial was causing in a road safety context. The Clerk is to request that such memorial be taken down by them on or by 31st July, 2018, failing which the Parish Council would remove the memorial itself. **Action:** The Clerk is to write to DCC’s Highways Dept explaining the action being taken in connection with the memorial by the Parish Council.

**Section 106 Agreement Open Space Monies - Lower Poole Phase II - Work Continuing On Site Despite Non-adherence to Original S.106 Terms and With No Revised S.106 Agreement In Place** - The Clerk had phoned and e-mailed County Cllr Yabsley asking him to liaise with Paul Young to set up a meeting but had been unable to speak with him and had not received an e-mail response from him. However, County Councillor Yabsley had attempted to contact Paul Young of DCC. **Action:** County Councillor Yabsley is to arrange a meeting between himself, Paul Young and Cllr Geen.

**Un-cashed Grant Cheque - Royal British Legion (RBL) - £30.00** - The Clerk reported that cheque no: 100418 drawn on 11th October, 2017 in favour of RBL had not been cashed and was out of date - cllrs agreed for the Clerk to reverse this transaction out of the Parish Council’s accounts and not to re-draw the sum until a new contact at the RBL had been established - Deputy Chairman Dunn agreed to act as the liaison point between the Parish Council and RBL in this instance.

**Website - Implications of Updating Existing Information and Adding a ‘pdf’ File Newsletter** - The Clerk had contacted the website manager. The previous Clerk had provided information for the Parish Council’s part of the website with Mr R. Carder (North Molton History Society) providing all of the remaining information.
Updating the information would incur no additional website administration charges but others would need to supply any information for updating. A Newsletter would not incur additional website charges.

**Living Options Devon - Request For Support Letter Regarding TAP Fund Application** - The issue had been superseded by events in that the organisation concerned had already received funding from NDC and did not need a letter of support.

**221/04/ 18.8 Matters Arising From The 14th March, 2018 Minutes Not On This Agenda** - Cllr Milne reported that Nick Parish had retrieved the missing gate causing his sheep to escape in Dure Lane, repaired it and put it back in place. County Cllr Yabsley considered that the initial specification for the tarmac to be used in the top-dressing of the road at South Radworthy was not conducive to providing an adequate grip for horse-riders. However, use of a different type of tarmac was now being considered and he would keep clrs posted. The road at Burcombe Hill would be top-dressed next year which should help to alleviate the same issue for horse-riders, there. Chairman Bulled requested direct e-mail access to and, more importantly, responses from both DCC’s Highways Manager, Richard Sables, and County Councillor Yabsley for the Parish Council’s Highways Team in respect of work it was proposing to undertake in order to avoid duplication of effort - County Councillor Yabsley agreed to this. Cllr Milne suggested that other Highways issues be addressed at the next Highways Team meeting and be referred to DCC, accordingly.

**222/04/18 9. Items For Discussion**

**North Molton Churchyard - On-going Discussion Concerning Future Burial Provision** - Reverend Baker set out his view of the options available for future burial provision within the parish as follows:

- a) Commence the process to close the existing churchyard which would take between ten and twenty four months to complete;
- b) Investigate the feasibility of new burials within existing plots over one hundred years old where there were no historical implications;
- c) Purchase appropriate land to extend the existing churchyard;
- d) Purchase further land within the village/parish to create a new burial facility.

A patch of land had been identified within the existing graveyard where there were limited headstones which might provide a further eight to twelve burial plots but this would require further investigation, analysis and a public consultation along with Diocesan Advisory Committee approval to establish agreement and progress on this option. Reverend Baker suggested that a joint public meeting be organised by the Parish Church and the Parish Council in July in order to put these options to parishioners but clrs agreed that more information would be required and various questions below answered before the holding of such a meeting.

After a considered debate, clrs agreed to move things forward as follows:

1) Available clrs and Reverend Baker would visit the graveyard site on 18th April at 6 pm;
2) Reverend Baker is to establish exactly how many plots under option ‘b’ above would be available and the likely extension of time this would provide;
3) Reverend Baker is to find out and report back to the Parish Council on why a certain piece of land, for possible burial ground extension/new provision, had been sold by the Exeter Diocese, where the proceeds had gone from such sale, and who had made the decision to sell such land;
4) Reverend Baker is to ascertain how much funding the Anglican Church would be willing to contribute towards any purchase of land under options ‘c’ & ‘d’ above;
5) Reverend Baker is to ascertain whether or not the Anglican Church was aware of any other glebe land available for graveyard use/purchase within the parish.

In relation to option ‘4’ above, the Clerk reminded clrs that the Parish Council was not obligated, legally, to provide such facilities; this was the responsibility of the District Council which had informed the Parish Council, already, that it had no intention of putting money into any such local facilities, preferring to rely on its existing two burial sites in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe.
Highways Project Team Update Including Request For Direct Access To DCC’s Highways Manager - Cllr Milne reported that the recent inclement weather had created pothole damage and damage to the tarmac edging on some of the parish’s roads - cllrs agreed to report cases by e-mail to Cllr Milne for a general response by her to DCC Highways and to also report pothole cases individually on the potholing reporting facility on DCC’s website. Jetting had been carried out commendably by DCC on New Road. **Action:** Cllr Milne is to arrange a meeting with contractor, *Forks2U* for 24\(^{th}\)/25\(^{th}\) May to discuss and agree timescales for further urgent drainage works.

**Publicity & Communication By The Parish Council - Establishing The Way Forwards** - Chairman Bulled reported on her findings regarding Brayford Parish Council’s newsletter, some 250 copies of which were printed on alternate months by NDC at a cost of £31.50 per month - delivery was carried out by the P.C.. Chairman Bulled would contact local Brayford resident, Jan Mitchell, who edits the newsletter, for further details and revert.

Laurels Playground - RoSpa Safety Inspection Report - Determination Of Actions - Cllrs agreed that the majority of issues were low risk. **Action:** Chairman Bulled agreed to re-tape the padding on the goalposts where necessary. **Action:** Those cllrs attending the graveyard site visit would also visit the playground and assess the vegetation issues and revert.

**Adopted BT Phone Box Update** - Cllr Palfreyman reported that the inclement weather had prevented him from carrying out the previously-agreed refurbishment works. Usage of the refurbished phone-box was yet to be decided. Deputy Chairman Dunn reported that members of the *History Society* had not yet come forth with any definitive ideas on usage.

**Approval Of Internal Auditor - 2017-18** - Unanimously, cllrs agreed to continue with Karen Chugg of *Phoenix Accounting* based in Chulmleigh at a cost of £100.00 which was within budget.

**223/04/18 10. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward By The Chairman** - In respect of *All Saints Church’s Community Enterprise*, Clare Campbell had reported that six ideas for community projects had been put forward.

**224/04/18 11. Finance**

The Clerk alerted cllrs to the possibility that NALC had increased clerking pay-scales - any such increase would need to be agreed by cllrs and backdated if necessary.

On 4\(^{th}\) April, 2018, the Clerk had submitted a VAT re-claim to HMRC in the sum of £2,031.69 for the period 1\(^{st}\) March, 2017 to 31\(^{st}\) March, 2018.

Barclays Community Account Balance as at 29th March, 2018: £5,814.96
Barclays Business Premium Account Balance as at 29th March, 2018: £6,032.43

**Receipts:**
- 05\(^{th}\) March, 2018 - Barclays Premium Account - Interest Earned - £3.01
- 26\(^{th}\) March, 2018 - NDC TAP Fund 2017-18 - £1,057.10

**Payments:**

- **a)** *Clerk's Net Monthly Pay & Expenses* - £326.88 - Net Pay: £295.68 plus contribution to telephone & office costs of £15.00 and travel expenses of £16.20;
- **b)** HMRC - £221.60 - PAYE Due In April 2018 For January - March 2018.

Unanimously, cllrs agreed to pay the above sums.

**225/04/18 12. Correspondence** - None
Exmoor National Park Meeting - The Chairman reported that there had been an interesting talk on Affordable Housing with Exmoor Young Voices emphasising the difficulties faced by rural workers. District Councillor Edgell provided the Clerk with two Exmoor Rural Housing Network posters which included information in connection with self-build housing which might prove useful for local people. **Action:** The Clerk is to erect such posters on the Parish Council’s main notice board and the one at Heasley Mill Village Hall. **Action:** The Clerk is to request NDC to refresh the Housing Needs Survey due to Housing Associations’ apparent lack of interest in taking on houses in North Molton.

227/04/18 14. **Matters Brought Forward by The District Councillor & County Councillor** - Covered under 226/04/18.13 above.

**Date, Time and Venue of Next Meetings To Be Held In The Victory Hall, Fore Street, North Molton:**

**Wednesday 9th May, 2018 at 7.30 pm** - Annual Meeting Of The Parish Of North Molton & Annual Meeting Of North Molton Parish Council;

**Wednesday 16th May, 2018 at 7.30 pm** - North Molton Parish Council - Normal Monthly Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.57 p.m..