MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th December, 2018 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Butt; Councillor Darley; Councillor Geen; Councillor Kelland; Councillor Milne; Councillor O’Brien (left at 9.20 pm); Councillor Peek; Councillor Procter; Councillor Smaldon; District Councillor Edgell; County Councillor Yabsley (arrived at 7.50 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

329/12/18.1 Apologies: - Absent: Vice Chairman Dunn - all agreed

330/12/18.2 Declaration of Interests: Chairman Bulled in respect of the Lower Poole Phase II Development - Cllr Geen took the Chair on this issue with Chairman Bulled leaving the room.

331/12/18.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: Covered under the Clerk’s Report, below.

332/12/18.4 Representations From The Public: Action: Cllr Procter informed cllrs of the provision of a poo bag facility on the Old Road by Peter & Christine George of 3 Roberts Field - Mr & Mrs George were emptying and maintaining such facility on a regular basis - he asked for the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the Georges for their commendable public-spiritedness - all agreed. Cllr Milne had received a representation regarding the effects of the removal of the Rowan tree in the Square - the grass was ripped up and the space was being used for parking - also, there were safety issues caused by some drivers turning right from Heasley Mill Road and misinterpreting the road layout. Action: Whilst cllrs had previously agreed to defer this issue, they agreed for the Clerk to place it on the items for discussion in January.

333/12/18.5 Planning

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Address &amp; Proposal</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64829</td>
<td>Nadrid Farm, North Molton, Devon EX36 3EJ</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Miss T. Blackmore)</td>
<td>Conversion of Outbuildings To Form Four Dwellings (Amended Description &amp; Plans)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64830</td>
<td>Nadrid Farm, North Molton, Devon EX36 3EJ</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Miss T. Blackmore)</td>
<td>Listed Building Application For Conversion of Outbuildings To Form Four Dwellings (Amended Description &amp; Plans)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65886</td>
<td>Land At High Bullen Cross, North Molton, Devon</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Miss T. Blackmore)</td>
<td>Variation Of Condition 6 (Approved Use Of Building) Attached To Planning Permission 64037 (Erection Of One Supervisory Rural Workers Dwelling And One Storage And Kennel Building (Amended Description)) To Allow For Rewording Of The Condition</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Address &amp; Proposal</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65402</td>
<td>Higher Poole Farm, Fore Street, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HL</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Miss T. Blackmore)</td>
<td>Siting Of Solar Panels On The Roof of Agricultural Building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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334/12/18.6 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November, 2018 - approved, unanimously by those cllrs who had attended the meeting.
Clerk’s Report on the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November, 2018 and any other important matters arising from previous Minutes

Speeding Vehicles at High Bullen Hill, Heasley Mill Road, Back Lane and East Street - The Clerk had spoken with PCSO Paul Whitehouse on 5th December. PCSO numbers had been reduced from five down to one with PCSO Beverley Bray having left the Force. The Response Team had been reduced in number from five down to three officers as had the Non Beat Team. Resources were stretched and officers welcomed complaints regarding the service as this was seen as the only way of feeding back to the decision-makers that they were failing to provide adequate staffing levels. At present, South Molton was entirely reactive and had little time for preventative work. Accordingly, whilst North Molton Parish Council’s request for speed-gun/camera work was acknowledged, no guarantee could be given as to when the Police might be able to offer this form of help to the local community. If operational conditions became favourable in January or February, then the issue might be addressed practically at that time. Cllr Peek informed cllrs that at the last Parish Forum out on the moor reference had been made to volunteers obtaining and operating a speed gun and making referrals onwards to the Police - Action: Cllr Peek is to investigate the details of such a scheme and report back to cllrs in January.

Thanks Re: The Rowan Tree in The Square - The Clerk had written to ‘Pip’ thanking him for his work.

Unsightly Bus Shelter - Cllr Butt had asked local beaters for their help in tidying-up the shelter and it was hoped that they would respond positively when they had the time.

Update Sought from Exmoor National Park Authority - The Clerk had e-mailed the said Authority for an update on the extent to which it considered its policy of encouraging local tied occupancies had been successful and clarity as to whether or not this policy was still being pursued, actively - no response had been received to date.

Stolen Sheep on Sheep Fair Day - The Clerk had contacted County Councillor Yabsley for the crime number but he had been unsuccessful in obtaining this information - cllrs agreed to close this matter.

DCC Locality Grant - Purchase of Portable Projector & Screen - The Clerk was working on this project and would revert once the matter had been fully investigated.

Lower Poole Phase II - Discussed under Agenda Items.

Responsibility for Drainage - The Clerk had e-mailed Tom Vaughan of DCC on 29th November and had copied in CC Yabsley - no response had been received to date.

Burial Ground - The Clerk had e-mailed Rev D. Baker thanking him for all of his work to date.

Precept For 2019-2020 - The Clerk had applied for a Precept of £11,115.48. This was £10.20 less than agreed in the November Minutes due to the actual Annual Grant Assist being £105.20 as opposed to the £95.00 estimated.

Exmoor National Park Broadband Survey - The Clerk had pinned a suitable poster to the Main Notice-board on 21st November.

Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund (HMCEF) - The Clerk had applied for a further £5,000.00 and would receive a decision from DCC no later than 31st March, 2019. The Clerk had completed and sent off a Project Update for DCC on the HMCEF monies utilised to date by the Parish Council’s Highways Team.

Matters Arising From The 13th November, 2018 Minutes Not On This Agenda - None
Highways Project Team Update & Actions/Approvals Required - Cllr Milne reported that some members of the highways Team had met with the contractor Forks2U on 22nd November. The parts of the roads under Priorities 6 & 7 for edge-ploughing, easement, budle-hole and gulley work were agreed with the work commencing just before Christmas or immediately in the New Year. Action: Cllrs agreed for Cllr Milne to produce a Winter Update to be laminated by the Clerk. Cllr Procter raised the issue of what appeared to be a leaking water-main issue in Back Lane. Action: County Cllr Yabsley is to pursue this water main issue and revert.

Lower Poole Development - Phase II - Update and Actions Required - North Molton’s parish councillors had to consider two issues:

1) a request by NDC’s Housing Team via the Planning Case Officer to defer, yet again, the payments due under the S.106 Agreement and any Deed of Variation in respect of the commuted Public Open Space (POS) monies due to the community subject to certain terms; and,

2) possible Health & Safety issues at the development site.

In the case of ‘1’ above regarding the requested deferment, the Clerk read out the detailed e-mail chain for the benefit of both cllrs and the members of the public present. In essence, the Parish Council had been asked to agree to a deferment of the first payment, understood to be £28,514.50, to a date in March 2019 with the second even payment payable in May 2019 subject to specified numbers of open market and affordable homes being built/sold. The reason given for the requested deferment was that the developer was suffering cash-flow problems, in part, due to the lack of an up-front payment by the Hastoe Housing Association which was the Registered Landlord in respect of the proposed six affordable homes. Action: After a considered debate, cllrs voted unanimously in favour of the Clerk responding to the NDC Case Officer, Jean Watkins, recommending that there should be no further deferment of the S.106 POS payments - the Parish Council’s previous recommendation for the terms of the Deed of Variation should apply where 50% of the total POS monies should be payable immediately on the completion/signing of the Deed of Variation with the further 50% due upon any combination (completion or sale) of twelve houses/plots.

In the case of ‘2’ above, various members of the public present voiced their concerns.

Action: After a considered debate, cllrs requested, unanimously, that the Clerk e-mail the Chief Executive of NDC setting out the concerns and request that he act the following as a matter of urgency:

a) the implementation of a fulsome regime of planning enforcement on a bi-weekly basis with the Parish Council being regularly updated;

b) the instruction of NDC’s Environmental Health Team to investigate the general site management, and possible drainage/sewerage, safety, rubbish and hazardous waste issues at the site;

C) the rigorous and full recording of all associated Building Control activity to ensure public accountability, safety and some level of quality assurance.

MP Peter Heaton-Jones, NDC Leader David Brailey, Case Officer Jean Watkins, District Cllr Edgell and County Cllr Yabsley are to be copied-in to the e-mail.

Action: The Clerk is to contact the Health & Safety Executive in Bootle setting out the Parish Council’s concerns with a view to their urgent intervention on this site.

Housing Needs Survey Update - The Clerk reported that a response had not been received to date from the National Lottery regarding the Parish Council’s application for funding in connection with the proposed Housing Needs Survey for the Parish but Sue Southwell had indicated that other similar applicants had been turned down.
Adopted BT Phone Box Update - Chairman Bulled had spoken with Lucy Perry who had expressed, kindly, a willingness to help produce an artistic map once the required content was known.

Agreement Of Any Changes To The Clerk’s Salary & Emoluments Post Annual Review - After a considered debate, clrs agreed on a vote of 9 for and 1 against for the Clerk’s NALC Salary Spinal Column Point to be increased from 17 to 20 effective from 1st December, 2018. On the April, 2018 NALC Salary Scales this equated to an increase from £9.705 per hour to £10.301 per hour. The reasoning behind this increase was to more closely align the Clerk’s pay-scale to his responsibilities, experience, skills and knowledge in line with comparable job roles.

338/12/18.10 Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward By The Chairman - None

339/12/18.11 Finance

Barclays Community Account Balance as at: 30th November, 2018: £11,213.83
Barclays Business Premium Account Balance as at: 30th November, 2018: £ 6,038.45

Receipts: North Molton Sporting Society - Donation Towards Highways-related Works - £240.00 - 26th November, 2018 - by Bank Giro Credit

i) Payments:

a) Clerk’s Net Monthly Pay & Expenses - £378.40 - Net Pay: £347.20 plus contribution to telephone & office costs of £15.00 and travel expenses of £16.20 (mileage: 36);
   (Please note that the detailed calculations in respect of the Clerk’s salary and expenses are made available to parish councillors at each meeting and are, in any event, subject to annual independent audit. Members of the public are welcome to inspect the figures at such meetings and during the agreed statutory period.)

Any Other Accounts Received After Preparation of Agenda:

Unanimously, clrs agreed to pay the above sum.

340/12/18.12 Correspondence - None

341/12/18.13 Reports

Laurels Playground - Clr Darley reported that everything was in order.

342/12/18.14 Matters Brought Forward by The District Councillor & County Councillor - None

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

Wednesday 9th January, 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m..

9/1/2019