MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th January, 2018 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn (Vice Chairman); Councillor Geen; Councillor Kelland; Councillor Milne; Councillor Palfreyman; Councillor Peek; Councillor Smaldon; District Councillor Edgell (arrived at 8.37 pm); County Councillor Yabsley (arrived at 8.00 pm and left at 9.26 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

172/01/18 1. Apologies: Cllrs O’Brien & Procter - agreed unanimously. The Clerk reported that Cllr Platt had resigned on 4th January, 2018 - the Elections Office in Barnstaple had been informed - a Notice of Vacancy had been posted on the Parish Council’s main notice-board - If by 31st January, 2018 (14 days excluding Dies Non, after the date of the notice) a request for an election to fill the said vacancy were made in writing to the Returning Officer by TEN electors for the said Parish, an election would be held to fill the said vacancy; otherwise the vacancy would be filled by co-option. Unanimously, cllrs agreed that in the instance of a co-option, the Clerk should advertise the post as such both on the main notice-board and website in accordance with the law.

173/01/18 2. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Geen regarding Planning Applications: 63360 & 62/49/17 004 and Chairman Bulled regarding Planning Application: 63360. Both cllrs stood down from the debate and vote on the relevant applications.

174/01/18 3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: The Clerk had not received a report in January for onward transmission to cllrs. Action: Following a discussion on the issue, the Clerk is to ask the Police whether or not they have made any progress on the investigation into the stealing of Spaniel dogs from local people.

175/01/18 4. Representations From The Public: Cllr Smaldon made representation regarding the potential damage to lorries which could be caused by overgrown hedges either side of the road at Burcombe Hill from the North Molton end. Action: Chairman Bulled agreed to take the matter up with the landowner concerned. The Clerk had received an e-mail from Cllr Procter regarding representations he had received from concerned mothers with young children who had asked whether or not anything could be done about the alleyway from Back Lane to Oakford Villas. The guttering on the garages belonging to North Devon Homes was damaged and when it rained, it flooded the alleyway due to the drains and gullies being blocked with mud and weeds - this rendered the path slippery and dangerous. Action: The Clerk is to write to North Devon Homes to request appropriate action by such organisation to resolve the problem. Cllr Procter had received representations regarding the negative effects caused by the increase in dog poo in the village. Action: The Clerk to obtain appropriate stickers from the Dog Warden for placement around the village with a view to alleviating the problem. Cllr Procter had received complaints concerning cars parking on the pavement in Roberts Field, Oakford Villas, the bottom Fore Street and inconsiderate parking in other areas including around the tree at the top of Back Lane. The Clerk had also received an e-mail from a member of the public concerning the Oakford Villas issue which had been referred to both the Police and DCC. Chairman Bulled emphasised that this latter case had involved, inter alia, the obstruction of a driveway. The Clerk reminded cllrs that an obstruction of a driveway was a policing issue and that anyone encountering this phenomenon should dial 101 for local police help. Action: The Clerk is to produce an A4 poster requesting vehicle owners to park more considerately by not parking on the pavements or obstructing people’s driveways.

176/01/18 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>64279 (Miss T. Blackmore)</td>
<td>Poltimore Inn, East Street, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HR Erection of Observatory</td>
<td>Supported (6 For and 2 Against)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting - None

177/01/18 6. Approval of the Minutes of The Meeting of North Molton Parish Council Held on 13th December, 2017 - approved unanimously by those cllr who had attended the meeting.

178/01/18 7. Clerk’s Report on 13th December, 2018 Minutes

Non-functioning Street Lights In Roberts Field - The Clerk had written to Paul Young again on this issue in the light of Mike Newcombe’s comments to Chairman Bulled regarding the possibility of removing the street-lighting element from the S.106 Agreement and Bond on the grounds of safety to enable adoption of the lighting by DCC and thus to effect street-lighting more quickly. After further and final consideration, Paul Young had stressed that the street-lighting element could not be ring-fenced and that due process would prevail.

Overgrown Hedge at 22 Oakford Villas - (Enq. No: 171051471) - The Clerk understood that DCC had sent a letter to the occupier.

TAP Fund 2017-18 - Cllr Peek had completed, signed and forwarded further paperwork - cllr agreed unanimously, for Cllr Peek to offer £250.00 of the tranche to joint partner in the application, Twitchen Parish Council.

Further HMCEF Application For £5,000 - The Clerk had applied for a further tranche of £5,000 in November - DCC had approved the further tranche - the Clerk was awaiting the remittance e-mail.

Livestock Escaping Into The Village Through The Dure Lane Gateway - (ENQ171063350) - Richard Sables of Highways had responded in that he did not consider it a function of a Highway Authority to police how landowners fenced in their livestock. If there were evidence of a regular nuisance that caused damage to the highway or danger to the highway user then DCC might write asking them to take action to remove that nuisance but there was no evidence of a regular problem. Chairman Bulled informed cllr that the Parish Council’s Footpath Warden, Sheila Coe was continuing to pursue the matter with the Rights of Way Officer, Simon Houghton at DCC. In any event, cllr were mindful that a landowner was responsible, legally, for securing his/her livestock.

Memorial in New Road - The Clerk would continue to chase the Police in Exeter on this issue.

Section 106 Agreement Open Space Monies - Lower Poole Phase II - The Clerk reported that NDC had informed him that whilst the developer had been endeavouring, still, to amend the payment schedule, progress had been slightly halted ‘due to the developer trying to sort Highway matters on the site’. There was no agreed timescale. NDC still ‘had two outstanding applications to be determined and NDC was working with the developer to resolve all issues in one go’. The Parish Council would be contacted for its comments, once NDC had a revised S.106 Payment Schedule. Action: In the light of NDC having failed to secure circa £28.5k S.106 Open Space funding in respect of the Roberts Field development, the Clerk is to write to District Cllr Edgell, requesting him to meet with...
NDC’s Chief Planning Officer with a view to establishing why development activity had been allowed and was continuing to be permitted on the Lower Poole Phase II site when the developer was either in breach of the terms of the original S.106 Agreement or had not signed a revised agreement. The Clerk is to ask District Cllr Edgell to invite Cllr Geen along to such meeting at a time convenient to all parties within the shortest possible timescale and to revert to North Molton Parish Council soonest.

179/01/18.8 Matters Arising From The 13th December, 2017 Minutes Not On This Agenda - In his role as Snow Warden, Cllr Geen reported that he had only received a fifth of a tonne of salt/grit from DCC’s Highways Dept when the deal was meant to have been for a tonne. **Action:** Cllr Geen is to take the issue up with Highways and endeavour to obtain the full quota as the amount received was considered to be insufficient in the instance of any significant snow-fall.

180/01/18 9. Items For Discussion

**North Molton Churchyard** - Following on from the December 2017 debate on this issue, the main centre of focus was on the provision of a new burial facility in North Molton. Many ideas and questions were put forward, such as: the setting-up of a Joint Committee between the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council (PCC) in order to manage any initial project (no decision made); finding a landowner who would be willing to donate a piece of land in the parish for such purpose (see Actions below) and establishing whether or not the PCC would be willing to manage a new facility once the procurement, planning and infrastructure had been completed (no decision made). The Clerk informed clrs that the Parish Council was not obliged to establish any new burial ground facility. He informed clrs that no grants were available for the purchase of land for such purpose or for the development of its infrastructure but that it might be possible to secure S.106 Open Space funding in this respect on the grounds of additional housing creating a new social need for a burial facility. Cllr Geen estimated that half an acre of land at agricultural rates might cost circa £3k. The Clerk informed clrs that additional and, as yet, unknown costs would have to be met in respect of any planning application, site egress, gates, pathways, seats, signs, management and maintenance. **Action:** The Clerk is to write to NDC explaining that there might be a need to review existing S.106 Open Space funding priorities for the parish due to the recently-revealed need for a new burial facility. **Action:** Chairman Bulled is to approach relevant local landowners in order to ascertain any willingness on their part to make a suitable piece of land available for a new burial facility.

**Highways Project Team Update** - Cllr Milne reported that the Parish Council’s contractor, Forks2U, had carried out the required edge-ploughing in December along the following stretches of road which were among the top priorities for attention:

- Northland Cross to Kingsland Gate;
- North Molton to Heasley Mill;
- Heasley Mill to Hunstone; and,
- South Radworthy to North Molton Hill.

Edge-ploughing between Brinsworthy and Sandy Way would be attended to once the hedges had been cut by the landowner. Relevant edge-ploughing on the Old Road and between Heasley Mill and South Radworthy which were also on the Parish Council’s main priority list would be attended to by DCC which was also using Forks2U for this work.

Once the work on Old Road had been completed, further edge-ploughing works would continue on the following stretches of road:

- North Molton to Molland and Bendle Cross via Upcott and Lambscombe;
- North Molton to Brayford; and,
- Yarde Down to Holewater Cross.
Chairman Bulled understood that gulley-clearance and edge-ploughing ought to be carried out simultaneously in order to avoid flooding. **Action:** Cllr Milne is to take this issue up with *Forks2U* and revert.

**Adopted BT Phone Box Update** - Suggestions on future usage were still awaited from both the school and History Society.

**181/01/18 10. Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward By The Chairman** - None

**182/01/18 11. Finance**

- Barclays Community Account Balance as at 29th December, 2017: £9,438.02
- Barclays Business Premium Account Balance as at 29th December, 2017: £6,029.42

  i) **Receipts:** None

  ii) **Payments:**

     a) **Clerk’s Net Monthly Pay & Expenses - £357.93** - Net pay: £295.58 plus contribution to telephone & office costs of £15.00, travel expenses of £16.20 and payment by the Clerk of the Parish Council’s website annual domain fee of £31.15;

     b) **HMRC - £215.02** - PAYE Due In January 2018 For October-December 2017;

     c) **Tekline Publishing - £38.85** - Annual Website Maintenance Fee (The Clerk has invoiced the North Molton History Society for £35.00 In Respect of the Shared Website Domain and Maintenance Fee Costs Totalling £70.00).

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

Unanimously, cllrs agreed to pay the above sums.

**183/01/18 12. Correspondence** - None

**184/01/18 13. Reports** - Cllr Procter had provided a report by e-mail informing cllrs of the seasonal issue of leaf clearance which he had been attending to.

**185/01/18 14. Matters Brought Forward by The District Councillor & County Councillor** - District Councillor Edgell had a grant of £150.00 available towards small projects within the community but cllrs considered that the February timescale for provision of detailed project information was too short to accommodate the Adopted BT Phone Box Project which was still in the *Think Tank* stage.

**Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 14th February, 2018 at 7.30 pm in The Victory Hall, Fore Street, North Molton

The Meeting closed at 9.29 p.m..