MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillor Bulled (Chairman); Councillor Dunn (Vice Chairman); Councillor Geen; Councillor Kelland; Councillor Milne; Councillor O’Brien; Councillor Procter; Councillor Smaldon; District Councillor Edgell; County Councillor Yabsley (arrived at 7.35 pm and left at 9.00 pm) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

287/09/18.1 Apologies: Councillors Darley & Peek - all agreed

288/09/18.2 Declaration of Interests: Chairman Bulled in respect of Lower Poole Phase II and Councillor Milne regarding planning applications 65366/7 concerning Lane End Cottage, East Street, North Molton - all agreed.

289/09/18.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: No September Newsletter had been received - there were no issues for referral. Cllrs expressed their concern at the apparent lack of policing presence in the area which Chairman Bulled had been discussing with the local PCSO. County Cllr Yabsley emphasised the dissatisfaction with the policing service by highlighting a recent theft of sheep from East Anstey whilst the owners were away at the Sheep Fair Day in South Molton - the victim had phoned 101 only to receive a response four days later with no investigation offered and the sole advice to contact his insurer. Action: The Clerk is to write to The Police & Crime Commissioner highlighting this case and expressing cllrs’ dissatisfaction with the service offered and their concerns about the low priority being afforded to local policing and the disconnect between the police’s priorities and the public’s perception of what their priorities should be. The Clerk is to copy-in the District Councillor, County Councillor and local MP.

290/09/18.4 Representations From The Public: None

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62/49/18/002 (Exmoor Nat. Park)</td>
<td><strong>Longstone Wells, Heasley Mill, North Molton, Devon EX36 3LQ</strong></td>
<td>Supported - 7 For and 1 Against</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed demolition of existing barn and erection of new building for ancillary residential use and storage to the main farmhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>62/49/18/003 (Exmoor Nat. Park)</td>
<td><strong>Land At Higher Fyldon Farm Buildings, Heasley Mill, Devon</strong></td>
<td>Supported</td>
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<td>Proposed variation of condition 2 and 8 (Condition 2 - The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out except in complete accordance with the amendments plans, drawing numbers 7035.9C, 7035.8C and 7035.2F and date stamped 12 October 2016, together with the location plan, drawing number 7035.1 date stamped 23 June 2016. Condition 8 - The windows and doors of the development hereby permitted shall be timber framed and thereafter timber framed windows and doors shall be retained.) of approved application 62/49/16/002.</td>
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<tr>
<td>65366</td>
<td><strong>Lane End Cottage, East Street, North Molton, Devon</strong></td>
<td>Supported</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Extension To Dwelling Together With Conversion of Loft</td>
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<tr>
<td>65367</td>
<td><strong>Lane End Cottage, East Street, North Molton, Devon</strong></td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Listed Building Application For Extension To Dwelling Together With Conversion of Loft</td>
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Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

None

292/09/18.6 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th August, 2018 - approved, unanimously by those clrs who had attended the meeting.

293/09/18.7 Clerk’s Report on the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th August, 2018 and any other important matters arising from previous Minutes

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 - covered under items for discussion, below.

Collapsed Road Outside Village Shop Due To Pothole Fillings - County Cllr Yabsley had visited the site with the Local Highways Manager - the required works would be considered and prioritised accordingly.

Communities Together Fund 2018-19 - The Clerk had spoken with NDC on 23rd August regarding the feasibility of Victory Hall applying for a grant towards the purchase of a projector and screen and was told that such an application would not succeed as such facilities would not really wholly benefit another parish. County Cllr Yabsley explained that county councillors each had two £10k pots of money available under the Invest In Devon Fund and Locality Budget with the former involving capital fixtures only with the requirement of up-front invoices before a Committee decision and the latter involving the advantage of the sole unfettered discretion of each individual councillor with inherent easier access. He said that he would be happy to approve an application from North Molton Parish Council for £1,000 to assist with the purchase of the intended projector and attendant screen for Victory Hall. Action: The Clerk is to liaise with the Victory Hall’s Management Committee and apply on-line to DCC for a Locality Grant for £1,000 to purchase a projector and screen for the Hall - all agreed.

Housing Needs Survey - The Clerk informed clrs that the Parish Council’s Awards For All Lottery Funding Application to pay for the survey had failed due to the decision makers being of the opinion that NDC should have accommodated affordable housing requirements in its Local Plan. The Clerk had reapplied for the funding, explaining at length that whilst NDC had the power to approve the development of affordable housing outside of its emerging Local Plan in areas such as North Molton, it would require reasonable empirical justification for such development through a vehicle such as a Housing Needs Survey to approve such addition/s in the future - North Molton Parish Council had concerns that young people making a living through working in North Molton and on Exmoor and on low incomes were being forced to move away from where they made a living due to the current lack of affordable housing where they most needed it. The Clerk was positive for a successful outcome with the application decision timescale some three months hence.

294/09/18.8 Matters Arising From The 8th August, 2018 Minutes Not On This Agenda - None

295/09/18.9 Items For Discussion

Lower Poole Development - Phase II - Update and Actions Required - Chairman Bulled stood down from the Chairman's role and left the room with Vice Chairman Dunn deputising. The Clerk reiterated his own efforts and thanked District Cllr Edgell for similarly chasing Case Officer Jean Watkins for the eventual response on this matter. NDC’s Legal Team had chased the applicant’s solicitors regarding the required signing of the S.106 Agreement but had not received a response as at 12th September. The Enforcement Officer had visited the site (date of visit not provided) but could not find any evidence of any hazardous gas cylinders. Site management had been discussed with the Site Manager - it appeared to the Officer to be under control. However, clrs expressed their concerns regarding the continuing debris at the top of the site. A further enforcement site visit was due in October. Building Control was being undertaken by a governmentally Approved Inspector for the South West but the Case Officer...
didn’t know the firm’s name. **Action:** The Clerk is to request the Case Officer to bring forward the next site visit by the Enforcement Officer to ‘as soon as possible’ following continued concerns regarding the debris at the top of the site not having been removed to date - additionally, the Clerk is to suggest to NDC that a written undertaking be sought from the developer that the hazardous gas cylinders have been removed from the site as opposed to being dug in and covered over. The Clerk is to press the Case Officer to bring about the signing of the revised S.106 Agreement and the building of the attendant retaining wall. The identity of the Approved Building Control Inspector is to be sought along with evidence of his/her firm’s inspections/sign-offs to date in order to ensure public accountability, safety and some level of quality assurance.

**Parish Councillor Vacancy - Update On Progress** - Chairman Bulled resumed her role. Cllrs considered the application of Mr Richard Butt to join the Parish Council and agreed his co-option, unanimously.

**Highways Project Team Update** - Cllr Milne reported that continued work was required regarding the potential for flash-flooding at various locations by contractor Ian Woollacott. Flooding at Heasley Mill was under control and was being helped by Richard Blackmore who was keeping the culvert clear of debris. DCC’s Local Highways Manager had reported that during the height of the heavier seasonal rainfall the commendable work of North Molton Parish Council on drainage had been clearly distinguishable from aerial photographs taken at that time. Edge-ploughing and gulley-clearing under Priorities 4 & 5 had been completed apart from 12 gullies which would be addressed this winter along with Priorities 6 & 7 with the worst stretches of road tackled in the first instance. The Old Road black-spot had been added as a priority. Contractor Forks2U had informed the Highways Project Team that all grips would be cleared by DCC across all parishes in Devon and maintained thus, annually, in the future. North Molton Shoot had agreed, kindly, to pay for one day’s verge-trimming. **Action:** Cllr Milne is to provide the Clerk with details of to whom and where to send an invoice and for what amount in order that the Clerk may prepare such invoice and send it out. Forks2U would be available for gritting works should they be required at £30 per hour. The Highways Team had discussed the cleaning and repair of fingerposts in the parish. On the stretch of road to Sandy Way there were 7 such posts with 3 broken and some missing. County Cllr Yabsley said that the Local Highways Manager should be requested to carry out the repairs in the first instance with any negative response being referred on to his line manager, Tom Vaughn. If this proved unsuccessful, then the Parish Council could apply for a grant under his Invest In Devon Fund as it qualified as a capital project although the amount likely to be approved might not meet the total bill for the works - **Action:** Cllr Milne is to contact the Local Highways Manager concerning repairs in the first instance and do some preparatory costings for new fingerposts and report back to the Parish Council. County Cllr Yabsley praised North Molton Parish Council for its commendable Highways-related work and commented that it was considered by DCC to be a Flagship Parish Council for the carrying-out of such works and an example for others to follow.

**Adopted BT Phone Box Update** - Chairman Bulled reported that ex-parish councillor Palfreyman had kindly completed the external refurbishment works. **Action:** The Clerk is to write a letter of thanks from the Parish Council to Mr Palfreyman. **Action:** Vice Chairman Dunn is to raise future usage of the phone-box with members at the forthcoming History Society A.G.M..

**296/09/18.10 Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward By The Chairman**

**Neighbourhood Development Plans** - Chairman Bulled cited the case of The Crantock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which had had its Neighbourhood Development Plan approved after Cornwall Council had already approved two housing developments in its area involving 45 affordable homes. A few days after approving Crantock’s Neighbourhood Development Plan, Cornwall Council approved a further development of 22 homes involving 50% affordable, outside of the agreed said Plan. Crantock’s Steering Group had set a Crowd-funding target of £12k to fight this latter planning decision. District Cllr Edgell commented that this was similar to what had happened in North Molton with planning decisions on land outside of the designated development area being allowed under National Planning Law. County Cllr Yabsley commented that neighbourhood plans couldn’t stop development allocated to an area; they were more a tool for moulding such developments.

**Memorial On New Road** - In accordance with the Parish Council’s decision, Chairman Bulled had removed the memorial, leaving a note for personal effects to be collected from Reverend David Baker.
Street Lighting - Chairman Bulled had reported, on-line, the street lighting which was remaining on at inappropriate hours.

North Molton Churchyard - Reverend Baker had confirmed that the Anglican churchyard had been properly mapped with numbers allocated to each space - the application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the proposed 12 further spaces was in process.

297/09/18.11 Finance

Barclays Community Account Balance as at: 31st August, 2018: £9,406.16
Barclays Business Premium Account Balance as at: 31st August, 2018: £6,035.44

Receipts: None

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.)

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

Unanimously, clirs agreed to pay the above sum.

298/09/18.12 Correspondence - None

299/09/18.13 Reports

Rowan Tree In The Square - Cllr Milne reported that Cllr Kelland had inspected the tree and considered that it should be removed due to it being diseased with canker. Action: Cllr Kelland is to request ‘Pip’ to invoice the Parish Council for removal and disposal of the tree and to carry this out at his earliest convenience. Action: The Clerk is to place this item on October’s Agenda for discussion and agreement on the way to proceed with the site, post Rowan Tree removal.

Laurels Playground - The Clerk had received a report from Cllr Darley - the padding on the goalposts had been secured but would probably require replacement in some six months’ time. He would attend to the clearing of the leaves under the mats soonest.

Heasley Mill Village Hall Fete - Cllr Procter reported that the event on 9th August had been well-attended. The Duck Race had raised £700 for the village school. The Dog Show, sponsored by the North Molton Shoot, had attracted a lower number of entrants this year. An overall profit of £600 towards the Village Hall’s funds had been achieved. Significantly, the Hall’s Management Committee had resolved its practical running issues.

Local Hero - Cllr Procter commended Mr Norman Kellaway for bravely steering his blazing tractor and trailer through the village past the shop and vulnerable housing before abandoning it, safely, to the flames.

300/09/18.14 Matters Brought Forward by The District Councillor - District Cllr Edgell emphasised that village organisations such as the Sports Club could still apply for Communities Together Funding via the Parish Council up to and including 20th October but would need to demonstrate that another Parish would significantly benefit from any such application. He had already spoken informally with Chairman Rob Kingdon on this issue.
Date, Time and Venue of The Next Meeting To Be Held In The Victory Hall, Fore Street, North Molton:

Wednesday 10th October, 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9.23 p.m.