MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th July, 2019 IN THE VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor Dunn (Vice Chairman - Took Chairman’s Role); Councillor Bulled; Councillor Darley; Councillor Procter; District Councillor Bulled; County Councillor Yabsley (arrived at 8.10 p.m. and left at 9.20 p.m.) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

429/07/19.1 Apologies: - Chairman Peek and Cllrs Butt, Geen, Milne & Smaldon - all agreed.

430/07/19.2 Declaration of Interests: None

431/07/19.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: No issues were raised.

432/07/19.4 Representations From The Public:

Exploration Of Possibility For Additional Car Park On DCC-owned Land Adjacent To Roberts Field And Opposite The Lower Poole Phase II Development - Cllr Bulled raised this possibility - Action: County Councillor Yabsley agreed to raise the suggestion with DCC’s Highways Management and revert.

Parking on Pavement Outside Victory Hall - Cllr Bulled had received a representation concerning this issue which could be causing difficulty for those with disabilities in accessing the Hall. Unanimously, cllrs agreed to advise members of the public that difficulties caused by parking on the pavement were a policing matter and for parishioners to report persistent offenders, to the local Police should they so wish to.

433/07/19.5 Planning

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting

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<tr>
<th>Case Ref</th>
<th>Address &amp; Proposal</th>
<th>Decision</th>
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Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

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434/07/19.6 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on 12th June, 2019 - approved, unanimously by those cllrs who had attended the meeting.

435/07/19.7 Clerk’s Report on the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th June, 2019 and any other important matters arising from previous Minutes -

Permission To Plant Two Evergreen Shrubs Or Trees - One At The North End And One At The South End Of The Gravelled Car Park Area At The Western End Of The Square And To Remove The Bush Considered To Be Obstructing The View Of The Highway - The Clerk had referred the matter to DCC’s Highways Manager who had rejected the request largely on the grounds of maintenance liability.

Potential Safety Risk Caused By Garage Guttering Flapping In The Wind In The Alleyway Between Oakford Villas And Back Lane - The Clerk had contacted North Devon Homes (NDH) which had confirmed that the ‘Home2Home’ Team would be making the guttering safe within twenty days. Action: The Clerk is to chase NDH on progress.
Danger Posed by Drainage and Subsidence Problems On The A399 Between Mockham Hill and Newtown Bridge - DCC Highways had responded to the Clerk's e-mail on this issue by requesting more specific nature and location information as this was a 2.25 mile stretch of road. Whilst clrs initially asked the Clerk to gain further clarification from Cllr Geen on the exact location, County Councillor Yabsley, following his late arrival at the meeting, confirmed the latest position in that DCC was aware of the issue on this stretch of road and that the concerns would be addressed in the round.

Potential Danger To The Public Caused By The Top Of The High Wall Against The Court House Having Fallen Out - The Clerk had contacted DCC’s Highways Manager who had confirmed that he was ‘not aware of such an incident’. He advised that NDC’s Building Control would be in a better position to ‘advise’ and would hold powers of enforcement. Cllr Darley confirmed that the matter was in hand, with the owner in consultation with NDC’s Planning Department and its Conservation Officer - unanimously, clrs agreed to take no further action.

Danger Posed To Road Users By Subsidence/Sinking On The Left-hand Side Of The First Bend On New Road From Borners Bridge At The Start Of Burcombe Wood - DCC Highways had responded by informing the Clerk that ‘a scheme’ had been raised, already, for this location.

White Line Painting for Fore Street (including Red strip virtual pavement) and for the Rest of the Village - The Clerk had e-mailed DCC Highways on 26th June and chased the issue on 8th July but no response had been received. Action: The Clerk is to continue to chase DCC for a response.

Japanese Knotweed Past The Lay-by On New Road - The Clerk had phoned the concerned parishioner explaining the landowner’s remedy as set out in June’s Minutes.

Roughness Of The Pavement Outside Victory Hall - Hazard To Wheelchair Users - The Clerk had phoned and spoken with Michelle Bourne conveying DCC’s position as set out in June’s Minutes.

Installation of Projector Screen in Victory Hall - The Clerk had arranged a revised installation date of Monday 15th July, 2019 at 6 pm with the contractor.

Co-option of Two Parish Councillors - The Clerk had advertised the two vacancies on both the main Notice-board and website and informed NDC’s Member Services which was in agreement with this strategy.

Exmoor National Park Authority - Postal Election 2019 - The Clerk had posted the signed Ballot Paper to Somerset Association of Local Councils on 13th June - 1st Class Post.

Defibrillator Acquisition - The Clerk had e-mailed Gareth Clark requesting his, Debbie's and Alan's agreement as to whether or not they would be kind enough to use their charitable fund to match-fund either the semi-automatic Heartsine 350P model (£860.00 net of VAT) or, indeed, the semi-automatic Heartsine 500P model with additional CPR feedback facility (£985.00 net of VAT). Gareth confirmed by e-mail that match-funding the latter option was agreed. After a considered debate, clrs agreed, unanimously, to match-fund the Heartsine 500P model with the Parish Council paying the full £1,182.00 to acquire the defibrillator and the Clerk billing the charity for £492.50 and reclaiming the £197 V.A.T. in the round.

Planting In The Square - Vice Chairman Dunn confirmed that Chairman Peek was in consultation with Mr Fanthorpe on this issue.

S.106 POS Funding Application For Laurels Playground - Covered under 'Items For Discussion' below.

Issues Arising From The Footpath Warden’s Report 2019 - The Clerk had received a response from the Rights of Way Officer, Simon Houghton. He was unable to attend the Parish Council’s July Meeting but he would be inspecting North Molton’s footpaths in July/August and would let the Clerk know the outcome and plans for
Correspondence Received From Heasley Mill Village Hall - The Clerk had phoned Jackie Blackmore, the current Chairman of the Heasley Mill Village Hall Committee. He had provided her with an NDC contact who could advise on the Hall’s S.106 proposed expressions of interest. Progress had been made in that the Hall had six current Committee members with one representative from the Parish Council - a Deed had been agreed with the Charity Commission to reduce membership numbers to this level. Jackie would endeavour to provide the Clerk with a copy of the signed Deed. The Hall’s income was in a good position - the Parish Council was noted as a joint insured party on the property insurance policy as agreed from 2014. Whilst Committee members were happy running the Hall, they had concerns regarding the lack of detail provided in the original 1974 Deed concerning the roles and responsibilities of the Custodian and Managing Trustees in various scenarios and the exact procedures for determining the Hall’s future should the Managing Trustees all resign at the end of their tenure or the Hall be making insufficient income to meet outgoings. Action: Over the coming months, the Clerk is to investigate such matters of concern with both DALC and the Charity Commission and revert to clrs with his findings in due course.

436/07/19.8 Matters Arising From The 12th June, 2019 Minutes Not On This Agenda - None

437/07/19.9 Items For Discussion

Parish Councillor Vacancies - Update - covered above under the Clerk’s Report, above;

Defibrillator At Poltimore Inn - Decision Required On Whether Or Not To Purchase The Heartsine 350P Defibrillator Or The Heartsine 500P Model - covered above under the Clerk’s Report;

Rural Worker And Succession Farm Dwelling Guidance Consultation - How Would The Parish Council Like To Respond? - Action: Clrs agreed, with three in favour of the motion and one abstention, for the Clerk to respond by writing that the Parish Council approved of what it considered to be a well-put-together document;

Listing of Street Furniture Such as the BT Phone Box; War Memorial and the Raised Pavement in East Street - Does the Parish Council Wish To Proceed With Listings and, If So, To What Extent? - After an initial debate, clrs agreed, unanimously, for the matter to be deferred until the August 2019 Meeting - Action: The Clerk is to place this item on the August 2019 Agenda.

S.106 POS Open Space Funding Application For Laurels Playground - Update - The Clerk had informed NDC of its priority for tarmacing the Laurels Playground’s surface on safety grounds with reliance upon NDC and the Ward Member to decide upon the channel through which the funding was to be achieved. This was part of the overall project of providing Health & Safety-compliant resurfacing, the provision of new play equipment and the provision of new protective padding for the goalposts. District Councillor Bullen informed clrs that NDC was not happy with splitting the project where resurfacing was carried out and then potentially compromised at a later date by play equipment installation - Chairman Bullen had met Terry Warrington of ‘tk play’ at the recent Devon Communities Together Conference in Crediton - his firm could provide a consolidated project solution for Laurels Playground - he would be prepared to look at the site and provide advice on suitable surfacing and equipment to comply with current legislation - NDC was favourably aware of ‘tk play’ on other council projects. Action: Unanimously, clrs agreed for the Clerk to arrange a meeting at Laurels Playground between, himself, Cllr Darley (Laurels Playground Rep.) and Terry Warrington with a view to reporting back to clrs with options. Action: The Clerk is to e-mail NDC’s Lucy Wheeler, who handles S.106 funding, informing her of the Parish Council’s revised intention to explore a global solution with ‘tk play’ and revert.

Highways Project Team Update & HMCEF Application Progress -

HMCEF - Clrs debated the ongoing issue of DCC’s reduced offer of £1k in respect of HMCEF funding covered in previous minutes - Action: The Clerk is to write an e-mail to DCC’s Chief Executive Phil Norrey and copy-in DCC’s Leader, painting a picture of the vital roles played by the Parish Council and other stakeholders in any potential project, with a view to explore if the DCC might consider increasing the funding offer for the project.

S.106 POS - The Clerk had briefly updated the meeting of the current project state and the Parish Profile Team’s updated findings to date. Action: The Clerk is to place a follow-up Agenda Item to provide a more comprehensive update for the next meeting.
Leader John Hart and County Councillor Yabsley making a formal complaint concerning the failure of the process whereby it had taken DCC some eight months to confirm that the original HMCEF request of £5k would only be honoured to the tune of £1k - this had led to the Parish Council not being in a position to raise the shortfall in the current financial year which would restrict the extent of the Highways-related work it could undertake in 2019-20. The Clerk is to include the chronology of events leading to DCC’s decision - the Clerk would run a draft of the e-mail past clrs before sending it out to the parties concerned - all agreed. **Action:** The Clerk is to apply to DCC for the £1k HMCEF monies offered to be paid into the Parish Council’s bank account - all agreed.

**Weed-spraying** - Cllr Bulled reported that *South Molton Town Council* had been unable to carry out weed-spraying in North Molton due staffing issues. After a considered debate, clrs agreed, unanimously, not to commission any weed-spraying works for the time being with a view to saving £500.00 of the Highways budget for other Highways-related works.

**Communication and Sharing of Information Between DCC and The Parish Council’s Highways Team** - Cllr Bulled raised the issue of communication between DCC’s contractors and the Parish Council’s Highways Team - for example, the contractor carrying out recent visibility splay work on the Old Road had been unwilling to provide an idea of the overall plan for such works in the parish - this could lead to duplication of effort. There was similar lack of communication over drainage works where actual work carried out by DCC was not so readily identifiable - there was still no formal system of planning of works/communication in place. County Councillor Yabsley recommended that the Parish Council’s Highways Team maintain a Drainage Issues List and forward this to both himself and DCC’s Highways Manager every month. **Action:** County Councillor Yabsley is to put forward Vice Chairman Dunn’s suggestion that the current Pothole Reporting Facility on DCC’s website be extended to include the reporting of drainage issues with a system in place to act upon such issues raised.

**Other Highways Issues** - Cllr Darley reminded County Councillor Yabsley that the potentially dangerous gulley without a lid between Upcott Farm and Ley Cross required urgent attention by DCC;

**Adopted BT Phone Box Update** - Cllr Bulled reported that she was making progress on the GDPR-related work;

**Heasley Mill Village Hall - Update By The Clerk** - this item is covered under the Clerk’s Report, above.

**438/07/19.10 Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward By The Chairman** - None

**439/07/19.11 Finance**

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<tr>
<td>Barclays Community Account</td>
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<td>Barclays Business Premium Account</td>
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**Receipts:**  

**i) Payments:**

a) **Clerk’s Net Monthly Pay & Expenses** - £369.60 - Net Pay: £338.40 plus contribution to telephone & office costs of £15.00 and travel expenses of £16.20;

b) **HMRC** - £253.20 - PAYE Due For The Period: April - June 2019;

ii) **Any Other Accounts Received After Preparation Of The Agenda:**

c) **AED Locator (EU) Ltd** - £1,182.00 - Purchase Of Heartsine 500P Defibrillator - Pro-forma Invoice No: 1006;

d) **North Molton PCC** - £111.00 - 50% Grant Towards Maintenance Of Church Clock.

**Receipts:**
Laurels Playground - The Clerk had made a cursory inspection and had found that the weeds were still prominent - Cllr Bulled agreed to attend to this issue as soon as possible. Unanimously, clirs agreed to the appointment of Cllr Darley as Laurels Playground Representative.

Matters Brought Forward by The County & District Councillors - On 2nd July, County Cllr Yabsley had met with Devon & Cornwall Constabulary’s Police Chief Constable and Superintendent and had learnt that a new Senior Officer, in Paul Searle had been appointed to South Molton Police Station. County Cllr Yabsley had expressed his concern that the local community would appear to have lost touch with the Police Service. He had been reassured that the two PCSOs at South Molton would be increasing their public presence and that there might be money available for further police recruitment. Furthermore, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Steve Theobald would be heading up a Rural and Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit - there was a separate e-mail address for Rural Crime and e-mails to the Unit should be headed, ‘Rural Crime’.

Actions: County Cllr Yabsley agreed to provide the Clerk with the e-mail addresses and contact details for both local rural and other crime for the Clerk to post on the Councillor Lists on both the website and Main Noticeboard. County Cllr Yabsley drew attention to the forthcoming Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority’s Consultation on proposed changes to the service. Action: The Clerk is to place this item on the August 2019 Agenda and provide clirs with a link to the consultation documents. District Cllr Bulled informed clirs that she had joined NDC’s Crematorium and Licensing Committees - she had also attended the recent Devon Communities Together event in Crediton.

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

Wednesday 14th August, 2019 at 7.30 p.m..

The Meeting closed at 9.25 p.m..

Vice Chairman.