

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th December, 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL

Present: Councillor R. Peek (Chairman); Councillor J. Dunn (Vice Chairman); Councillor C. Barron; Councillor E. Bulled; Councillor A. Darley; Councillor B. Geen; Councillor H. Jennings; Councillor I. Milne; Councillor Procter; District Councillor E. Bulled and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

833/12/21.1 Apologies For/And Sanction Of Absence: Councillors A. Johnson & R. Smaldon - all agreed.

Absent: County Councillor J. Yabsley

834/12/21.2 Declaration of Interests: Councillor Darley re: Planning Applications: 74371 & 74444; Vice Chairman Dunn re: Planning Applications: 74287 & 74387 & Councillor Bulled re: Planning Application: 74416.

The afore-mentioned members neither took part in the debate nor vote on the relevant cases – Vice Chairman Dunn read out a statement by the owner of East Marsh Farm and Councillor Bulled was eligible to speak in her capacity as District Councillor on the Poltimore Inn application.

835/12/21.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: None

836/12/21.4 Representations From The Public: Councillor Procter had been asked by the owners of the property appertaining to planning applications 74080/90 if the Parish Council could show more vehemency in its objection to such cases. The Chairman clarified the position in that the Parish Council had already provided its formal response. District Councillor Bulled had spoken with the planning officers involved and confirmed that the cases had been 'ticked' for affordable housing and that local residents still had time to make their views known to NDC via its Planning Portal. Three members of the public expressed their objection to Planning Application: 74416 (Poltimore Inn) below on the following combined grounds: loss of privacy; increased noise and an increase in traffic with attendant potential car parking issues. The owner of the Poltimore Inn explained that he had never received a complaint regarding noise – the height of the screening wall could be increased. The idea was to enhance the customer experience rather than increase trade which was limited by kitchen size which was not changing.

837/12/21.5 - Planning:

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting

Case Ref	Address & Proposal	Decision
74287	East Marsh Farm, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HQ Grid Ref: 273220; 127669 Conversion Of Existing Agricultural Stone Barn Into Permanent Residential Dwelling	Supported
74371	Overhill, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HG Grid Ref: 273211; 128354 Change Of Use Of Agricultural Land For Temporary Siting 3 Bell Tents, 1 Portable Cabin, Portable Toilet/Shower Cabin And Welfare Marquee For Extended Season Period Of 5 Months	Objection On The Grounds Below In <i>Italics</i> .

*Members objected to this application on the following grounds:
The negative visual impact; highways/road access issues; potential water supply issues & the lack of evidence of it currently being linked to tourism.*

74387	Riverside Caravan And Camping Park, North Molton/ South Molton, Devon EX36 3HQ Grid Ref: 272505; 127071 Variation Of Condition 5 (Occupancy Restriction) Attached To Planning Permission 51566 To Allow Extended Period Of Occupation For 52 Weeks Of The Year	Supported
74416	Poltimore Inn, East Street, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HR Grid Ref: 273729; 129810 Creation Of A Terrace To The Rear <i>Members objected (1 abstention) to this application due its negative impact on neighbours in terms of privacy and increased noise.</i>	Objection With One Abstention On The Grounds Below In <i>Italics</i>.
74444	Court Farm, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HP Grid Ref: 273301; 129967 Prior Approval For Change Of Use Of Agricultural Building To Dwellinghouse Class Q	Supported
Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting		Decision
74011	Riverside Caravan And Camping Park, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HQ Grid Ref: 272198; 127120 Extension To Existing Shop/Reception To Create Larger Reception Area & Storage Area	Approved
74057	Barn at Larkrise Road from Holewater Cross to Molland Cross, South Molton Devon EX36 3EY Prior Approval For Barn Conversion To One Dwelling (Class Q(a)(b))	Approved
73940	Annexe Malt House, Fore Street, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HL Demolition Of Sectional Timber Studio & Extension To Dwelling With Pitched Roof To Match Existing (Amended Address) Plans Are (Amended Plans)	Withdrawn
74174	South Leigh Farm South Molton Devon EX36 3EH Erection Of One Agricultural Building For The Storage Of Machinery And Equipment (Follow Up To 73703)	Prior Approval Not Required

838/12/21.6 - Approval Of The Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 17th November, 2021 – approved, unanimously by those members who had attended the meeting.

839/12/21.7 – Clerk’s Report On 17th November, 2021 Minutes

Planning Application: 70347 Refused But Owner Still Appearing To Be Living On Site – The Clerk would continue to chase NDC on this issue.

Alleged Unauthorised Development - Widening Of Gateway Onto The Farm And Siting Of Static Caravan At Land Adjacent To Coombe Farm, South Molton, Devon EX36 3RF – Enforcement Case: 12784 – According to NDC’s Enforcement Team, the agent had been awaiting a structural report on the barns before submitting a planning application. NDC was within the ten year timeframe in which to progress any enforcement action.

Caravans In Field At Newtown Bridge – Enforcement Case Numbers: 12825 – Members confirmed that there was no longer any evidence of caravans being present.

Loose Stones In The Pavement Wall In East Street – Councillor Milne covers this matter under the *Highways Update* section, below.

Listing Of The Raised Pavement in East Street & Cobblestones Outside the Village Shop – Vice Chairman Dunn is to progress this matter with *Historic England*.

Possible Procurement, For Community Use/Maintenance Purposes, Of DCC-owned Land Adjacent To Roberts Field And Opposite The Lower Poole Phase II Development – Chairman Peek had conducted a virtual meeting with the administrator – the three intended houses were expected to be completed but the S.106 Agreement was still at the renegotiation stage – there was a good chance that the Parish Council might be allowed to purchase the desired land come the end of the project.

Libra School – Edgemoor Court – Planning Issues – The Clerk would continue to chase Dean Kinsella for an update on this issue.

Faulty ‘Slow Down’ Sign On Entrance To The Village On New Road – Fault Ref: 32024 – DCC’s maintenance contractor had identified that the fault was associated with the operation of the sign which was the responsibility of the *Local Neighbourhood Team (Local Highways Officer)* to whom the case had been passed.

840/12/21.8 Matters Arising From The 17th November, 2021 Minutes Not On This Agenda: None

841/12/21.9 Items For Discussion:

- a. **Draft First Response Initiative Plan & First Aid Support Team Update** – Councillor Jennings reported that an additional £650.00 was required in the current financial year for a first aid course. **Action:** After a considered debate, members agreed, unanimously, for the Clerk to increase the 2022-2023 Precept requirement to £12,151.82 to accommodate this additional first aid funding requirement of £650.00 – Please see the attached revised budget for 2022-2023 – this still represented a 15.61% reduction on the current year’s Precept;
- b. **Consideration Of The Options To Reduce Speeding In The Village** – Chairman Peek reported that Richard Martin of the *Police & Crime Commissioner’s Office* would be asking the *Local Police Team* to contact him regarding the progression of the Parish Council’s involvement in the *Community Speedwatch Scheme*;
- c. **Alleviation Of Parking Issues In The Village – Consideration Of Ideas And Concerns With A View To Agreeing The Matters To Raise With DCC’s Highways and Traffic Officers At A Proposed Site Visit Meeting** – **Action:** After a considered debate, members agreed for the Clerk to contact DCC’s *Highways Officer* to arrange an evening on-site meeting in North Molton from April 2022 between himself, the *Traffic Officer* and any councillors wishing to attend with a view to investigating and assessing the issues involved with parking in the village, including the Square and the potential solutions available for further consideration. **Action:** The Clerk is to ascertain from DCC the ownership of the land at the Square’s western end in front of the cottages where 1 Lots Cottage forms a part;
- d. **Consideration Of The Incorporation Of A Social Media Policy Within The Parish Council’s Standing Orders** – **Action:** After a considered debate, members agreed for the Clerk to draft a *Social Media Policy* for their scrutiny;
- e. **Highways Team Update** – Councillor Milne reported on various works which had been completed for the benefit of parishioners – a hedge-trimming invoice had been submitted and emergency drainage works had been completed. Contractor Butt had been asked to carry out further edge-ploughing work within the current financial year. **Action:** Members agreed for Councillor Milne to obtain two quotes for

appropriate repairs to the raised pavement in East Street from Chapter 8-trained contractors for their further consideration;

- f. **Laurels Playground S.106 Project Update Including Decision Required On Which Firm Of Chartered Surveyors To Appoint To Act On The Parish Council's Behalf Regarding The Drawing Up And Execution Of A Party Wall Agreement With The Owner Of Court Hall** – The Clerk reported that the second quote for arranging a *Party Wall Agreement* had not arrived in time for dissemination to members – members agreed to defer the decision on who to appoint in this regard until January 2022 to allow proper time for comparison of the quotes. Councillor Darley reported that quotes were being obtained for the proposed repair work to the eastern wall.;
- g. **Website Project Team Update** – Councillor Bulled reported that Jamie Hartnoll had switched the North Molton Village website to the website provider he uses. He would model a draft new-looking website on the *Brayford Village Community* website – Councillor Bulled would ask for member access to such draft for their consideration and comments;
- h. **Preparations For The Celebration Of H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee In June 2022 – Update** - Councillor Barron reported that the Project Team which included herself and Councillors Geen, Johnson, Milne & Procter would be holding its first meeting in January 2022.

842/12/21.10 Chairman's Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward By The Chairman – Chairman Peek reported that he would be ready to connect-up the Christmas Tree lights once the said tree was in place which was expected to be around 10th December.

843/12/21.11 Finance –

Barclays Community Account	Balance as at 30 th November, 2021: £33,118.10
Barclays Business Premium Account	Balance as at 30 th November, 2021: £ 6,058.71

- i) Receipts: DCC 4658123 £1,000.00 – 3/11/21 - Locality Grant Re: Laurels Playground
Griffith £5,000.00 – 3/11/21 – Donation Re: Laurels Playground
HMRC £ 612.09 - 23/11/21 - VAT Reclamation 1/2/21 to 31/10/21

ii) Payments:

- a) **Clerk's Net Monthly Pay & Expenses - £459.93** – Comprising: Net Pay: £434.40 plus contribution to telephone & office costs of £15.00 and travel expenses of £10.53;

iii) Any Other Accounts Received After Preparation of Agenda:

I.C. Woollacott - £2,721.60 - Invoice: 0033516;

I.C. Woollacott - £1,239.90 - Invoice: 0033519.

Unanimously, members agreed to pay the above sums.

844/12/21.12 Correspondence – None

845/12/21.13 Reports – None

846/12/21.14 – Matters Brought Forward By The District Councillor – District Councillor Bulled reported that the current housing crisis had been continuing to dominate with meetings having taken place between *NDC, North Devon Homes, Torridge & North Devon Crisis Group* and other stakeholders. Central Government had been approached on the issues of second home ownership and Air 'B 'n' B which were considered to be affecting

local people's access to housing. Some eight wind turbines were being considered for flotation fifty miles to the north of Padstow.

The meeting closed at 09.30 p.m.. **Date, Time And Venue Of Next Meeting: Wednesday 12th January, 2022 At 7.30 P.M. In North Molton Victory Hall**

DRAFT

North Molton Parish Council - Draft Budget & Precept Setting 2022-2023

	2021-22 Estimated	2021-22 Actual To Date & Projected	Under/Over Budget	2022-2023 Estimated
Clerk's Salary Inc PAYE	£5,317.06	£5,320.46	£3.40	£5,423.40
Clerk's Admin Expenses + Zoom	£335.88	£208.78	-£127.10	£180.00
Clerk's Travel Expenses	£0.00	£359.73	£359.73	£104.49
Burial Grounds	£1,150.00	£1,150.00	£0.00	£1,150.00
Village Halls	£920.00	£920.00	£0.00	£920.00
Drainage Works	£1,440.00	£205.20	-£1,234.80	£0.00
Verge-trimming Works	£1,440.00	£2,590.80	£1,150.80	£0.00
Weed Clearing Works	£600.00	£330.00	-£270.00	£0.00
Gritting Works	£600.00	£0.00	-£600.00	£0.00
Highways Committee Contingency	£1,900.67	£0.00	-£1,900.67	£0.00
Insurance	£340.00	£297.67	-£42.33	£297.67
DALC Subs	£238.96	£242.79	£3.83	£245.00
Repairs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00
Audit fees	£80.00	£330.00	£250.00	£350.00
Election Costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Solicitors	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£650.00
Hall Hire	£45.00	£150.00	£195.00	£170.00
Playsafety ROSPA Inspection Fees	£77.20	£82.20	£5.00	£85.00
Royal British Legion	£30.00	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
Xmas Lights & Electricity	£22.00	£25.00	£3.00	£25.00
Plants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£30.00
Website	£32.37	£39.86	£7.49	£159.85
Laurels Playground	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Defibrillator Provision	£200.00	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
Trans To Saver Account (Reserves)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Signs For Playground	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00
Sundries	£100.00	£0.00	-£100.00	£0.00
Training	£150.00	£0.00	-£150.00	£0.00
Records Office	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
CAB	£30.00	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
Exmoor Young Voices	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
50% Grant Church Clock Maintenance	£92.50	£92.50	£0.00	£92.50
Speeding Sign Provision	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Phone Box Adoption Costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00
First Aid Provision	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,500.00
HM Queen's Platinum Celebration 2022	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00
Other				
Total	£15,151.64	£12,704.99	£(2,446.50)	£12,292.91

Est. Budget 2022-23

VAT Items Known Excluding Highways VAT £141.09 VAT Estimated

Estimated Income: £
141.09

£141.09

Estimated Expenditure: £12,292.91

Est. Precept Required For 2022-23: £12,151.82 Last Year's Precept (2021-2022) was: £ 14,400.00

The proposed percentage increase/decrease for next year's (2022-23) Precept is: -15.61%

(where '-' represents a decrease)

DRAFT