

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD REMOTELY ON WEDNESDAY 10th February, 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. USING ZOOM CLOUD MEETINGS

Present: Councillor R. Peek (Chairman); Councillor J. Dunn (Vice Chairman); Councillor C. Barron; Councillor E. Bulled; Councillor A. Darley; Councillor W. Geen; Councillor H. Jennings; Councillor Johnson; Councillor I. Milne; Councillor R. Procter; Councillor R. Smaldon; District Councillor E. Bulled, County Councillor J. Yabsley (joined the meeting at 7.52 p.m. and left meeting at 9.03 p.m.) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

692/02/21.1 Apologies: — None

693/02/21.2 Declaration of Interests: Councillors Darley & Smaldon regarding Planning Application: 72790 – they neither took part in the debate nor vote on this case. At 7.51 p.m. Councillor Dunn took over the Chairmanship role due to Councillor Peek encountering internet connection issues.

694/02/21.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: None

695/02/21.4 Representations From The Public: Councillor Procter had attended a presentation given by *The Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT)* to *Heasley Mill Village Hall Management Committee* regarding the provision of a defibrillator in the Committee's recently-adopted BT phone box – the Committee wanted to go ahead with a defibrillator purchase from CHT. Councillor Barron explained that the cost was circa £2,300 with the Hall having already raised £820.00. Further funds would be raised by an intended *Hamper Raffle* but the Committee wondered whether or not the Parish Council might consider making a donation towards the costs. CHT would be involving the local *Rotary Club* and would also be contacting *BT* on the Hall's behalf with the intention of maintaining a power supply to the box. CHT would also supply free paint for the phone box and might also provide free paint for the Parish Council's adopted phone box in the Square even though it contained no defibrillator. **Actions:** Members agreed that the Hall's Management Committee should make a formal case and approach to the Parish Council for a donation and for the issue to be placed on the Parish Council's March Agenda. Councillor Jennings had received a representation regarding the trees which had recently been chopped down on New Road – it was considered to be a safety risk with a straight fall down the bank. He had alerted DCC Highways to the situation. Vice Chairman Dunn explained that this was a laying of the hedge and that trees and hedging should not be relied upon to cushion or prevent vehicular falls from the road - the issue was one for DCC Highways. **Action:** After a considered debate, members agreed on a vote of ten for the motion and one against for the Clerk to contact DCC Highways with a request for reflective plastic posts to be installed along the affected verge to improve road safety. At 8.06 p.m. Councillor Peek re-entered the meeting and resumed his role as Chairman. Councillor Jennings had received a representation regarding safety concerns due to the apparent delay in the repair works to the fallen wall in the Square – more than one member commented that DCC was aware of the situation with the matter in hand. Chairman Peek had received a representation regarding the loose stones in the wall along the raised pavement section in East Street – members commented that the whole wall required attention. **Action:** County Councillor Yabsley is to raise the issue with DCC Highways – please also see his previous action to do this under the Clerk's Report, below. Councillor Geen had received representations concerning a new entrance in the hedge at land adjoining Ashpark Farm down from Aller Cross and a caravan in a field at Newtown Bridge. **Action:** Unanimously, members agreed for the Clerk to report both cases to NDC's Planning Department for investigation by its Enforcement Team. Councillor Geen had also received concerns over the poor and potentially dangerous condition of the road surface from West Park through Stoney Bridge to Nadrid. **Action:** The Clerk is to raise the poor road surface condition between West Park through Stoney Bridge and on towards Nadrid with DCC. Councillor Barron reported that the salt bins in Heasley Mill were empty. Councillor Milne had reported to DCC in December that all the salt bins in the parish required refilling/top-ups. **Action:** Councillor Milne is to chase the issue with DCC.

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting

Case Ref	Address & Proposal	Decision
72761	Ashpark Farm Road From Nadrid Cross To Aller Cross, South Molton, Devon EX36 3EJ Erection Of Outbuilding	Objection On The Grounds That The Scale And Size Was Not In Line With Domestic Use. Vote: 10 For The Motion And 1 Against
72790	Overhill/Underhill Farm, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HG Outline Application For The Erection Of 8 Holiday Lodges Including Access (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout & Scale Reserved) <i>Unanimously, Members Objected To This Application On The Grounds That There Was Neither Significant Agricultural Activity Nor Evidence Of A Tourism Business On Site Indicating That The Proposal Represented An Unsupported Development In The Open Countryside. The Access Was Considered To Be Substandard. On The Basis Of The Above Comments And The Major Nature Of The Application, Councillors Agreed For The Clerk To Request The District Councillor To Call The Case In For NDC Committee Determination.</i>	Objection – Please See Comments In Italics, Below Vote: Unanimously In Favour Of The Motion.

Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting

		Decision
64829	Nadrid Farm, North Molton, Devon EX36 3EJ Conversion Of Outbuildings To Form Five Dwellings	Approved
64830	Nadrid Farm, North Molton, Devon EX36 3EJ Listed Building Application For Conversion Of Outbuildings To Form Five Dwellings	Approved
72490	Valleigh View, Hacche Lane, South Molton, Devon EX36 3EH Extension Of An Agricultural Building And New Grain Store – Part Retrospective	Approved
72583	West Millbrook, North Molton, Devon EX36 3LP Grid Ref: 275738; 130331 Prior Approval Change Of Use Of Agricultural Building To 1no. Dwellinghouse (Class Q)	Approved
72681	21 Oakford Villas, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HN Grid Ref: 273428; 129724 Side And Rear Extensions Together With Alterations To Dwelling	Approved

Action: At the end of the meeting Vice Chairman Dunn proposed the motion that the Clerk write to NDC regarding the Parish Council’s dissatisfaction with the way in which planning applications were being administered and, in particular, vis-à-vis the lack of consistently notifying neighbours in the countryside and the all-too-common phenomenon of not all of the information appertaining to applications being placed on the website in the public domain – all agreed.

697/02/21.6 - Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of North Molton Parish Council held on 13th January, 2021 - approved, unanimously by those councillors who had attended the meeting.

698/02/21.7 – Clerk’s Report On 13th January, 2021 Minutes

Fallen Trees Over The River Mole Near Borners Bridge – The Clerk had logged this issue on DCC’s Problem Reporting Mapping – Case Ref: W211395130.

Loose Stones In The Pavement Wall In East Street – **Action:** County Councillor Yabsley is to continue to pursue this issue with DCC Highways. This issue had also been raised again under ‘Representations From The Public’, above.

Listing Of The Raised Pavement in East Street & Cobblestones Outside the Village Shop – **Action:** Vice Chairman Dunn had been progressing this matter with *Historic England*.

Missing ‘Heasley Mill’ Village Road Sign – **Case Number: W201375380** - DCC would re-assess this matter by 3rd March, 2021.

Fyldon Cross Road Sign Buried In Hedge – **Case Number: W201375405** - DCC would re-assess this matter by 3rd March, 2021.

Possible Procurement, For Community Use/Maintenance Purposes, Of DCC-owned Land Adjacent To Roberts Field And Opposite The Lower Poole Phase II Development – No further news - awaiting outcome of negotiations between the Administrator and other parties regarding completion of the development.

Planning Application: 70819 – Stitchpool Farm – The Clerk had chased the Case Officer again, but no response had been received to date.

Exploration Of Funding Possibilities For Laurels Playground Project – Phase II – The Clerk was awaiting confirmation from the Project Team of the extent of Phase II with supporting quote/s.

Laurels Playground S.106 Project Phase I – The Clerk had forwarded a signed *Project Evaluation Form* together with supporting photographic evidence of completion of the works and a copy of *TK Play Ltd’s* invoice to NDC and was awaiting payment in the sum of £12,995.00.

Danger Posed By Open Drain/Culvert Cover In The Road At Upcott Below Ley Cross – This matter had been successfully remedied by DCC.

699/02/21.8 Matters Arising From The 13th January, 2021 Minutes Not On This Agenda: None

700/02/21.9 Items For Discussion:

a) Highways Team Update – Councillor Milne reported that DCC’s Highways Manager, Richard Sables was aware of the road issue at Sannacott which had been logged and should be dealt with within 28 days. He was well aware of North Molton’s priorities. Imminently, one of the Parish Council’s drainage contractors would be spending half a day clearing the gullies in Bendle Lane with the other part of the day involving similar work on North Molton Hill. Councillor Bulled expressed concern regarding regular water on the road leading to ice by the Libra School and on North Molton Hill. Councillor Smaldon reported either a spring or pipe leaking water across and down Burcombe Hill below the entrance to Marsh Hall which had led, similarly, to ice on the road – Councillor Geen recommended that the Highways Team log such issues on DCC’s Problem Reporting Mapping.

b) Laurels Playground S.106 Project – Update By The Laurels Team – Councillor Darley reported that the new play equipment was in place. The water meter was no longer visible – this had been caused most likely by

the re-positioning of the gazebo rather than by any new playground surfacing – he would move the gazebo in the first instance with a view to resolving the issue. The Team would decide upon further equipment to be purchased for Phase II, obtain quotes and approach the Clerk to explore the funding possibilities. After a considered debate, members agreed, unanimously, to re-open the playground once the football posts had been removed by the Sports Club and subject to HM Government’s Covid-19-related guidelines;

- c) **Laurels Playground – RoSpa Safety Inspection Report – Decision Required As To Whether Or Not To Use RoSpa In 2021 (Cost £68.50 net of V.A.T.) Or Another Provider** – Unanimously, after a considered debate, members agreed to use *RoSpa Safety* again this year to carry out the Annual Inspection Report;
- d) **Parish Council’s Main Noticeboard – Update By Councillor Geen** – Councillor Geen reported that the new noticeboard had been constructed and would be erected on site, imminently;
- e) **Adopted BT Phone-box (In The Square) Update** – Councillor Jennings reported that *The Book Box* would not open until after the current *Covid-19*-related lockdown.

701/02/21.10 Chairman’s Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward By The Chairman – None

702/02/21.11 Finance -

Barclays Community Account	Balance as at 31 st January, 2021:	£14,820.40
Barclays Business Premium Account	Balance as at 31 st January, 2021:	£ 6,058.26

- i) Receipts: **North Molton History Society** - £35.71 - Re: Website Domain & Administrative Fee
- ii) Payments:
 - a) **Clerk’s Net Monthly Pay & Expenses** - £470.09 – Comprising: Net Pay: £432.60 plus contribution to telephone & office costs of £15.00, **Zoom Cloud Meetings** Monthly Subscription: £14.39 and travel expenses of £8.10;
 - b) **J. Butt** - £618.00 – Inv: 0971 – Drainage Works;
 - c) **T. K. Play Ltd** - £15,594.00 – Inv: 10893 – Laurels Playground Refurbishment Phase I – This amount will be paid when the net of V.A.T. sum (£12,995.00) has been received from NDC by way of S.106 Grant – the attendant V.A.T. of £2,599.00 will be temporarily met by funds from the Parish Council’s Barclays Community Account which will be reimbursed with this figure upon immediate V.A.T reclamation from HMRC.
- iii) Any Other Accounts Received After Preparation of Agenda: None

Unanimously, members agreed to pay the above sums.

703/02/21.12 Correspondence – None

704/02/21.13 Reports – None

705/02/21.14 – Matters Brought Forward By The District Councillor – The £2m gap in NDC’s Draft Budget had been partly plugged by a one-off payment from Central Government. There would be a 5% increase in Council Tax which represented a ten pence per week increase per household. The *Annual Garden Waste Levy* was being increased by £4 to £40. A 2% increase would be applicable to other fees apart from car parking which would remain unchanged. The finances were better than forecast. Barnstaple had been offered £6.5m towards the cost of regenerating the Pannier Market/Butchers Row. There had been a delay in the provision of business grants due to a software issue which was now resolved. Councillor Bulled raised the issue of revamping *North Molton Parish Council’s & North Molton History Society’s* joint website which had become tired-looking and

contained information which was out-of-date. *North Molton History Society* would need to be alerted to and engaged on this matter. After a considered debate, members agreed to look at both the *Parish Council's /North Molton History Society's* website along with other similar websites such as Brayford's with a view to discussing the way forwards in March. Action: The Clerk is to place this issue on the March 2021 Agenda – all agreed.

Date And Time Of The Next Meeting To Be Held Remotely Over The Internet Using Zoom Cloud Meetings Software Under The Provisions Of The Coronavirus Regulations Bill 2020: Wednesday 10th March, 2021 at 7.30 p.m.. The Meeting closed at 9.38 p.m..