MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH MOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th February, 2022 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 H. Jennings; Councillor A. Johnson; Councillor I. Milne; Councillor R. Procter; Councillor R. Smaldon; District Councillor E. Bulled; County Councillor Yabsley (arrived at 8.00 p.m. - left at 9.09 p.m.) and the Parish Clerk, Noel Brooks

861/02/22.1 Apologies For/And Sanction Of Absence: Councillor Geen – all agreed.

862/02/22.2 Declaration of Interests: None

863/02/22.3 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: None

864/02/22.4 Representations From The Public: Councillor Bulled referred to the ongoing request from Mrs Brinkman for a plot of land where she could plant a flower meadow as a memorial for her son Craig and wondered whether or not any members were aware of any plots available for such purpose. Whilst members were not aware of any such land, they were hopeful, in the future, of procuring the small piece of land opposite the entrance to the Lower Poole Phase II Development where some form of memorial might be possible as reported in the minutes of 8th September, 2021.

865/02/22.5 - Planning:

Planning Applications For Consideration Received Since Last Parish Council Meeting

Case Ref	Address & Proposal	Decision
74729	**2 Mole View, East Street, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HU** **Grid Ref: 274145; 129747** First Floor Extension And Alterations To Dwelling	Supported

Planning Applications Advised Since Last Parish Council Meeting		Decision
7 11	**Land at Molland Hill, Brayford - Grid Ref: 270195; 134551** Extension To An Agricultural Building For The Storage Of Feed And Straw	Approved
74287	**East Marsh Farm, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HQ** **Grid Ref: 273220; 127669** Conversion Of Existing Agricultural Stone Barn Into Permanent Residential Dwelling	Approved
74416	**Poltimore Inn, East Street, North Molton, Devon EX36 3HR** **Grid Ref: 273729; 129810** Creation Of A Terrace To The Rear	Withdrawn
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	Approved

866/02/22.6 - Approval Of The Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 12th January, 2022 – approved, unanimously by those members who had attended the meeting.

867/02/22.7 – Clerk's Report On 12th January, 2022 Minutes

Consideration Of Personalised Baubles On Christmas Tree – The Clerk had diarised this issue for discussion in November 2022.

Arrangement Of An Onsite Evening Meeting From April 2022 With The *Highways Officer* & *Traffic Officer* And Members To Investigate and Assess The Issues Involved With Parking In The Village Including The Square And The Potential Solutions Available For Further Consideration – The Clerk had chased the *Highways Officer* on 27th January with this request and was awaiting a response.

Ascertaining 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 – The Clerk had chased the *Highways Officer* on 27th January and was awaiting a response.

Draft Social Media Policy – The Clerk would attend to this around other work and provide a draft for members to consider. The Clerk reminded councillors of the importance of continuing to adhere to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders when discussing matters in any capacity with members of the public and in particular, when referring to other council members.

Planning Application: 70347 Refused But Owner Still Appearing To Be Living On Site – The Case Officer had apologised but was intending to visit the site some time in February and would revert.

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 – The Case Officer had been in contact with the agent who was still in the process of applying for permission under the Class Q Schedule.

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 had been asked by members in December to hold the application with *Historic England* in abeyance.

Possible Procurement, For Community Use/Maintenance Purposes, Of DCC-owned Land Adjacent To Roberts Field And Opposite The Lower Poole Phase II Development – This matter was with the Administrator pending the outcome of wider negotiations concerning completion of the remaining site.

***Libra School* – Edgemoor Court – Planning Issues** – The Clerk had phoned Dean Kinsella for an update on this issue but he was unavailable and had not phoned back as requested. **Action:** Chairman Peek agreed to contact the Chairman of the *Exmoor National Park Authority* to express the Parish Council's concerns in not having received a response from Mr Kinsella regarding progress on the Travel Plan and investigations into potential breaches of planning permissions.

Faulty 'Slow Down' Sign On Entrance To The Village On New Road – Fault Ref: 32024 – The *Highways Officer* had confirmed that the power supply was reaching the unit but that the unit had failed – it was old, out of warranty and probably uneconomical to repair – the *Traffic Team* would make a decision in due course.

RoSpa Annual Safety Inspection Report For Laurels Playground – The Clerk had booked the inspection for some time in March.

Legal Documents Appertaining to Laurels Playground – The Clerk had e-mailed both *The Law Society* and *The Solicitors' Regulation Authority* to ascertain which firm of solicitors had taken on the paperwork of *Furse Sanders* which was no longer practising and was awaiting a reply. He would also endeavour phoning such institutions to gain a response.

Laurels Playground - £2k Locality Grant Application – The Clerk had diarised to apply for this grant in late April 2022.

Laurels Playground – National Lottery Grant Application £9.6k – The Clerk had completed the financial and Parish Council's sections and Cllr Johnson had completed the remainder of the online application form and submitted it to the said Lottery organisation.

Noticeboard Condensation Issue – Chairman Peek understood that the contractor may have made an initial investigation into the cause of the problem – an update from Cllr Geen was eagerly awaited.

Condition of Pavement Between Two Gables & The Shop – County Councillor Yabsley would be endeavouring to carry out a site visit soon with DCC's *Highways Manager* when considering other issues in the parish.

869/02/22.8 Matters Arising From The 12th January, 2022 Minutes Not On This Agenda: None

869/02/22.9 Items For Discussion:

a. **First Aid Support Team – Clarification Required Of The Roles Of The Parties Involved** – The Chairman emphasised what had been agreed previously in that Melanie Jezzard would arrange the trainees and set up the training and provide a monthly report on progress, submitting any invoice/s for approval in the process;

b. **Reduction Of Speeding In The Village – *Community Speedwatch Scheme* – Update By Chairman Peek** – **Action:** Chairman Peek had forwarded a copy of the *Community Speedwatch Application Form* to members and confirmed that he was happy to complete it and progress matters. **Action:** County Councillor Yabsley confirmed that he would endeavour to arrange *DCC Highways* vehicle speed-monitoring for the road by the school and at the bottom end of East Street towards the bridge;

c. **Highways Team Update** – Councillor Milne reported that gulley works had been completed by the Parish Council's contractor near the *Libra School*, Flitton and by Roy Richards' property. A further five days of edge-ploughing work was envisaged to be completed before the end of March but in some instances, this required the landowners affected to trim their hedges. County Councillor Yabsley emphasised that DCC did not currently have the resources to remind landowners to trim their hedges. With regard to the re-cap and repair of the raised pavement in East Street two quotes would be forthcoming but for any work to commence, the Parish Council would need written agreement from *DCC Highways* for such works to commence. **Action:** County Councillor Yabsley agreed to contact the *Highways Officer* with a view to him providing such written agreement by e-mail. **Action:** County Councillor Yabsley agreed to contact the *Highways Officer* with a view to resolving the long-standing broken pipe at Burcombe Hill.

d. **Laurels Playground S.106 Project Update** – Councillor Darley informed members that it was necessary for the *Proper Officer* to sign the *Tkplay Ltd* contract for the provision of further play equipment and forward this to such firm – **Action:** The Clerk is to sign the *Tkplay Ltd* contract on behalf of the Parish Council and forward it to Terry Warrington. Councillor Darley suggested that a rota involving all members be drawn up for the regular tidying-up of the playground but no vote was taken on this matter. He informed councillors that the gazebo would be removed as previously agreed at an appropriate time – the seats would be removed and fixed to the ground at various places in the playground. **Action:** After a considered debate

members agreed, unanimously, for the Clerk to apply to the local freemasons for a grant towards the equipment costs;

e. **Website Project Team Update** – Councillor Bulled reported that the domain name and web hosting had been transferred. The developer would be using the Brayford website template – six photos would be agreed upon and sent soonest to enable the new-look site to be ready for scrutiny and implementation as soon as possible;

f. **NDC's Litter Workshop – Decision Required On NDC's Offer To Appoint A Parish Council, Litter-related-issue, Liaison Person** – District Councillor Bulled reported that she had been appointed as a member of NDC's *Litter Working Group* which was in the process of mapping the locations of litter bins, dog-poo bins and the hot-spots of both. Councillors Bulled, Darley and Procter were interested in becoming the Parish Council's *Litter Liaison Person* with NDC. A vote on the appointee would be taken in March;

g. ***Exmoor National Park Planning Authority* Seeking Views On Its Local Plan As part Of A Five-year Local Plan Review Process – Do Members Wish To Comment, And, If So, How And To What Extent?** – Chairman Peek suggested that members respond individually with their views on the Local Plan;

h. **Preparations For The Celebration Of H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee In June 2022 – Update –** Councillor Barron reported that the Beacon-lighting date had been moved to the Thursday to be in line with H.M. Queen's National Plan. Traditionally, the oldest person in the village is to light the beacon. There were no plans at present for the Friday but a Dance and Band at the Sports Club were still scheduled in for the Saturday evening. Events for the Sunday at the Sports Club and its grounds were still in the planning stage but so far included the following: a car boot sale; exercise class; a Church Service at mid-day; a NOMADS open-air production on the history of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II with the potential involvement of the School's Choir; a dog show; tug-of-war; an egg and spoon race; a film, photos & exhibition by the History Society; a school art project exhibition; a bouncy castle; stocks; archery; face-painting; fancy-dress competition; crown competition and a cake competition and a tea party. Bunting involving seventy triangles is to be made with thirty-five already being worked on – a couple of workshops producing the bunting were being arranged by two parishioners. Transport to the Sports Club was being considered. Re-usable, plastic water bottles were being considered adorning H.M. Queen's logo – **Action:** Councillor Barron is to ascertain costs for such water bottles and report at the next meeting of the Parish Council in March. A memorial tree and its location were also under consideration. Whilst the Parish Council's Project Team was already working with local people on planning and the events, **the celebrations are for everyone and as many people as possible are encouraged to get involved in making the extended weekend a success and to provide their views and input – in this regard, please contact any of the following:**

Councillor Claire Barron on 01598-740848 (e-mail shipwreckedmermaid@gmail.com);
Councillor Bill Geen on 01598-740226 (e-mail billgeen1953@gmail.com);
Councillor Innes Milne on 01598-740570 (e-mail innes@innesmilneassociates.co.uk);
Councillor R. Procter on 01598-740206 (e-mail ronsue86@gmail.com).

870/02/22.10 Chairman's Report/Urgent Matters Brought Forward By The Chairman – None

871/02/22.11 Finance –

Barclays Community Account	Balance as at 31st January, 2022:	£28,214.74
Barclays Business Premium Account	Balance as at 31st January, 2022:	£ 6,058.86

i) Receipts: None

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:

Nutty About Hosting Ltd - £5.94 – Invoice: 74573 – Domain Name Hosting For 1 Year;
Thinkka Ltd - £119.88 – Invoice: 0603 – Website Maintenance – Payable at £9.99 monthly.

Project Balances Available As At 31st January, 2022:

Highways:	£10,103.50
Laurels:	£13,403.00
First Aid Support:	£ 650.00
New Website:	£ 250.00

Received 9 Mar 22

Unanimously, members agreed to pay the above relevant sums.

872/02/22.12 Correspondence – None

873/02/22.13 Reports – Vice Chairman Dunn reported that the faulty light at the back of the Oakford Villas garages by the 'cut-through' had been replaced by a new LED one. Similarly, many of the lampposts in Oakford Villas and Oakford Close had been replaced with LEDs.

874/02/22.14 – Matters Brought Forward By The District Councillor – District Councillor Bulled reported that local MP, Selaine Saxby had recently visited the local shop. NDC had been working on its housing submission to central government – recommendations included second home owners being required to pay full council tax and the tightening up on the ease by which landlords can currently switch from housing regular local tenants to offering Air B 'n' B facilities.

The meeting closed at 09.21 p.m.. **Date, Time And Venue Of Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th March, 2022 At 7.30 P.M. In North Molton Victory Hall**