

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th February 2021 commencing at 7.30pm, this was a remote Meeting held on the ZOOM platform. Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse Chair, Richard Piper Vice- Chair, Peter Buckpitt, Teresa Walters, Jim Richardson, Rose Haynes, also present were Torridge District Councillors Ken James and Kit Hepple and the Clerk Lorraine Buttery.

1. Apologies were received from:

DCC Councillor Barry Parsons, Councillor Gareth Piper and PCSO Mark James

2. Chair's Announcements

Councillor Stephen Moyse welcomed all to the meeting

3. Declarations of Interest

- a) Register of Interest: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests. *None were declared*
- b) To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature. *None were declared*
- c) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and their nature. *None were declared*

4. Public Comments

No members of the public attended

5. County and District Councilor's reports:

District Councillor and leader of Torridge District Council Ken James gave his report, he stated that there is not a great deal going on, at the recent financial meeting it was agreed to raise the Council Tax by approx. 4.9%, this is to cover the increases requested by the Police Commission, Fire Service and the Social Care of the elderly and vulnerable children, which costs have risen significantly. The Councils in Devon are split as to the decision to give everyone a rebate of £20 or keep the extra money provided by central Government to be distributed to the most needy. Torridge has decided to not give all a rebate but help those that need it the most. There are a lot of people and businesses that have fallen through the net and have not been able to take advantage of grants made available by Central Government. Torridge's finances are very stable and we are in a better position than a lot of other Councils. I am very pleased at the way things are going, with small developments in the area attracting young people and a lot of talent into the area. West and North Devon are leading the way with increasing recycling. The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked Ken for attending and commented that he thought it a good idea to help those that need it most, the other Councillors wholeheartedly agreed with this sentiment, Stephen asked the Councillors if they had any questions for Ken? None were forthcoming and at this point Ken left the meeting to attend another.

Councillor Kit Hepple commented that Ken had updated you all and given you the benefit of his wisdom, but if he could be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stephen asked if anyone had any questions, none were forthcoming and he thanked Kit for attending.

- 6.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th January 2021 had been circulated by email, and were unanimously approved as a correct and true record of the meeting.
the Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse, signed the minutes.

7. Matters Arising

- 1) AED Cabinet lights, Councillor Moyse apologised that he had not had time to sort the lights out due to a family bereavement.
- 2) Dogs barking in Venn Green, the dogs are still barking, a letter had been sent to the owners of the dogs by a Resident of the Parish, if this does not resolve the issue, the advice is to contact Torridge Council, who have procedures in place to deal with nuisance dogs.
- 3) Roads flooding, Councillor Peter Buckpitt reported that he had tried to clear the Drain by Woodford bridge but had been unsuccessful, The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked Peter and asked the Clerk to report the problem to Devon Highways

8. Planning Applications:

1) 1/0058/2021/FUL

Proposal; Conversion of outhouse into annex accommodation for a dependant relative

Location: Ruby View, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon

The above application was discussed by email, no issues were raised and the Parish Council supported the Development, the Clerk reported the decision to Torridge Planning department.

9. Planning decisions

1) 1/0520/2018/FULM

Proposal: Erection of 9 dwellings and conversion of barn to 2 dwellings

Location: Land at Town Farm, Milton Damerel, Devon.

The above application was granted permission.

The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyses commented that if the Parish Councillors receive any negative Remarks from Parishioners relating to the development can they please let him know.

As a Parish Council we have, in the past given the public every opportunity to speak regarding the development, and given our comments to Torridge Planning department, although we were against the number of dwellings to be built it is very apparent that something had to be done as the site is an eyesore. It is hoped that the building work will commence without undue delay.

Planning Appeals:

There were none

10. Financial Matters

- a) The unanimous decision of the Councillors was for the Chair Councillor Stephen Moyses to sign cheques for: i) Clerks salary £214.15 ii) ZOOM monthly fee £7.19
Councillor Moyses will get the cheques signed by two further Councillors and return to the Clerk.
- b) The Direct Debit payment to Eon for £9.77 was acknowledged.
- c) Financial Report to date: The Clerk had emailed the spread sheet and bank reconciliation to Councillors prior to the meeting, no issues were raised. The Bank reconciliation was supported by a current bank statement. The bank balance is £4,040.93 which consists of £183.02 SBiT funds, £541.65 P3 funds, £940.83 DAAT funds, the remaining balance of £2,375.43 being Parish Council general funds.

11. Correspondence as below and as available at the time of the meeting

All emails had been forwarded to Councillors; no issues had been raised.

Letter received by post from Ted Grainger, Councillor Moyses will speak to Ted as soon as he can.

12. Matters for discussion or to be noted, and matters brought to the attention of the Chairman.

- 1) Councillor Rose Haynes reported that there is rubbish left in the layby near Chapmans Green, the Clerk will report this to Torridge District Council.
- 2) Councillor Jim Richardson reported that the road leading from the Parish Hall up to Whitebear Cross is in a dreadful state, not just potholes but in a very poor state of disrepair, The Clerk will report to Devon Highways.
- 3) The Clerk mentioned the fact that at present the legislation permitting Parish Councils to meet remotely comes to an end on the 6th May 2021, and Parish Councils should think about meeting face-to-face. The National Association for Local Councils are trying to get an extension to this date. If the situation changes the Clerk will inform the Parish Councillors. The Chair commented that if it was a case of having to meet face-to face, it would only be if it was safe to do so, and if any Councillor felt it was not so, it would be very understandable. It is hoped that by then the Parish Hall will have re-opened. The legislation and advice is covered in the DALC Newsletter 06 received on the 26th January 2021

The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyses thanked all for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm