

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 in the Methodist Church School room commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse Chair, Richard Piper Vice- Chair, Peter Buckpitt, Teresa Walters, Rose Haynes and Gareth Piper, District Councillor Ken James also present was Lorraine Buttery- Clerk.

1. Apologies were received from: Parish Councillor Jim Richardson and District Councillor Kit Hepple,
2. **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*
3. **Chair's announcements:**

The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse welcomed all to the meeting, he congratulated Councillor Peter Buckpitt and Hannah on the birth of their son Reuban
4. **Public Comments**

No members of the public were present
5. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 19th October 2022 had been circulated by email, they were then unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting, they were duly signed by the Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse.
6. **County and District Councilor's reports:**

District Councillor Ken James apologised for his absence over the past few months, this was due partly to ill health and also with other meetings.

Ken reported that the budget was a concern and the Council were looking at ways to balance the Books, The Council were looking at services and 'housekeeping' to see where savings could be made, Statutory requirements had to remain and be accounted for. The Torrington share of Council Tax could be raised by 3%, and it is envisaged that the overall rise for residents in Torrington would be about 5%. Torrington should be able to balance the books, which is better than some Councils, Devon County Council is allegedly on the verge of Bankruptcy.

The cost of the new recycling Centre has increased considerably, the Marine Project at Appledore is in progress with the Innovative and research Centre, it is hoped that the Government will be fully supportive of both.

Ken went on to talk about the Active Torrington, which is running all leisure centers in the area, Holsworthy has been greatly improved as is Northam.

On the whole Torrington is doing OK.

Councillor Gareth Piper asked Ken what would happen if DCC went Bankrupt?

Ken replied that they would be served with a 14 day notice, and the Government would send in a team to Run the County with financial support.

Councillor Richard Piper asked Ken what might be cut to save money?

Ken replied it could be cutting back on refuse collections, closing public toilets, grant money, put up parking fees, some would like to close leisure Centers. Councillor Richard Piper remarked that perhaps putting up parking fees would deter people, it's a very fine line for residents.

The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked Ken for attending,

signed.....

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7. Matters arising

1) Permanent Memorial, the idea of the memorial was discussed with the thought of having a Bench erected maybe near the bus shelter, Councillor Moyse said he had spoken to Vanessa Sanders Regarding the bench in Holsworthy square, he will get some quotes and discuss further at the next Meeting. He asked Ken if he had any grant money left? Ken replied he did not but to ask Councillor Hepple if he had. The clerk will email Councillor Hepple.

8. Planning Applications

None received

9. Planning decisions

1) 1/0907/2022/FUL Proposal: Erection pf single story extension
Location: 2, Woodland View Barns, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon
The above application has been approved

Planning Appeals

None received

10. Financial Matters

- a) The following cheques were unanimously approved and three Councillors duly signed:
i) Clerk's salary £263.36 ii) Vision ICT £36.00 iii) Methodist Church £7 for Room Hire
Although not on the agenda as received after it was circulated the unanimous decision Of the Councillors to approve and sign a cheque for Charles Brimacombe for grass cutting. The Direct debit payment to EDF energy of £7.08 on the 5th October was acknowledged.
b) financial report to date, all Councillors had received a spread sheet of the accounts, no issues were raised, and were unanimously approved. The bank balance of £4,156.71 was supported by the current bank statement and upheld with the bank reconciliation.
The balance consists of ring-fenced funds: SBiT £103.02, P3 £174.65, and DAAT £940.83. The remaining balance £2938.21 being Parish Council general funds.
c) Grant applications received were considered and the following grants were unanimously approved:
i) M D Newsletter £100.00 ii) M D Parish Hall £150.00 iii) Holy Trinity Church £150.00
iv) M D & District Gardening Club £80.00 v) North Devon & District C A B £50.00
The Clerk will notify the recipients of the Councillors decision. All Grants will be paid in September 2023
d) The draft budget has been forwarded to Councillors before the meeting. The contents were discussed in full. It was the unanimous decision of the Councillors to accept the budget figures and increase the Precept from £4400 to £4750. The Precept had remained the same for two years.

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

All correspondence has been sent by email and forwarded to Councillors, none received by post, no issues were raised.

12. Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

- 1) Councillor Richard Piper mentioned to road to Whitebear Cross and the general disrepair of some of the roads around the Parish, Councillor James commented that it is far better to put complaints on to DCC website as they seem to take more notice of that method. The comments regarding the waste of tarmac when potholes were completed was also discussed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm