

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2024 held in Milton Damerel Parish Hall commencing at 19:30

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyses Chair, Richard Piper Vice- Chair, Teresa Walters, Jim Richardson and Edgar Pett, also present were Lorraine Buttery- Clerk, resident Gary Flack

1. Apologies were received from: Parish Councillors Gareth Piper and Peter Bromley, District Councillors Ken James, and Kit Hepple, DCC Councillor James Morrish

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:**

Councillor Moyses wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all to the meeting.

4. **Public Comments**

The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyses read out the reply from Highways regarding the requested speed restriction Devon County Council stated that the situation has not changed since they last reviewed the location. As there has been no fatalities or accidents in that area they insist that the speed limit is appropriate for the area. It is not feasible or financially viable to install any form of cameras in the vicinity.

Gary pointed out that the complaints regarding this areas is the fact that the speed limit is not adhered to.

The use of signs which flash up the speed of vehicles are excellent, it could have been within the Parish Councils budget to erect these, but because of the election costs it has prohibited this expense.

5. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13th December 2023 which had been circulated by email, they were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting, they were duly signed by the Chair Councillor Stephen Moyses.

6. **Reports by Local and District Councillors.**

Received from Councillor Ken James by email:

Please accept my apologies for tonight's meeting I'm running behind schedule

I have little to report, at Torridge we continue to ensure the Budget balances for 24/25 but going forward it will become more problematic. Work on delivering the Marine Innovation Centre in Appledore continues and planning for the delivery of the Levelling up Partnership throughout Torridge is beginning.

Active Torridge delivering Leisure Services for Torridge continues to be a success.

If any issues arise which I can help with, please let me know

Best Wishes, Ken

7. **Matters Arising**

1) Broken signs, although the 40 MPH sign has been erected the 'Milton Damerel' sign is still missing.

2) State of roads- reports have been sent to Highways and DCC James Morrish copied in, the road from Strawberry Bank up to Whitebear Cross has had a couple of potholes filled, but it is still in a very poor state.

The Clerk will contact the new Highways officer. The new residents group have suggested that some residents could be trained to fill in some potholes. Councillors commented that the waste tarmac is never utilised and it is so annoying as one pot hole is filled in and just further down the road others are left.

3) The Air Ambulance site is now up and running and was fixed before Christmas, one lamp had been replaced and there had been a circuit board error. MATT electrics will send the invoice to the Clerk for Payment.

8. **Planning Application**

None were received.

Signed.....

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9. Planning decisions

Received after the agenda had been distributed

1/1200/2023/Ful

Proposal: Retrospective application for an outside hot water cylinder cupboard

Location: Barn 1, Land and buildings at grid reference 238921 110622, Milton Damerel.

The Above application was granted permission

Planning Appeals

None received

10. Financial Matters

a) It was the unanimous decision of the Parish Councillors to sign cheques for: i) Clerk's salary £287.43

ii) M D Parish Hall Hire £30

Both cheques were duly signed by three Councillors.

b) financial report to date, the bank balance of £3252.21 was supported by the current bank statement and the bank reconciliation. Ring fenced sums consist of SbiT £103.02, P3 £174.65, TDC Grant S £280.00 and DAAT grant £900. the remaining balance of £1564.54 being Parish Council general funds. It was noted that the balance of PC funds were lower than expected due to extra grants being given this year, and the cost of verge and hedge cutting.

c) EDF Balance, the credit on the account now stands at £68.23, the Clerk reported that EDF had increased the daily standing charge from .25p per day to .60p which will increase the annual bill from £92.80 to £220.04, EDF but they will not reduce the cost, the Clerk will telephone other companies to try and get a cheaper deal.

d) The Draft Budget was discussed in full with the precept request to be set at £10,900, this is double the amount of last years Precept. This is due to the Election which will cost in the region of 3-5 thousand pounds, the Invoice from Torridge had not been received, as such the draft budget was unanimously accepted by a show of hands and the Precept request will stand at £10,900.

The new Natwest Bank account has been applied for and once all information has been received the application will be completed.

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

All correspondence received by email have been forwarded to Councillors, no issues were raised.

12. Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

1) Councillor Piper remarked that quite a bit of work had been done on the Town Farm site, with new fencing being erected and a general tidy up, its not apparent that any building work had been started.

Councillor Moyse wondered if the planning application was still valid? The Clerk will contact Planning and report back to the Councillors.

2) The Clerk reported that the notice board outside the Parish Hall was broken, Councillor Moyse said he will have a look at it, the Clerk said she will ensure she has the keys with her for the next meeting .

The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked all for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

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