

# Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

**Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 held in Milton Damerel Parish Hall commencing at 19:30**

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse Chair, Richard Piper Vice- Chair, Teresa Walters, Jim Richardson , Gareth Piper Edgar Pett, Peter Bromley also present were Devon County Councillor James Morrish and Lorraine Buttery- Clerk

1. Apologies were received from: District Councillors Ken James and 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. *Councillor Peter Bromley declared a personal interest in the Planning Application 1/0029/2024/LBC, he took no part in any discussions regarding the application or the decision made.*
  - c) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and their nature. *None were declared*
3. **Chair's announcements:**  
Councillor Moyse welcomed all to the meeting.
4. **Public Comments**  
There were no members of the public present
5. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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 Moyse.

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

Received from Councillor Ken James by email:

I've only just got home from Bideford (teatime) so please accept my apologies for tonight's meeting. The only item I would like to raise is at the beginning of June Torrridge plan to have a Holsworthy Area Advisory meeting. It hopes all Parishes will send a representative and submit any questions beforehand.

At the moment a presentation by the Planning Manager is planned. More details will follow.

At Torrridge, the Budget is all but balanced, Council Tax is set, most effort is going into the Appledore Marine Centre, a new local Plan and the Levelling up Partnership

I hope to explain more next meeting

Best Wishes, Ken

Devon County Councillor James Morrish gave his report,

First of all it is with great sadness I report that Peter Christy, a DCC councillor for 47 years has passed away, he will be greatly missed,

The greatest news at present is regarding Devon Devolution, This will be the amalgamation of Devon County Council and Torbay, Plymouth 's Chairman Tudor Evans decided that Plymouth will be better of on their own.

All Districts will stand as one, with no call for an elected Mayor. All details will follow.

Other topics covered was the DCC Budget with a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, with 9 million in reserve. The state of the roads, although some improvement have been made they continue to cause big problems to motorists. Its good to see that ditches are now being kept clear, which helps with preventing surface water which in turn damages the road surfaces. Bus services in the area are problematic, the biggest complaint is the lack of coordination with train services from Okehampton, I will be attending a meeting with them next week. I will have a locality budget of £8000 so if there is anything the Parish needs please apply.

Councillor Moyse thanked James for his report and asked if any of the Councillors had any questions?

Councillor Gareth Piper asked that if there were any further contentious projects in the Parish in the future what would be the best way of dealing with it.

James replied that it had been noted that Milton Damerel Parish Council dealt very well with the recent problems regarding the Slurry pit both correctly, with due diligence and the best way they could.

If it arises again, when the Parish Council are not really involved , might I suggest that you hold a public meeting chaired by an uninterested party, this will make it less personal.

Signed.....

Date.....page 1 of 21<sup>st</sup> february 2024

Councillor Edgar Pett asked “Why cant some of the vast reserves be used to repair the roads? James replied that 60mil must be kept in reserve and the roads in Devon are in such poor condition that it would take far more to repair them all.

7. **Matters Arising**

- 1) Broken Signs, it was noted that although the 40 mile p.h sign had been erected, the 'Welcome to Milton Damerel' sign was missing, the Clerk had notified Highways but no reply had been received.. Councillor Morrish suggested writing again and cc him and Stuart Hughes in to the email.
- 2) State of roads, just as bad, Councillor Bromley reported flooding on the road from Shop Cross to 5 lanes, Councillor Moyse said he would come and have a look before reporting it was reported to highways..
- 3) Air Ambulance site all up and running now and the invoice had been paid.
- 4) Town Farm, no up to date information .
- 5) Notice Board, Councillor Richardson said he would have a look at it.

8. **Planning Applications**

- 1) 1/0043/2024/FUL Proposal: Demolition of Barn and erection of one new dwelling and associated works in lieu of Class Q approval.

Location: Agricultural Building at Grid reference 237838109926, Milton Damerel.

*The above application had been discussed via email, and the Councillors did not support the development as they did not agree with it in the first instance . The Clerk had conveyed this to Torrridge Planning*

- 2) 1/0029/2024/LBC

Proposal: Creating an arch doorway through an internal wall

Location: Milton House, Milton Damerel, HOLSWORTHY, Devon.

*No objections were raised regarding this application and the Clerk will convey the decision to Torrridge.*

9. **Planning decisions** *None received* **Planning Appeal** *None received*

10. **Financial Matters**

- a) To sign cheque for: i) All Councillors approved and three signed the cheque for the Clerk’s salary £287.43 . It was acknowledged that the cheque for the DAAT site repairs was signed between meeting as agreed at the previous Parish Council meeting in the favour MAT £470.42 for the repairs.
- b) financial report to date, the bank balance of£2728.58 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 £470. the remaining balance of £1200.49 being Parish Council general funds.
- c) EDF Balance the balance stands at £61.15. The Clerk had made inquiries regarding changing suppliers due to EDF increasing thie prices by 135%, Octopus energy are offering a good deal but want £78 as an advance payment, there will be no other costs as it is a non-standing charge deal. The Parish Councillors unanimously agreed to the payment and change of supplier.
- d) New Bank account no Councillors had received communication from Natwest, the clerk will chase it up.

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 reported that he had had complaints that the fencing by the Town Farm site was encroaching on to the footpath, he had contacted the developers and the situation was in hand
  - 2) Councillor Teresa Walters reported that there was refuse/rubble in the lay-bys at Chapmans Green and the one between Venn Green and Worden Farm, the Clerk will report to the environment department..
  - 3) Councillor Pett reported that his volunteer work as a snow warden was too difficult for him to manage on his own, Residents think that as soon as a bit of snow has fallen it is his job to deliver salt/grit. Councillors Moyse and Piper said they would continue to support him in his role.
  - 4) Councillor Moyse reported that a drain cover was loose near Comfort Cottage, Venn Green, the Clerk will report This to Highways.
- The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked all for attending

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

Signed.....

Date.....page 2of 2 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024