

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th December 2024 held in Milton Damerel Parish Hall commencing at 19:30

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse Chair, Richard Piper Vice- Chair, Teresa Walters, Gareth Piper, Jim Richardson, and Peter Bromley. Also present were District Councillors Ken James, Residents Julie and Robert Sage and the Clerk Lorraine Buttery

1. Apologies were received from: Councillors Edgar Pett and Teresa Walters, District Councillor Kit Hepple, County 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 Moyse welcomed all to the meeting.
Stephen wished all present a very Happy Christmas and New Year
3a) No questions were asked of the Chair

Public Comments

Julie Sage mentioned the storm damage to the property at the Old Forge, in particular the roof which is in a Dangerous condition, the damage had been reported to the owners.

4. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting 20th November 2024 which had been circulated by email, 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.**

District Councillor Ken James reported that these were interesting and worrying times, with a lot of uncertainty About what will be happening within the District Council, or even if they will exist in the future, Devon wants to go 'Unitary', the Government wants to create areas with a Mayor which would dispense of 'local and district Councils' with all decision coming from Exeter, the May elections could be cancelled.
Ken reported that it was the belief that this would be a form of 'asset stripping' and what sort of representation would The local Parish Councils have? Its all up in the air and the future is very uncertain.
Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire might join together and have just one mayor. The plans are to amalgamate District & County Councils, which the majority of Councillors are against. It's all very disheartening.
Torridge Council is doing very well, as it had last year, the books were balanced again.
The budget meeting is on the horizon.
Ken reiterated that there is still finance available to those in need, details can be found on Torridge Website or for those Who cannot access a computer, contact Torridge District Council direct. A charity has been set up to help with the Administration of the funds.
The Chair Councillor Stephe Moyce asked whether there were any questions for Ken, none were forthcoming
Stephen thanked Ken for attending.

7. **Matters Arising**
 - 1) State of roads, not much improvement, the speed limit sign on the roadside near had been blown down, this had been Reported to highways, it was also reported that there was a badly damaged manhole cover on the sharp bend on Worden Hill, proving difficult to avoid a there ws a pothole nearby, the Clerk will report this to Highways.
 - 2) The new Defibrillator Cabinet has now been installed. The Clerk reported that the AED's would need replacing In 2025, as they are now not in warranty, although they are still working and should be OK for the foreseeable future The advice is to replace them, the Clerk had received quotes for new ones, they cost approximately £850 each, Councillor James suggested asking Councillor Kit Hepple if he had any grant money remaining, as personally he Did not. The Clerk will write to Kit ASAP.
 - 3) To date a new Clerk has not been found, two enquiries had been made one from gentleman in Newton Abbot Which was unanimously agreed was not viable due to the distance from Milton Damerel & Sutcombe.
The current Clerk will contact DALC in the New Year to enquire regarding the protocols of what happens if a new Clerk is not employed.

8. Planning Applications

1) 1/0901/2024/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of Barn to holiday cottage/ancillary accommodation (Revised description)

Location: Barn at Springfield, Milton Damerel, HOLSWORTHY, Devon

The above applications were discussed no issues were raised and the Parish Councillors unanimously support the developments

9. Planning decisions

1) Omitted from last meeting; 1/078/2024/REM

Proposal: Reserved matters application for Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and scale

For 3 no new dwellings pursuant to application 1/0863/2021/OUT

Location: Land at grid reference 235798 108378, Holsworthy Beacon, Devon

The above applications were granted permission

Planning Appeals

None received

10. Financial Matters

a) It was the unanimous decision of the Councillors to approve cheques for:

i) Clerk's salary for November £311.36, ii) Advertisement for new Clerk £358.90 (£59.80 VAT, £150 to be paid by Sutcombe Parish Council) iii) Charles Brimacombe Grass cutting £100.

Although not on the agenda it was approve to sign cheques for £30 for the hire of the Paris Hall July-September, three Councillors duly signed the above cheques.

b) financial report to date, the spreadsheet of accounts had been emailed to Councillors before the meeting, no issues were raised.

The bank balance stands at £9,285.80, this consists of ring-fenced funds, SbiT £53.02,

P3 funds £174.65, DAAT £470 and Election costs £4500. the remaining balance of £3888.13 being Parish Council General funds.

c) The budget will be finalised at January meeting.

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

All correspondence received by email have been forwarded to Councillors, none received by post.

12. Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

- 1) Councillor Gareth Piper asked whether a Gift Voucher of £20.00 for Fernley Luxton was possible, this was in appreciation for his help in clearing the large amount of debris caused by the recent storms; when a large tree fell on the bus shelter at Venn green, this will be attributed to S137 expenses. It was unanimously agreed and three Councillors signed a cheque for its purchase. Frazer Walker's help was also invaluable. The Clerk had contacted the insurance company regarding the damage to the Bus Shelter, Councillor Moyse said that this will not be necessary as the Land owner where the tree ws situated had offered to restore the bus shelter with no cot to the Parish Council. The Clerk will contact the Insurance company and cancel the claim.
- 2) Councillors asked whether the Emergency Planning was still in existence, as during the current storms no help was forthcoming and had not utilized help when it ws offered by the Paris Hall committee, the clerk will contact Christain Whitley to clarify the situation.
- 3) Councillor Jim Richardson reported that the Parish Hall committee had had various suggestion regarding making the hall more viable as a Community Hub, one ws an EV charging station, and whether a generator would be feasible, this had been discounted as not being financially viable.
- 4) Councillor Peter Bromley stated that he would not be at the next meeting at wanted to thank the Clerk, although he had not known her for long, he appreciated the help that she had given him and wished her well for her move.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:50pm