

## **Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes**

### **Minutes of Milton Damerel Parish Council Annual Open Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 which commenced at 19:30.**

**Present:** Councillors Stephen Moyse Chair, Richard Piper Vice- Chair, Teresa Walters, Edgar Pett, Jim Richardson, Peter Bromley and District Councillor Kit Hepple.

Also present were Residents Julie and Robert Sage, and representatives of local groups Christine Cook: Skittles, Michael Jackson: Neighbourhood Watch, Mel Richardson: Parish Hall, Grace Milman: Methodist Church, Isobelle and Roy Fairbrother: Holy Trinity Church and the Clerk Jane Elliott.

Apologies were received from Councillor Gareth Piper, District Councillor Ken James and residents Mrs Shelia Daniels: Baby and Toddler group (disbanded), David Taylor: Milton Damerel Newsletter, Edwina Hale: Newsletter.

#### **Reports from Local Groups:**

**Milton Damerel Skittles Teams** reported great success for both the popular teams, with the top 3 players reaching the final of the Five Founders Knockout Competition. 3 players from the Ladies "A" Team qualified to represent the Holsworthy and District Ladies Skittles League in the Devon County Final. New members are welcome to join.

**The Newsletter** produces 240 copies quarterly which are delivered by hand to all households in the Milton Damerel Parish and Abbots Bickington. Content from local groups and for significant family events are welcome. The Newsletter is seeking a new Chair if anyone is keen to support this valued community resource.

**The Neighbourhood Watch** reported the low crime statistics continue with missing cats and dogs being the main source of local concern. Phone and internet scams remain the biggest threat. Residents are welcome to get in touch.

**The Methodist Church** has a minimum of 2 Sunday services per month, with a congregation aged 5 to 90 there is something for "All Ages". There is also a joint Anglican/Methodist fortnightly Bible study group on Tuesday mornings. A valued team of Parish residents organise events including Easter Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christmas. All are welcome to join the friendly Chapel.

**Holy Trinity Church** has not had a service yet this year and with the diminished congregation the church is now facing an uncertain future. The building provides a tranquil environment within the village where people can relax and reflect and it is hoped that more supporters will come forward to join the dedicated group who care for this historic building.

**The Village Hall** is in the process of improving the heating system but has also seen a fluctuation in the support for local activities. The Bingo is popular where other events have slowly lost momentum. Local supporters are thanked and valued and new faces are most welcome.

**The meeting concluded at 20:02 and everyone enjoyed the refreshments and a short time to chat together.**

## **Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes**

### **Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 held in Milton Damerel Parish Hall commencing at 20:20**

**Present:** As above for the Open Meeting

1. **Apologies** were received from: Councillor *Gareth Piper*, and District Councillor *Ken James*
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:**  
*None*

Signed.....

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**4. Public Comments**

*A member of the public expressed his approval for the outspoken feelings of frustration expressed by the local groups who were struggling to attract local support for the events they organized*

- 5. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025** 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.**

Councillor Kit Hepple reported on the devolution timetable set by Central Government and expressed his concerns that this could be the end of localism and rural interests will not be a priority matter. He agreed with the local groups who had expressed that the aftermath of Covid had left a general sense of apathy and malaise in the population with people wanting local services but being unwilling to commit to support such enterprises. Rural crime is still low but cyber crime is on the increase so there is now a rural cyber crime unit. In planning Solar farms are a concern, with good farm land being put under solar panels while failing to deliver the promised power outputs. The National Grid do not have the capacity to cope with demand so the Government directive is to support power companies to expand; new houses should all have their own solar panels.

**7. Matters Arising**

- 1) Clerks contract to be dealt with by Steve Moyse and Chris Quance (Sutcombe PC).
- 2) The next meeting is the AGM.
- 3) Footpath information has been sent to DCC.

**8. Planning Applications**

Ref 1/0200/2025/FUL *This application was discussed with Kit Hepple agreeing to check progress. The Parish Council response was submitted as follows: The PC note that it is not 400 meters away from some residents and which may be a concern for some. The application is necessary due to new regulations and will have less impact in the long term less mess on the roads and less in intensive tractor movements.*

**9. Planning decisions**

*None*

**Planning Appeals**

*None were received*

**10. Financial Matters**

- a) It was the unanimous decision of the Councillors to approve cheque for:
  - i) Clerk's salary £264.55
  - ii) Clerk's expenses £36.90
  - iii) DALC Service charge £180.53
- b) Financial report to date, the transition to the new bank mandate had met with problems which require further communication. This was discussed with the councillors and is in hand.

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

All correspondence received by email have been forwarded to Councillors.

**12. Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman**

- 1) Councillor Richardson expressed his disappointment for the lack of support for the local groups who provide valuable activities, events and services.
- 2) Councillor Kit Hepple had awarded £500 towards the purchase of the new defibs; a report to TDC is due to be submitted

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.57**