

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of Milton Damerel Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 24th September 2025 which commenced at 19:30

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chair), Richard Piper (V Chair), Gareth Piper, Edgar Pett, Jim Richardson, Teresa Walters and Peter Bromley, also present were Cllr Ken James Torridge District Council, Members of the public Julie and Bob Sage and the Clerk Jane Elliott.

1. Apologies *none received*

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 interest in items on the agenda and their nature. *None were declared*
- c) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interest in items on the agenda and their nature. *None were declared*

3. Chair's announcements:

None

4. Public Comments

None

5. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting Wednesday 20th August 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. Minutes from the meeting on 16th July were also signed as the Clerk had not brought the correct copy to the August meeting.

6. Reports by District and County Councillors.

Councillor Ken James gave an account of the current Local Government restructure. The county wants one unitary council of 800/900,000 residents but the Government maximum was 500,000. Ken is the only person representing the area north of the A30. North Devon is not being fairly represented. District Councils will disappear and there maybe community hubs. The preferred grouping is Mid Devon, North Devon and some of East Devon with Torridge. We do have some big employers/industry; pharmaceuticals in Barnstaple and Avanti Marine technology at Appledore Shipyard. It is all still quite a muddle and is taking up a lot of time and budget with November 28th the deadline for decisions. Cllr JK expressed anger and concern that Torridge may lose out as is currently in a good position, solvent and performing well "if it's not broken don't fix it".

Other news is that Petroc will be run by Exeter College to try to reverse the flow of students from North Devon travelling to the South. This year Petroc had high level A levels results and outstanding T level results. Tiverton will become focused on SEND pupils.

Torridge has a new dustcart/lorry space at East the Water Bideford.

Cllr KJ reminded those present of the hardship fund available to help those in need.

Cllr Bromley asked about October elections

7. Matters Arising

1) Councillor Steve Moyse asked for an update on the fly tipping at Chapman's Green the Clerk will email Richard Haste at TDC.

2) The problem of Japanese knotweed was discussed. Cllr SM said he was on the case and Cllr GP asked what the DCC policy is for the removal of this weed.

3) Potholes are also an ongoing problem and need to be reported by individuals

8. Planning Applications

1/0706/2025/FUL Conversion of a redundant rural building to form dwelling and associated sewage treatment plant was received on 15th September. Councillors are asked to email their comments to the Clerk; TDC deadline 9th October 2025.

The Parish Council discussed why some class Q applications are passed where others are refused.

The discussion moved on the solar farm, what effect it has on neighbours and the potential loss of good farmland although as Cllr JR commented sheep can graze beneath on some sites. Cllr GP explained that the rate offered to landowners is generous compared to the agricultural yield per acre, Cllr PB said the reflection from the panels can be a hazard to motorists, Cllr KJ commented the lorries delivering materials are often the worst nuisance, he added that there is currently a national scoping exercise in progress to assess the impact of solar farms.

9. Planning decisions

None

Planning Appeals

None were received

10. Financial Matters

We still need the bank statement to be in the name of the new Clerk and for additional signatories to be added. The Clerk is currently unable to liaise with the bank as she is not an authorized signatory. Cllr SM said he would chase this and the Clerk will phone the bank for an update.

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

i) Clerk's salary £264.55 ii) Clerk's expenses £18.45 iii) HMRC payments made by Clerk £277.26

b) Financial report to date Bank Balance is £9,589.88. Bank Statements are now being delivered to the Clerk, but the name of the Clerk still needs to be changed. Clerk has not been able to get access to the account do this.

c) The Clerk did not bring the cheque book to the meeting. Cheques will be signed when Cllr SM is able to collect the cheque book and see the other signatories.

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

All correspondence received by email have been forwarded to Councillors. No correspondence was received by post.

12. Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

- 1) Cllr PB has been liaising regarding power lines which are close to vegetaion. Bob and Julie Sage have also been working on this.
- 2) Cllr JR reported on the very successful big breakfast. He explained the Village Hall need more support and that more great events are planned. He encouraged everyone to attend the Apple Day on Saturday 4th October at the Village Hall.
- 3) Cllr EP warned everyone there is a spam phone call doing the rounds claiming to be SW Water.
- 4) Cllr PB was willing to look into the new requirements for the AGAR the PC must have a formal (EG .gov.uk) email address and web site needs IT Policy and formal domain name. Gmail and other personal email addresses are too easy to clone or to impersonate councillors.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:45 The next meeting will be Wednesday 15th October 19:30

Signed.....

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