

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of Milton Damerel Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 21st January 2026 which commenced at 19:30

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chair), Richard Piper, Edgar Pett, Gareth Piper, Teresa Walters, also present were Cllr Nigel Kenneally Torridge District Council, Cllr Ken James Torridge District Council, member of the public David Wyatt and the Clerk Jane Elliott.

1. **Apologies** *Peter Bromley, Jim Richardson.*

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:**

Cllr S Moyse welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He added that Jim Richardson has been poorly and extended wishes for a speedy recovery.

4. **Public Comments**

The laybys at Comfort Cottage, Chapman's Green have both been used as an area to dump rubbish. Some of this has been cleared by David Wyatt, but there are heavy items which will be reported to TDC Environmental Services. Cllr K James stated that TDC are planning to double fines for littering. A request was made to consider the installation of a speed warning sign or signs at problem locations on the A388. Cllr N Kenneally asked if there was a local speedwatch group. There was a short discussion about this matter and potential sources of funding for signs.

5. **The minutes of the Parish Council meeting Wednesday 17th December 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 District and County Councillors.**

Cllr N Kenneally Torridge District Council gave a report of OSCAR the new operational site at East the Water, Bideford. This provides improved conditions for the staff of the waste team and came in at 5 million under budget. The Appledore Innovation Centre will encourage marine technology and off shore wind farms. Potholes have been filled on the road at Holsworthy Golf Club/Holsworthy Show site. The £650,000 Locality budget is still open for applications; community organisations in Milton Damerel can apply for grants by contacting Vicki Feather at Torridge District Council. Cllr Kenneally has been added to the planning enforcement committee and has been able to assist a homeless resident

Cllr Ken James Torridge District Council has been travelling to Local Government Reorganisation meetings and the next stage consultation will consider the options put forward by the representatives of Devon County Council. Cllr James has been added to the solar panel committee. TDC will have no input in the Beacon Solar scheme, but will have input into what disruption may be caused. Their role is to safeguard the community in the areas involved in Holsworthy and Hartland. There is no definitive map of the proposal available yet. If it is approved TDC will receive business rates and will endeavour to get as much revenue as possible reinvested in the local community. The pipeline proposal to Morocco never happened despite millions being spent. It is a financially difficult time for councils with costs rocketing by 10% to 20%. The deficit at 2025/2026 stands at £400,000 and is estimated to be £3million by 2027/2028.

Cllr N Kenneally left the meeting at 20.22

7. **Matters Arising**

1) Cllr Pett had requested an extra public meeting regarding Beacon Solar at the meeting in November. A short discussion followed regarding who to invite and what date might be considered. It was resolved that as no new information had been received in the last 2 months and it may be 10 years before panels are installed the item should remain on the agenda until further notice but no extra public meeting was needed at present. The 5 parish councils that are affected are information sharing and will report any progress in the proposal. It will be essential to have Galileo (developers) present at any future meeting.

8. **Planning Applications**

None were received

9. **Planning decisions**

None were received

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 £18.45 iii) Octopus Energy (Air Ambulance site, not on the agenda) £22.68 iv) *A cheque for £274 for the insurance was not paid; it was noted that only 3 bus shelters were listed in the register of assets. It was agreed to discuss the policy with Community First to amend the assets register.*
- b) The financial report had been sent by email to councillors. Bank Balance is £12,915.32
- c) The precept budget was agreed £10,900.

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

Emails from DALC, NALC, TDC and other sources have been forwarded to members of the council.
 An email from a resident asking for details of the over 60s club has been received and the details have been passed on and updated on the website.
 A letter from The Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Cox KC MP had been received inviting members to attend a Connectivity Forum on 30 01 2026 in Holsworthy.

12. Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

- 1) The Clerk job appraisal will take place 18 02 2026 at 19.00 before the main meeting.
- 2) The website hosting will be researched further at the January meeting.
- 3) A request for editorial for the Milton Damerel Newsletter was sent to Cllr P Bromley. The Clerk will send regular updates.
- 4) A progress report on the installation of dog waste bins was requested by Cllr S Moyse.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:45

The next meeting will be Wednesday 18th February 2026 19:30

Signed.....

Date.....