

## Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

**Minutes of Milton Damerel Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 which commenced at 19:30**

**Present:** Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chair), Richard Piper, Peter Bromley, Edgar Pett, Gareth Piper, Teresa Walters, also present were members of the public Bob Sage, David Wyatt and the Clerk Jane Elliott.

1. **Apologies** *Lynne Rowsell, Nigel Kennealy, 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 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 thanked the members of the public who had cleared the rubbish from the laybys at Venn Green and Chapmans Green.

4. **Public Comments**

The rubbish dumped in the laybys Chapman's Green and Venn Green have been cleared by an elderly resident and David Wyatt, but there are heavy items which will be reported to Richard Haste at TDC Environmental Services.

5. **The minutes of the Parish Council meeting Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 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 S Moyse read a report sent by Cllr L Rowsell: Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend this evening's meeting due to a diary clash. I have a brief update to share. I have completed several site visits with Highways officers, including the Deputy Director, most recently on Thursday, 12 February 2026. During these visits, I was advised that current funding levels are insufficient to address the condition of our roads. I have raised concerns about the impact on rural residents, many of whom continue to face vehicle repair costs due to deteriorating road surfaces. Although the Deputy Director acknowledged the potholes identified, they advised that these do not meet DCC's current safety thresholds for intervention. I am now seeking clarification from DCC on why these criteria are set so restrictively, as the situation is not improving and residents deserve clarity. Our community continues to be informed that we are not a priority, despite funding having been allocated for repairs. This remains unacceptable. I will update you once I receive a formal response. As you may be aware, the May 2026 vote has now been reinstated, and all parties have a limited window to prepare. This has increased workloads for everyone, myself included, but please contact me at lynne.rowsell@devon.gov.uk if you need assistance. If a matter is urgent, please mark it accordingly. End of report. There was a discussion about the increasingly poor state of the roads and the potholes. The pothole opposite Sanders Garage had been fixed. It is important that residents keep reporting the potholes.*

7. **Matters Arising**

1) Beacon Solar: There was no update. It was agreed that the 5 parish councils that are affected will continue to share information and will report any progress in the proposal.

8. **Planning Applications**

*None were received*

9. **Planning decisions**

*Application 1/0765/2025/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling at Brendon Field was refused*

**Planning Appeals**

*Application 1/0510/2025/OUT Construction of 3no.dwellings. Appeal Reference 6004782 was lodged 1th February 2026. The Clerk was asked to write to the developer regarding a request to feel trees at the location.*

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 £72.37 iii) Octopus Energy/Air Ambulance site £22.68 iv) Community First Trading Ltd Insurance £383.71. v) C Brimacombe/Grass cutting £100 (Not on the agenda).

The financial report had been sent by email to councillors. Bank Balance is £12,628.52.

Village Hall rent is due. They will need to charge for cheques as the bank is charging them. Councillors were given a copy of the Bank Mandate to complete and sign to be returned at the meeting on Wednesday 18th March 2026

**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.

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

- 1) The Clerk job appraisal took place on 18 02 2026 at 19.00 before the main meeting: salary will rise to £311.36 per month.
- 2) The website hosting will be researched further at the March meeting. Cllr P Bromley offered to help with this process.
- 3) The Speed watch and warning signs will be discussed in March.
- 4) The Clerk had attended the Connectivity meeting organised by The Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Cox KC MP and a report was circulated to the councillors.
- 5) Cllr. E Pett reminded everyone present to please keep reporting the potholes
- 6) Cllr. S Moyse acknowledged the thank you letter received for the church donation of £150.
- 7) Cllr. R Piper reported theft of heavy oil from tanks and warned those present to be vigilant.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:30**

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

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**