

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

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

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

1. **Apologies.** Councillors Nigel Kenneally and Lynne Rowsell.
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 15th July 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.**

Councillor Ken James explained the outcome of the recent Government announcement on LGR. Elections will be in May 2027 for a new joint committee of 13 councillors and 16 parishes in the Rural Devon area, Councillor KJ will be retiring. The process has been strenuous and tiring with long journeys to meetings. The huge geographic area of the new Rural Devon unitary council has no agreed economic centre; it could be Barnstaple, Tiverton or Okehampton. There is talk of a Judicial Review against the decision to divide Devon County into four areas, but it is doubtful there is the money to fund this. Exeter has made a huge land grab beyond the city into South Hams, meaning Teignbridge almost disappears. Councillor KJ believes there is some advantage to being a rural council and that we can manage without the cities.

Torridge District Council have made great progress with the new recycling centre in Bideford. The Appledore Maritime Centre is almost complete and investment from off shore wind turbines through Crown Estates looks likely. Hatchmoor Industrial Estate in Torrington is expanding. Bideford Hospital will gain a new diagnostic centre. Holsworthy Market improvements will be completed by 2028. The closure of maternity services at NDDH is a concern. The bluetongue virus is a concern.

Questions were asked about emergency services taking some patients to Exeter and some to Barnstaple based on postcodes. A discussion regarding staffing and investment followed with the conclusion that there is a lack of quality staff joining NDDH.

Beacon Solar has gone quiet but there is speculation that is the proposed data centre and BESS at Great Torrington is approved there will be more capacity for storage. There appears to be less enthusiasm from farmers to enter into contracts with power companies. Torridge District Council are mostly against the data centre and locals are sceptical; it will be a National Infrastructure decision made by government but local consultation will still be required.

7. **Matters Arising**
 - 1) Standing Orders were updated and adopted. This is a set of rules to keep council business within the required parameters of local government legislation.
 - 2) Risk Management was deferred

8. Planning Applications

1/0591/2026/REM Reserved matters application for Access, pursuant to application 1/0863/2021/OUT (Variation of 1/0784/2024/REM) Access 3 new dwellings Holsworthy Beacon no change/no objections

It was remarked that it is good to see The Forge nice and tidy.

9. Planning decisions

1/0373/2026/LBC Convert and renovate garage at Milton Mill Approved

Planning Appeals

There were none

10. Financial Matters

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

i) Clerk's salary & expenses ii) Vision ICT webhosting and domain

b) The clerk has sufficient hours at this time of year which could be used for funding applications for the benefit of the parish. It was agreed to look into this, with a focus on potential funding for speed signs for the village.

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

Emails from DALC, NALC, Highways, RSN, TDC, and other sources have been forwarded to members of the council. All Parish Councillors are now using their.gov.uk mailboxes with the exception of E Pett and J Richardson. Clerk will resend log in details. Gmail is no longer used.

12. Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

- a) Councillor Moyse provided an update to confirm that the parish hedges will be trimmed in the next few weeks at places where visibility is poor.
- b) A question was raised concerning the Air Ambulance site. There was a concern that the site was listed as unregistered in 2024. The site is definite listed as the present clerk has received correspondence regarding the site. The field is maintained and has lighting which is paid for on a monthly basis by the parish council. It was agreed to make further enquiries to ensure that the site was listed for use.
- c) Councillor Moyse continues to chase Devon Highways regarding the speeding situation. It is very difficult to get an engineer to visit the locations where speed signs might be positioned. This is an ongoing concern and will be revisited next month
- d) The bank mandate/signatories' situation will be resolved with Nat West and this will be added to the agenda next month.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:35

The next meeting will be Wednesday 16th September 2026 19:30