

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2018 commencing at 7.30pm.
Present: Councillors Stephen Moyses (Chairman), Jim Richardson, Grace Millman, Rose Hayne, Gareth Piper, John Webb and the Parish Clerk Lorraine Buttery.
Also present were County Councillor Barry Parsons and three members of the public

1) **Apologies received from:** P.C.S.O. Racquel Rowe, Councillor Richard Piper (Vice Chairman) - family commitment

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) **Chairman's Announcements**

Councillor Stephen Moyses announced that the bus shelter at Venn Green looked very smart and its erection would make a great deal of difference to those who use public transport, he sends his thanks to all those concerned who made it possible. The Clerk had sent an email of thanks to Julie Pepworth, with Councillor Barry Parsons copied in.

4) **Public Comments, County and District Councillors reports**

1) County Councillor Barry Parsons reported that the Council Tax for Torridge is likely to increase by 2.9% plus another 2% to cover adult Care, this is equivalent to approximately 5% overall. On average this will equate to an increase of £1.22 a week for Band D properties. The good news is that the funds available for Community and locality grants have been increased with £10,000 being available for each., but please remember that I have 30 parishes to look after. If there are any projects that I can help with please let me know.

Councillor Parsons went to talk about the highways and that extra money has been allocated to Devon, but a bigger Proportion will be allocated to ditches to stop roads flooding. I will always fight your corner and help whenever I can. Councillors spoke about the very poor state of the roads in and around Milton Damerel, in particular the road leading out of Milton Damerel towards Holsworthy, this road is in dire need of repair, with pot holes trenches and in some places very poor surfaces which is a danger to all vehicles, and especially vulnerable cyclists and motor cyclists. Councillor Parsons requested that the Clerk email all details to him and during his meeting with highways he will make sure that they are aware of the complaints.

Councillor Parsons apologized that he had to leave right away as he had another meeting at Bridgerule. The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyses thanked Councillor Parsons for attending.

2) Three members of the Parish attended the meeting with the main topic of the conversation being the planning application at Town Farm. All Councillors and members of the public who had been contacted were bitterly disappointed that the public meeting which was to be held at 6pm was cancelled by Dews at 10.30am that morning. Questions asked of the Parish Council included:

i) If residents had commented to Torridge planning on the original application would they have to re submit their comments for the new one?

Councillor Stephen Moyses said that he had phoned the case officer James Clemence and asked the same question, the reply was yes as it is a different application and the comments could not be transferred over. Councillor Moyses also mentioned the sewage problem and water run-off, he was told that all comments and complaints would be seriously considered.

ii) Will the wall and finger posts be retained, and how will the original footpath be retained?

ii) Why was the church not consulted?

Councillor Grace Millman commented that even though the deadline for comments might have passed the residents should all still either write to Torridge or comment on their website, all comments will still be taken into account. Grace also spoke about the proposed new siting for the sewage plant, this would be positioned near an existing property, is this acceptable? Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyses said that it would be more appropriate to site it in a field. Other comments followed: the proposed main drain for the site comes down to the car park set aside for the affordable houses, is this appropriate?

There would also be a loss of privacy, loss of light for the existing property. The traffic increase is a worry.

Councillor Jim Richardson asked is the development needed, as it is no longer a local need issue.

Resident commented that they had looked online at the transport analysis report and it was laughable, as it states That the extra traffic would be acceptable and did not take into account the narrow lanes and the danger to pedestrians walking to Venn Green to catch public transport.

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyses thanked the residents for their comments and the Parish Councillors would discuss the issue later in the meeting.

- 5) The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th January 2018 had been circulated by email and read by all Councillors, they were signed by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse as being a true record of the meeting.
- 6) **Matters Arising**
- 1) Town Farm as this was discussed during the public comments the matter will be discussed at 7.2
 - 2) Air Ambulance, the Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse apologised that he had not taken the matter further, He will contact Roger Lawes again and also speak to Liz at Blackberry farm, if other Councillors could give the matter of the site some thought it would be discussed again during the March meeting
- 7) **Planning Applications**
- 1) 1/0732/2017/FULM
 Proposal: Eight Dwellings and conversion of Barn to 2 dwellings, as previously consented under App.Ref 1/1968/2004/REM – affecting public right of way. Location: Land at Town Farm, Milton Damerel, Devon
This Application has been withdrawn
 - 2) 1/1067/2017/FULM
 Proposal: Erection of sixteen dwellings and conversion of barn to 2 dwellings, creation of new vehicular accesses, new sewage treatment plant and associated landscaping - Affecting a Public Right of Way
 Location: Land at Town Farm, Milton Damerel, Devon
 Leading on from the discussions during the Public comments the Parish Councillors agreed that there were too many concerns and issues that had not been addressed by the developers and it was felt that the number of houses proposed were far too many, the site is in dire need of something being done as it is an eyesore.
 Councillor Grace Millman stated that the Parish Council was very disappointed at not being able to give the Parishioners the opportunity to comment and ask questions of the developers at a Public Meeting.
 The Parishioners the opportunity to comment and ask questions of the developers at a Public Meeting.
 a vote was taken on the proposal: Does the Parish Council support the development?
 The outcome was 5 against and one abstention.
 The Parish Clerk will send the comments to Torridge planning, stating regrettably the application is not supported, with the previous Parish Councillors and residents comments being attached.
- 8) **Planning Decisions**
There were none
- Planning Appeals**
There were none
- 9) **Financial Matters**
- a) Financial report to date, the Clerk gave each Councillor a print out of the cash book and bank reconciliation, the bank shows a balance of £4762.14, £183.02 being Step Back In time fund, £244.57 P3 fund, £290 balance of defib. grant, the balance of £4044.55 being PC general funds.
 - b) Three Councillors signed the cheque for Clerks Salary £205.83
 - c) Transparency Grant, this had been applied for
 - d) Insurance for Bus Shelter, the Insurance Company has supplied cover free of charge until the policy is due for renewal in May, the all risks cover for the twelve months will be £44.56
- 10) **Correspondence as below and as available at the time of the meeting**
- All correspondence had been sent by email, three matters arising: 1) Email from Sandra O'Connor re Milton Damerel face book page, the clerk was asked to reply to Sandra as a matter of courtesy for her to contact Terry Fairbrother to inform him. 2) Email from Wessex Resolutions which offer subsidised loans to house owners for repairs, they requested to put an advert in the Newsletter, the Parish Councillors agreed to this and requested the Clerk contact them and inform them of the decision. 3) Torridge West Road Show- Parish Councillors requested the clerk contact Torridge to ask whether they could attend the Annual Parish meeting.
Received by post:
 Letter from Sheila Daniels thanking the Parish Council for the £25 grant paid to Liz Vernon, no further action required.
- 11) **Urgent matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman**
 There were none
 The Chairman thanked the Councillors for attending, there being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm