

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd August 2018 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chairman), Richard Piper (Vice Chairman), Gareth Piper, Jim Richardson, Rose Hayne, and Parish Clerk Lorraine Buttery.

also Present were 6 members of the public.

1) Apologies received from:

Councillors Grace Millman and John Webb, Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons and P.C.S.O Emma Tomkies

2) Chairman's Announcements

There were none.

3) 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*

4) Public Comments, County and District Councillors reports

The complaints regarding the problem of dogs barking, howling and whining in the area were discussed with the following points and comments made by the residents in attendance:

- 1) We have lived in the area for two and a half months, we are very surprised that this problem has gone on so long without being resolved. This is a beautiful part of the world and although we expect and accept 'country noises' the continuous noise of these dogs barking makes us wish we had never moved to the area.
- 2) The occupier in question takes no notice of complaints made to him personally, he knows the law 'inside out', he often flouts the planning department's conditions of any planning application decision.
- 3) When complaints have been made in the past the complainant is given a 'log sheet' to fill out, this is both time consuming and inconvenient, surely it would be better for an officer from the environment department to spend time in the area? Or even supply a recording device so the noise can be recorded for a 24hour period.
- 4) The dogs in question are not pets but kept for breeding,
- 5) The barking and howling some days start at 6.30 (feeding time) and goes on till 10.30 at night.
- 6) At times it is impossible to have a conversation in our own gardens.
- 7) We have to keep our windows shut because of the noise and the smell coming from the kennels, and the lane behind the property, it was especially bad during the recent hot weather. When the kennels are 'hosed' out it is a worrying factor as to where the 'mess' goes.
- 8) Telephone calls and emails to the environment department are generally ignored.
- 9) It was emphasised that the animals are not to blame, but if they are kept in poor confined conditions they will bark and howl.

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse informed those present that he had phoned Torridge Environment Department for advice and was informed that they were fully aware of the complaints. Stephen suggested that the residents keep complaining to the Environment Department by telephone, email and the Torridge Website, and to also contact their MP. Stephen assured the residents that the Parish Council had done as much as they could regarding this issue, but would ask the Parish Clerk to write to Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons to request his help in resolving this issue once and for all.

The Residents thanked Stephen for his patience and said that they would attend the next meeting for an update.

- 5) The minutes_of_the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th July 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) Air Ambulance, the clerk had emailed Toby Russel but no reply had been received, the Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse said he would also try to contact him.
- 2) Website, the Clerk reported that there had been some issues revolving around the alteration of some of the pages set up by the 'Web Hosts' and were not now compliant to current legislation, also a complaint had been received regarding the 'banner' on the main page. The Parish Councillors agreed that the Clerk must ensure that the Website is compliant, they agreed that the banner could be changed, the Clerk will contact the web designers and agree on a suitable banner.
- 3) Overgrown hedge Westmere, the Clerk had sent a letter to the residents and now all details had been sent to Councillor Barry Parsons to send on to the relevant department
- 4) Bags of Salt, the Clerk reported that she had emailed Edgar Pett twice, but had had no reply, Councillor Stephen Moyse added that he had seen Edgar and he knew that bags were there, he would remove them and put them into storage.

signed.....

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7. **Planning Applications**

1) 1/0739/2018/AGMB

Proposal: Prior Notification for the change of use of agricultural building to No.1 dwelling Under Class Q.

Location: Barn 1 at West Wonford Farm, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon

The above application was discussed via email, no objections were raised and the Clerk had Informed Torridge Planning department of the Parish Councillors decision.

2) 1/0767/2018/FUL Proposal: Replacement Dwelling.

Location: Southerly, Gidcott, Holsworthy, Devon.

The above application was discussed in full, no objections were raised and the Parish Councillors unanimously Supported the development.

3) 1/0606/2018/FUL

Proposal: Three Safari Tents for holiday use

Location: Gratton Cottage, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy.

The above application was discussed in full, in principal the Parish Councillors supported the development, But, they voiced their concerns and reservations regarding, the noise and the increase of traffic that this type of development might generate, they were also concerned about the poor access to the site, the Clerk was requested to pass the said concerns on to Torridge Planning Department.

8. **Planning Decisions**

1) 1/0419/2018/FUL Proposal: Conversion of redundant agricultural Barn for residential use.

Location: Barn at Ley Farm, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon

2) 1/0650/2018/FUL (Received after agenda circulated). Proposal: First floor extension

Location: West Cottage, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon

Both of the *above applications were granted permission*

3) 1/0598/2018/OUT Proposal: Outline application for one dwelling with all matters reserved

Location: Brendon Fields, Woodacott Cross, Holsworthy, Devon.

The above application was refused

4) 1/0740/2018/AGMB

Proposal: Prior Notification for the change of use of agricultural building to No.1 dwelling

Under Class Q. Location: Barn2 at West Wonford Farm, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon

The above application was withdrawn.

Planning Appeals

There are none

9. **Financial Matters**

a) Financial report to date, the Clerk had emailed a spreadsheet before the meeting, no issues were raised, the bank statement was shown to support balances. There being £4939.96 in the bank account, comprising of £183.02 'Step Back in Time' fund, £508.57 P3 funds, balance of defib grant £290.00, the balance of £3,958.37 being Parish Council General Funds.

b) Three Councillors signed a cheque for Clerks Salary £205.84

c) The Clerk had received the invoice from Clements Hill Farms for the hedge/verge cutting, as this was received after the agenda was circulated it was not included, it was the unanimous decision of the Parish Councillors to approve the signing of a cheque for £460.80 (£76.80 VAT reclaimable)

10. **Correspondence as below and as available at the time of the meeting**

All received emails had been circulated to all Councillors and no further action was required.

11) **Urgent matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman**

1) Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyses reported that he had at last received a reply to his numerous

Phone calls requesting information from Highways regarding the cutting of hedges and verges.

He had received a call from County Hall confirming the policy of only cutting 'splays' on main highways, or if there was a 'safety issue'.

Stephen commented that surely there was a danger to vehicle drivers on narrow lanes as the visibility is cut substantially. Further advice will be sought from Vicky Bradham for next year.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for attending, there being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

signed.....

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