

Milton Damerel Parish Council
Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chairman), Richard Piper, (Vice Chairman), Gareth Piper, Grace Millman, Jim Richardson, Rose Haynes, and John Webb, Lorraine Buttery, Parish Clerk

Also present was Devon County Councillor Robin Julian

1) **Apologies:** P.C.S.O Raquel Rowe

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**

There were none

4) **Public Comments and District Councillors report**

Parish Clerk reported that PCSO Rowe in giving her apologies for the meeting had asked that Councillors should be advised that from the 1st Jan – 19th March, there were two assaults reported and one criminal damage, she also reported that PC Andy Moakes had retired.

Councillor Richard Piper had to leave the meeting at 7.40 for personal reasons, he returned 30 minutes later

Councillor Robin Julian arrived during matters arising and gave his report after item 6.

He stated that he had listened with great interest at the discussion regarding the Temporary Closure of Holsworthy Hospital. He had recently attended a Health and Welfare meeting, and said that Councillor Barry Parsons had Spoken passionately against the closure of the Hospital, but every trick in the book had been used to facilitate the closures. There is no faith in what they are doing, with the refusal of giving a final decision until after the May elections. The 'agenda' seems to be that most of the beds in community hospitals are being removed, in favour of patients being looked after in the home, the problem is that no 'home care packages' have been set up.

The patients that usually get transferred to 'Holsworthy Hospital' from Barnstaple will now have to stay there or be transferred to South Molton. Relatives want to be near loved ones when they need it most.

Councillor Julian said he is still fighting for his constituents and the people who make decisions have no idea about rural areas and how it effects people, there is little confidence with the present hierarchy.

Councillor Grace Millman commented that the North Devon Healthcare Trust cynically closed the beds in March because of the new legislation coming into force in April, and it is envisaged that patients will now be classed 'as not suitable to go to Community Hospitals'.

Highways: Councillor Julian requested that the Councillors identify the three worst roads in Milton Damerel so that he could ensure that they would be in the local budget for urgent repairs. Main road will be with in the 'major budget' It was pointed out that the roads in question were identified last financial year but were never repaired,

The Councillors identified the roads: from Gidcott Cross to the the boundary of Milton Damereal in the direction of Halse Park, Crossways/Strawberry Bank to Withypool and Venn Green to Derworthy Cross.

The Clerk was requested to send an email to Robin, with these details but to also mention the extremely poor condition of the road to Holsworthy from the Biogas Storage to South Arscott Farm .

5) To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th February 2017, these having been circulated and read by all Councillors, were signed by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse as being a true record of the meeting.

6) **Matters Arising**

1) Super-fast Broadband, although the letter from Geoffrey Cox MP implied that most of Milton Damerel were covered this is not actually the case, the clerk was requested to write to explain the situation.

2) Locality Grant from Councillor Robin Julian, the Clerk had been notified that the amount of £150 would be paid by BACS within 28 working days of the date notified.

3) Blocked drains near Glover's Cottage, although the Clerk had reported the problem to the highways department, as far as can be identified nothing has been done, Councillor John Webb said that he believed the problem was actually in the field, Councillor Stephen Moyse said when the weather is a bit better and the ditch has dried up some more he would go and see the owner John Elliott and see what could be done to clear the drain/ditch so that the problem does not re-occur.

4) Bus Shelter at Venn Green, the Clerk reported that she had replied to Julie Pepworth with the Parish Councils assurance that they agree to be responsible for the maintenance of the proposed Bus Shelter

5) Annual Parish Meeting, the Clerk confirmed that Matthew Holden had accepted the invitation to give a short presentation.

6) Holsworthy Hospital, Councillors Grace Millman , Gareth Piper and Richard Piper had attended the meeting on the 15th March. The Chief Executive of North Devon Healthcare Trust Alison Diamond was in attendance. Both Councillors thought that Alison Diamond's presentation was atrocious, no evidence or statistics to support the actual closure of the Hospital beds. It was quoted that to run efficiently the number of beds should be kept at 16, but only 10 were in being, this was from the original number of 20, 4 being already removed. Also quoted that long term sickness (11%) was leading to expensive agency nurses being used, which also led to unsafe practices. It was pointed out that the agency nurses working at Holsworthy Hospital had been doing so for several years, long term sickness was a misnomer as out of twenty staff the 11% equated to just three. New staff were being interviewed but authority not willing to employ. It was considered a lost cause, as no one will want to be employed at a hospital which has a closure threat hanging over it. Both Councillors were of the opinion that this was not a 'temporary closure', and Alison Diamond would not say otherwise. The Clerk was requested to send a letter to Geoffrey Cox MP from the Parish Council stating their concerns.

7. Planning Applications

There are none

8. Planning Decisions

1) 1/0627/2016/FUL

Proposal: Variation of condition number 2 (approved plans) of Planning permission 1/0897/2014/FUL
Location: W. Sanders & Sons, Horrelsford Garage, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy.

2) 1/1243/2016/FUL

Proposal: Side extensions following demolition of existing porches
Location: Windy Nook, Gidcott, Holsworthy, Devon.

The Above applications were granted permission .

Planning Appeals

There are none

9. Financial Matters

- a) Financial report to date, the Clerk reported that there was £4088.77 in the bank account, ring fenced amount of £183.02 Step Back in time fund, P3 funds £107.01, Balance of Defib. Grant £430. 00 and PC general funds of £3368.74. Although still some cheques to come off total, the PC accounts are very healthy.
- b) Three Councillors signed cheques for Clerks Salary £173.33 and expenses of £33.15
- c) Three Councillors signed a cheque for Hall hire Jan-March for Parish Council meetings and for 2 x 2hours for AED training - total £50
- d) To acknowledge receipt of £600 for Parish Footpaths account
- e) Annual Update of Financial regulations, Risk assessments, asset register, Statement of Internal Controls and Standing Orders, these had been emailed to Councillors before the meeting, Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse signed the updated documents.
- f) Although not on the Agenda the Parish Councillors unanimously approved the signing of a cheque to Michael Jackson, the P3organisor for materials for the new gate at Footpath 16.

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

All correspondence received by email was circulated to Councillors as received.

11. Urgent matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

There were none

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9pm.