

Milton Damerel Parish Council
Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st June 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Also present were Matt from Connecting Devon & Somerset and 11 residents of Milton Damerel Parish

1) **Apologies received from:** Councillors Gareth Piper (Sick), John Webb, and DCC Councillor Barry Parsons

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**

Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse welcomed Matt Barrow and invited him to give his presentation at 4, he Wished Councillor Jim Richardson a Happy Birthday on behalf of all Councillors.

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

Devon CountyCouncillor Barry parsons had sent his apologies as he was in London on Parliamentary Business, he had emailed a monthly report which was forwarded to all Councillors.

Matt Barrows from Connecting Devon and Somerset gave his report:

Connecting Devon and Somerset has been set up to deliver next generation broadband infrastructure to areas where the market has failed to invest. CD&S is a public-private partnership aimed at drawing on the strengths of each sector to implement a cost efficient plan to bring super fast broadband to Devon and Somerset .

BT is paid by government funds to go to areas which are not commercially viable, and to bring 24mps to properties in 3 phases.

This would provide SFB to 90% or premises which equates to approx 300,000 properties in Devon & Somerset.

BT were unable to provide an adequate affordable tender and the contract was given to 'Airband' , who have achieved 30mps to 13,000 premises.. It is sometimes not technology that holds up progress but local objections to erecting equipment. Although small parts of Milton Damerel have SPB available ,it is the intention of CD&S to have this available for 160-180 properties that are not able to connect at present. Information is readily available on CD&S website. Councillor Grace Millman stated that the newsletter was delivered to 220 premises and voiced her concern for the households that would not be included. Matt informed Grace that three post codes in MD already could be connected.

Matt then asked if there were any questions from residents:

Q: Is there a time frame for when the option to connect would happen,

A: Matt replied "that at present there was not a roll up time available",

Q: How will people be notified when it would be available?

A: Matt replied: "This will be done by , email, fliers and the CDS web-site"

Councillor Grace Millman informed Matt that when information is available it can be put in the Newsletter, Matt thanked Grace and said that he would make sure that the information when available would be sent to the Clerk for distribution.

Q: Have Rural areas been left out because of difficulties of connection and the easier areas priorotised?

A: This is definitely not the case, there was no 'cherry picking'. Each property carried a code, which depended on BB speed and need. Planning applications also have to be considered for the installation 'boxes', telegraph poles etc, also permission from landowners for the erection of masts have also to be sought. Rural areas have actually prioritised. Matt also gave the information that the voucher scheme would once again be available for those premises that had a broadband speed of less than 3mg, this will enable them to receive a voucher of up to £500 for equipment to tide them over until Super fast broadband was available. The scheme is advertised on the CD&S website.

As there were no more questions the Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked Matt for attending the meeting and for his very honest and informative input.

5) To approve the minutes of the AGM and General Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 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.

Signed.....

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6) **Matters Arising**

- 1) Fully discussed in item 4.
- 2) Blocked drains near Glover's Cottage, as there had not been any substantial rain fall it was difficult to know if all was well
- 3) Bus shelter at Venn Green. The Clerk had written to highways and copied in Councillor Barry Parsons, the reply that was received was that the erection of a bus shelter was not to happen as the highways department would not finance it, they would give advice and inspect the site as to the placement of the shelter and hard standing. The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse asked the Councillors if it was their wish that he contacted the Highways department with the view of the Parish Council 'just getting on' with putting some extra paving stones down. It was the unanimous decision of the Councillors for the Chairman to do so. Councillor Grace Millman asked if she should also meet up with Councillor Barry Parsons to inspect the site with Councillor Grace Millman as suggested in his email, this was also agreed by all.

7) **Planning Applications**

There were none

8) **Planning Decisions**

There were none

Planning Appeals

There were none

9) **Financial Matters**

- a) The Clerk supplied a full financial report, there being £5739.75 in the bank, ring fenced funds of £183.02 Step Back in Time, £669.57- P3, £290.00 balance of Defib. grant, the balance of £4597.16 being Parish Council general funds.
- b) Cheques for the Clerks Salary £173.33 and admin expenses of £28.79 were signed by three Councillors
- c) The annual insurance cheque for £236.64 was signed by three Councillors between the meeting
- d) The Annual return had been completed and sent by second class recorded delivery.
- e) The Clerk was given the choice of staying but left the room whilst her annual appraisal and salary review was discussed. The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse reported, that the Clerk had no issues regarding her employment and was happy with the hours that are allocated to her to complete her responsibilities. She pointed out that she had been employed for four years without any pay increase and had fallen behind from the recommended salary scale for Parish Clerks. After discussion the Parish Councillors unanimously agreed that an increase from £8 to £9.50 and hour should be implemented from the 1st July 2017. The clerk was called back into the meeting and informed of the decision for which she thanked them all.

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

All correspondence received by email were circulated to Councillors as received, no issues had been raised

Received by Post:

- i) Information regarding Merchant Navy Day; 'Fly the Red Ensign', leaflets were given to Parish Councillors
- ii) Letter from Isobel Fairbrother, apologising for the lack of attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting to thank the Parish Council for their grant received. This was partially due to the resignation of the Church Wardens All records have now been updated, the situation should not arise again. Isobel went on to thank the Parish Council for their continued support
- iii) TAP Fund. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she had received the application form, the unanimous decision of the Councillors was that they once again joined forces with Sutcombe Parish Council to apply for the grant to be used to cut hedges and verges. The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse said that he would obtain the quotes necessary to attach to the application. The quotes would be for 14 hours work with the priority being Junctions and corners not cut by Devon County Council. It had been noted that some hedges/verges had already been cut, some during the night, also signs had been cleaned.

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

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.