

Milton Damerel Parish Council
Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th July 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Also present was Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons

1) **Apologies received from:** Councillor Gareth Piper (on holiday).

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. *Councillor Richard Piper declared an interest in item 7, planning application*

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 Councillor Parsons and invited him to give his report right away to enable him to attend another meeting at Bridgerule.

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

Councillor Barry Parsons reported on the following issues:

Communications from different officials at Devon County Council regarding the bus shelter at Venn Green had been very contradictory, Barry suggested we stick with dealing with Julie Pepworth, and he would help all he can to resolve the issue.

Devon County Council: there is a lot going on, but with the financial cut-backs the Council cannot carry on as it has done in the past. The strategic plan is being looked at to concentrate more on what matters to the community, also look closely at the NHS. The Government seems to concentrate on the 'M5 Corridor' and does not take into consideration the Rural Factors and the difficulties facing local communities.

Councillor Jim Richardson asked what was being done regarding the state of the roads, Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse mentioned the fact that roads with poor surfaces are marked out for repair but nothing gets done and the marks disappear and then have to be marked again, it seems a total waste of resources. Councillor Grace Millman also commented that the road from Gidcott to Bradford was still in a very poor state, it seems that promises are made to repair roads but this does not happen. Councillor Parsons replied that he understands the frustrations of all regarding the roads, but unfortunately the roads in North Devon are not really fit for purpose, they were not built to withstand the type of vehicles that use them. Barry reported that he was in 'conversation' with the new contractors Skansa who state that they do not want to continue in the same vein as South West Roads, and staff were undergoing new training. One of the major issue was the practice of filling in one pot hole at a time, and leaving adjoining holes for another time. Chairman Stephen Moyse commented that this was a regular occurrence and again seems a waste of money and recourses.

Councillor Jim Richardson asked if there was any further news regarding Holsworthy Hospital, Barry replied that a new consultation was in progress with a committee chaired by an independent Chair from Axminster, Steve Holt, the meeting will be held next month.

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked Councillor Parsons for attending.

5) The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st June 2017, 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) Bus Shelter; the email from Julie Pepworth regarding the style of bus shelter that the Parish Council might want erected was discussed, Councillor Grace Millman had printed the designs from the recommended website, the unanimous decision of the Councillors was to settle for the standard size of the 'Arun' by the Queensbury Bus Shelter Company. Julie has said that she will need to get three quotes for the purchase and installation. The Clerk was requested too write to Julie conveying the Parish Councils decision.

2) Tap Fund, the Clerk informed the Councillors that Sutcombe Parish Council agreed to once again join forces to apply for the grant to pay for the cutting verges and hedges that Devon county Council no longer cut. The Clerk will send the application in as soon as she receives the three quotes requested

Signed.....

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7) **Planning Applications**

1/0554/2017/REM

Proposal: Reserved matters application pursuant to 1/0212/2016/OUT for new Bungalow

Location: Land at Parkfields, Milton Damerel, Devon

Councillor Richard Piper had declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussions.

The Councillors discussed the application and raised no objections, they fully supported the proposal and requested the Clerk convey the decision to Torridge Planning.

8) **Planning Decisions**

There are none

Planning Appeals

There are none

9) **Financial Matters**

- a) The Clerk supplied a full financial report, there being £5,537.63 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 £4,395.04 being Parish Council general funds.
- b) The cheques for the Clerks Salary £205.83, was signed by three Councillors.
- c) Cheques for the Hire of Parish Hall for meetings- April to June £30 plus P3 meeting £5 total £35.00, and to Environmental South West (P3) for installation of Self Closing gates £420.00 were signed by three Councillors.

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

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

Received by hand

- i) The Communication from the Parish Hall Committee contained a request as to whether the Parish Council would consider purchasing a Notice Board to be erected at Venn Green for the benefit of the community, after discussion the Councillors agreed that it was a good idea.
It was suggested that a notice board situated at Strawberry Bank would benefit the residents in that area. The Clerk was requested to write to the Parish Hall Committee to ask if they would be willing to pay for one notice board and the Parish Council would pay for the other. Once a reply has been received the Clerk will get quotes for both. It was felt that the best place to put the boards would be on the side of both bus shelters.

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

- 1) Councillor Jim Richardson reported that the reflecting warning post in the road just above his property has been broken, he has put warning signs there as there is a very steep drop and there is the danger that if a vehicle went in there they would have big problems getting out, Councillor John Webb commented that there were similar broken posts near his property and Glovers Cottage. The Clerk was requested to write to Highways department informing them of the problems.
- 2) The Clerk informed the Councillors that she will be on holiday the 12th to the 20th September, and was Travelling back from Gatwick on the 20th and could not guarantee being home in time for the meeting. Councillor Grace Millman said that she would take the minutes of the meeting. The Clerk will get the Agenda prepared before the 12th September although it will be a bit early for circulation.
- 3) The subject of super-fast Broadband was discussed and the Clerk was requested to write to Matt to ask for an up-date

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.