

# Milton Damerel Parish Council

## Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chairman), Jim Richardson, Grace Millman, Rose Hayne, John Webb, Gareth Piper and Lorraine Buttery, Parish Clerk. Also present were eleven members of the public

### 1) Apologies received from:

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons, P.C.S.O. Racquel Rowe and Councillor Richard Piper (Working)

### 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 all to the meeting.

### 4) Public Comments and District Councillors report

There were eleven members of the public present, Chairman Stephen Moyse used his discretion and informed those present that he would hear the Residents remarks when the planning application was being considered, as this was the main reason they had attended the meeting.

5) The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 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 clerk informed the Councillors that she had written to Julie Pepworth twice but had not had a reply to either of the emails, the third time she wrote and copied Councillor Barry Parsons in, Councillor Parsons replied that he had contacted the department concerned and would inform the Clerk of any progress
- 2) Development Milton Town- this will be discussed in item 7
- 3) Superfast Broadband – there has been no updates from Connecting Devon & Somerset.

### 7) Planning Applications

1/0732/2017/FULM

Proposal: Eight dwellings and conversion of barn to 2 dwellings as previously consented under App Ref: 1/1968/2004/REM

Location: Land at Town Farm, Milton Damerel, Devon

At this point the Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse invited residents to speak, he reminded the residents that he was using his discretion in allowing the usual time of 15 minutes to be extended, but after this discussion the members of the public cannot take any further part in the meeting or pass comments.

The Main public Comments, points and concerns included:

- 1) In the planning application there is 'soakaway drainage system', for the drainage of surface water, as the ground is predominately clay a soakaway system will not work, and if this is not dealt with properly this could cause flooding in the surrounding properties, in particular Brayleys and Chapel Cottages gardens
- 2) It looks as if a Natural spring will be diverted or concreted over, springs will 'come up' elsewhere which once again could cause flooding and erosion, if it moves into the Churchyard it could cause erosion to the foundation of the Church and damage graves.
- 3) According to the 'Lead Flood Officer', the drainage issue was not clarified.
- 4) Roads are not suitable for the increase of traffic in the area.
- 5) Would the old wall on the site be retained as this has been promised but not shown on the plans?
- 6) Plot 1 on the plans is shown as a three story building, this is deemed not suitable for this area.
- 7) All parishioners present agreed that 8 homes in addition to 2 in the Barn conversion is too many for this area, a more suitable number would be 6.
- 8) Are existing trees on the boundaries to remain?, as this is not clear. Removal of trees could cause damage in the area because of the deep roots, would this affect the Church Graves?.
- 9) The tree survey is wrong as it states there are only 'soft wood' trees and scrub on the site, this is incorrect as there are hard wood trees, including Oaks, elms and horse chestnut trees.

- 10) There are concerns regarding the 'Discharge License' for the existing private sewage treatment site as the number of additional premises would exceed the license, leading to foul water being discharged on local land.
- 11) The proposed entrance/exit from the development site is on a bend and would be very dangerous, it should be repositioned

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked their public and stated that their comments would be recorded and passed on to Torridge Planning Department

The Parish Councillors discussed the application, Councillor Stephen Moyse stated that he was not against the development in principal but there were certain aspects of the application that need adjustment. At this point a member of the public interrupted and said “ I am very upset that you are not against this development, it must be because you do not live in the vicinity as such it will not affect you”. Councillor Moyse replied that her remarks were irrelevant and that he was entitled to his opinion, he reminded her that the public had had their chance to comment and now it was the Parish Councillors time to make their comments and decision. After discussion it was the Parish Councils unanimous decision to support the application but with the following comments sent to Torridge Planning department:

*Thank you for consulting Milton Damerel regarding the planning application, The development was discussed at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th October 2017. There were 11 local residents in attendance. All residents present objected to the development in its present format, there concerns and comments are in a separate communication*

*The Parish Council support the development but serious concerns were raised regarding the development in its current format and would look for significant changes. Councillors were unanimous with the comments and suggestions as follows:*

- 1) *Grave concerns were raised with the proposed entrance/exit of the development, as this is on a bend and would raise a real safety issue, should be re-positioned*
- 2) *The 'Old Wall' should be retained but the height being adjusted would be acceptable.*
- 3) *The screening at the back of the development needs to stay, with the felling of trees kept to a minimum*
- 4) *The provision of a decent foot path around the development is essential.*
- 5) *Assurances that the run off of water will not infringe on other properties i.e flooding .*
- 6) *The proposed footpath into the Church is both un-necessary and inappropriate.*
- 7) *The provision for extra parking ie for residents visitors, should be a serious consideration.*
- 8) *Not enough thought has been given to the sewage disposal.*

*Councillor Gareth Piper Suggested that per haps the developer could make a donation to the Parish Church*

Other issues raised by the Residents was the state of the roads, and the speed of traffic through the Village, Councillor Grace Millman stated that the Parish Council regularly reports to highways regarding the roads and urges residents to go on to the Devon County Council website and report issues to them. According to Devon County Council no speed restrictions were necessary on the main road.

At this point the majority of the attending public left, with just two remaining.

#### 8) **Planning Decisions**

1/0777/2017/FUL

Proposal: Single storey extension to provide guest bedroom

Location: The Oaks Annexe, Milton Damerel, Devon, EX22 7DQ

*Application refused*

#### **Planning Appeals**

*There are none*

#### 9) **Financial Matters**

- a) Financial report to date; the Clerk reported that the second half of the precept had been received, there was £4,659.34 in the bank, this comprises £183.02 SbiT funds, £244.57 P3 funds, and £290.00 balance of Defibrillator Grant. The balance of £4,659.34 being Parish Council general funds
- b) Three Councilors signed cheques for Clerks Salary £205.83 and admin expenses £27.29
- c) Three Councillors signed a cheque for the Clerks attendance at DALC AGM
- d) Preliminary Budget was presented to the Parish Councillors, but as the Budget does not have to be approved until December this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Signed.....

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

All correspondence has been sent by email and no further action needs to be taken

**Received by post:**

- 1) Jacobs re Road repairs
- 2) Torrridge, North, Mid & West Devon CAB, grant thank you letter
- 3) Milton Damerel Newsletter – Grant thank you letter
- 4) Isabelle Fairbrother – Grant thank you letter
- 5) Milton Damerel Parish Hall, increase in hire charges, this has gone up by £1 an hour a 20% increase

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

- 1) The Clerk reported that she had attended DALC AGM and attended two workshops, Finance and Health, Disappointedly the 'Health' workshop did not include any reference to Local Hospitals but was led by Andy Robinson who is the 'System Lead Director of Finance for the Wider Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships', he set informed those present that they had made savings of £100 million last year for the NHS and set to make £169 million savings this year, primarily by reducing beds and closing community hospitals With the expression of 'the best bed is your own bed', transforming primary care.  
The Finance workshop was very informative. Other key note speakers were: Alison Hernandez, and Paul Coles- BT who informed all present that there were grants available to local communities to hep with obtaining faster broadband through the G4 network.
- 2) Councillor Grace Millman commented that according to a recent email received the DCC would no longer automatically fill grit/salt bins or inspect them for damage, the clerk will check with Edgar Pett to see if he is willing to continue as 'snow warden'.
- 3) It was reported that Whitebear lay-by is very overgrown, Chairman Stephen Moyse said consideration would be given to maybe including it in the budget for next years cutting of hedges and verges
- 4) Councillor Rose Hayne enquired who was responsible for the clearing of knot weed', as there was a lot visible in the lay-by near Wordon Farm between Venn Green and Wordon Hill,? This would be the responsibility of the Highways department but such sightings do not have to be reported.
- 5) Councillor John Webb reported that the road surface at Strawberry bank between Kites and Crossways was atrocious, the Clerk will inform Highways department.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

*Signed*.....

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