

Milton Damerel Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Parish Hall on Wednesday 18th April 2018 The meeting commenced at 7.30pm. Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chairman), Jim Richardson, Rose Haynes, Gareth Piper and Lorraine Buttery (Clerk).

There were 8 members of the public present, and Richard Haste Torridge District Council Waste & Recycling Manager.

Apologies were received: Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons, Councillor Richard Piper, Grace Millman, P CSO Racquel Rowe, Sheila Daniel, David Taylor and Colin Boucher

1) Welcome and Introductions by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr Stephen Moyse chaired the meeting and opened by welcoming the guest speaker Richard Haste and Residents of Milton Damerel. Richard's attendance was not on the Agenda as the Clerk was not notified in advance, which was a pity as it was felt that more residents might have attended if they had known.

2) Presentation by Richard Haste Torridge District Council Waste & Recycling Manager.

Richard gave a very upbeat and interesting talk on the new recycling regime and waste collection. All residents should have received notification regarding this. The important points were that all households would be given the option to sign up for the garden fortnightly waste collections, this would cost £35 annually. Black bag collections would from June 4th be once a fortnight. Households would have 2 new food waste bins Delivered, one small caddy for the kitchen and a larger kerbside collection bin. It is hoped that caddy liners supplied by Torridge would be available from local stores at a much lesser cost than from the ones purchased from supermarkets. The food caddies would be collected weekly. An extra container for glass will also be provided. Torridge had a remit to increase the recycling to 50% by 2020
The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked Richard for attending and for the very important information.

3) Questions and comments from residents:

- 1) Pot holes were one of the complaints, Councillor Moyse stated that we regularly complain about them to highways and our Councillors, one resident complained about the surface of the road outside the Grange, Milton Town, there is not one pothole but several in a row and when farm vehicles run over them it causes a lot of noise and disturbs the sleep of residents. The Clerk was requested to write to Highways and will copy Councillor Barry Parsons into the email.
- 2) Complaint was made regarding the visibility on the edge of Town Farm, caused by overhanging hedgerow, It's a problem that crops up each year, the Clerk will write to the land owner.
- 3) The question of the website was brought up, as the person who runs it at present is leaving the Parish. The Clerk informed the meeting that a new website was in the process of being designed. This would be administered by the clerk and a volunteer.
- 4) Can the Parish Council do anything about the old BT phone box in the village? This is an eyesore and will only deteriorate further. The Clerk will make enquiries to BT.
- 5) One resident said how smart the new bus shelter looked, but does make the old ones look a bit tatty, It is hoped that maybe in the future these could be replaced.
- 6) One resident commented that she was worried that the if the development at Town Farms goes ahead the Finger posts by the wall would be damaged, but they and others in the surrounding area are in very poor Condition and need refurbishing. The Clerk will enquire if Grants could be obtained to help with the costs involved.

A shortened version of reports from local organisations follow.

4) Report from Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

All of our footpaths and Butterfly Lane are currently open and usable although some can be a bit muddy. Last summer the permissive footpath diverting FP15 around Whitebear Farm was put in place. There is still a gate to be installed at the Chapel View end of FP15.

The inter Parish Walks remain very popular. The Milton Damerel Walk will be on the 14th May. All changes will be updated on the Parish Website and handbook.

5) Reports from local organisations

i) **Parish Hall:** The Parish Hall Committee would like to thank the Parish Council for the grant received and their support by continuing to hold their meetings in the hall. We also appreciate the £1000 a year for the wind turbine situated near five lanes. The committee organise many fund raising events. All events are advertised locally and in the newsletter. Facebook users can also keep up to date.

ii) **Milton Damerel & District Gardening Club:**

At last year's AGM the previous officials stood down and somehow Jim and I ended up as Chair and Vice Chair with Lesley Self as Treasurer. We have survived the year and have had talks on various subjects including Wild Flower Meadows, Bees, Landscaping and appropriately, Bog Gardening. These were all given by local speakers. We also ran a plant table at the Trinity Church garden fair and donated the proceeds to the church roof fund. We made one garden visit last year and this was to Wick farm gardens at Cookbury. We were all impressed by the formal and informal gardens and lovely bluebell woodland walk. But these were more than surpassed by the splendid tea, and wonderful room it was served in. It is highly recommended to visit when they open for NGS this year.

For the coming year we have a full programme of events booked including two garden visits, and various speakers covering "Heritage Apples", Devon Gardens Trust, Wild Flowers of Devon and we also have the annual produce show on 1st Sept which was certainly a baptism of fire last year but we survived the day and it was well supported. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find speakers at an affordable rate for a small club as we average around 20 at meetings, also insurance costs for the show and we would like to thank the parish council for their grant towards our cost it is most appreciated thank you.

iii) **Baby and Toddler Group and Holiday club:**

The toddler group has now been going for over five years, all is OK at present, with not much to report.

vi) **Milton Damerel & District Over 60s:** The Club holds its meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, an average of 25 members attend and enjoy playing cards or bingo, after which tea and biscuits are served.

The February meeting is held as a bring and share tea, about 50 members and friends attended Last summer we had several outings including visits to The South Devon Railway, Newquay and Cheddar Gorge.

v) **Newsletter Group.** The report was read out by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse:

We continue to print quarterly editions, with 235 copies containing 26/28 pages being distributed to households in the Parish and Abbots Bickington, Our thanks to all the volunteers that help deliver the newsletter each quarter.

Our finances show receipts of £1276.76 with expenses of £1165.96, a gain of £110.80.

Community groups continue to support us with interesting reports on their activities, for which we remain grateful, but we continue to have difficulties in encouraging input from individuals regarding content and presentation.

Remember significant family events can only be included if we are made aware of them

vi) **Milton Damerel Ladies Skittles Team;** Following last year's success and promotion to Division 1, MD ladies have had another successful season. The 'A' team were winners of division 1.

The league annual dinner is to be held on the 4th May.

vi) **Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council:**

Thanks were given to the Parish Councillors for the annual grant which helps to keep machinery in good order.

Volunteers do a grand job in keeping all the grass cut and our sincere thanks to all who help.

vii) **Neighbourhood Watch:** Household membership is down by 6% on 12 months ago due to a combination of losing our co-ordinator and new residents not wishing to be involved as it is felt it is a low crime area, having said that we have had 4 thefts of oil over the past twelve months. We are in constant touch with our PCSO who keeps us advised about problems in the area. I would like to thank all residents for their continued vigilance in reporting strange vehicles parked in the area, and remind them to continue to lock their sheds and outbuildings, as these are high on the target list for opportunist thefts.

6) Any other matters:

There were none raised

The Chairman congratulated all the representatives of local organisations for their successes of the year and wished them all every success in the future.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm and everyone was invited to remain for refreshments before the Parish Council general meeting commenced.