

## Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse, Chairperson, Richard Piper, Vice- Chairperson, Gareth Piper, Rose Haynes, Jim Richardson, Teresa Walters and Peter Buckpitt, also present were Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons, District Councillor Ken James and the Parish Clerk Lorraine Buttery

### 1) Apologies were received from:

Torrige District Councillor K. Hepple

### 2) Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse voiced his sadness at announcing the sudden death of Stephen Horn, Chairman of Sutcombe Parish Council, he was a colorful character and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Milton Damerel send their sincere condolences to the Horn family.

### 3) 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*

### 4) Public Comments, County and District Councillors reports:

District Councillor Ken James talked about the new strategy of Torrige working to attract entrepreneur's and young And young people to the district. Torrige is pushing rural businesses. Unfortunately, there are great holes in the 'Local Plan' which prohibits the registration of planning applications for special housing needs, if an area is not Classified as a Village permission for developments will not be granted. Although there is plenty of building in The Bideford area there is a lack of affordable housing. There will be luxury homes built on Bideford Wharf. Youngsters are struggling to survive and remain in the area. Ken went on to report that the expansion of 'Atlantic Village was in full swing, and a new education center has been planned for Appledore. Councillor Richard Piper asked whether there was any chance that the Planning application for Milton Town might be resolved as there had been no building as such in Milton Damerel. Councillor James replied that he would look in to it. Councillor Stephen Moyse commented that it would be nice if something was done to improve the sight. Councillor James also commented that Torrige were very keen to lower the 'carbon footprint' of the area and he expected more turbines to be built both in and offshore.

Ken finished off by saying that if the Parish Council had any problems, please do not hesitate to contact him.

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked Ken for his time and also for the £400 locality grant received.

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons thanked the Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse for paying their Respects to Stephen Horn, he personally could not speak more highly of him.

Barry reported some good news for the education sector, after much lobbying it at last been acknowledged that The budget for the West Country had been underfunded for years to the tune of £300 per annum per child, It has been announced that the West Country has had the second biggest budget increase at 5%, which is brilliant news. There was a general discussion relating to Schools in the area.

Barry also commented that the Bus Shelter at Holsworthy Beacon had now been erected, he asked whether it would be possible to have a photograph of the shelter with some of the Parish Councillors, and to invite Ken Carroll's widow, Ken was the instigator of the shelter and approved grants to help pay for the installation, Councillor Stephen Moyse said he would see what he could do.

Barry also reported that is was very worrying that the Health and Well being committee had flagged up red areas And Torrige was flashing up all the time, in education as GCSEs results were not as strong in other areas, self-harming was at a high, biggest housing faults with category 1 complaints at 21%, staff shortages in hospitals with an average of 8% of vacancies not being filled.

Council tax in the south-west is one of the highest the Country, with one of the lowest wages it is a heavy burden for the residents of Devon, with the Government allowing an increase of 2% plus another 2% for adult care, the total cost of a 4% increase will make matters even worse.

- 5) The minutes\_of\_the Parish Council meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 had been circulated by email, were read and approved by all Councillors, they were duly signed by the Chairperson Councillor Stephen Moyse as being a true record of the meeting.

**6 Matters Arising**

- 1) Air Ambulance Night Time site, the Clerk reported that the planning application had been sent to Torridge Planning Department, there had been a couple of queries raised on the application but it is now hoped that all is now in order and acceptable to the Planning department. The Clerk will keep the Councillors informed.
- 2) Badgers Halt: Numerous emails had been sent and received regarding this issue and the latest explanation was that the re-surfacing had not been financed by highways and must have been paid for by the Landowner
- 3) Notice board has yet to be re-furnished, Councillor Piper apologised and said that he had been extremely busy.
- 4) Overgrown lay-by, the Clerk reported that she had informed Highways regarding this but to-date had not been rectified.

**7. Planning Applications**

*There were none*

**8. Planning decisions**

*There were none*

**Planning Appeals**

*There were none*

**9. Financial Matters**

- a) Three Councillor signed a cheque for Clerks monthly salary £208.93
- b) Financial report to date, all Councillors had a spreadsheet emailed to them and they raised no issues. The bank balance stands at £7,701.58, being Ring Fenced SBiT fund £183.02 and P3 £258.57, DAAT fund £3,650.00, the balance of £3609.99 being Parish General funds.
- c) New bank signatories, Councillors T.Walters and P. Buckpitt have now been accepted as signatories.
- d) Acknowledgement of receipt of second half of precept £2015 and £400 locality grant.
- e) Acknowledgement that a cheque for £600 had been signed between meetings for the purchase of the AED cabinet as approved in September’s meeting.

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyses asked if the invoice for the hedge cutting had been received?  
The Clerk replied that she has not, Councillor Moyses will chase it up.

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

All correspondence had been sent by email and forwarded to Councillors. No issues were raised.

**Letters and emails thanking the Parish Council for Annual Grants had been received from the following,**

- 1) Milton Damerel Parish Hall
- 2) Milton Damerel and District Gardening Club
- 3) Milton Damerel Newsletter
- 4) Holy Trinity Church
- 5) North Devon and District CAB

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

None were recorded

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.30.