

## Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

### **Minutes of Milton Damerel Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026 which commenced at 19:40**

**Present:** Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chair), Richard Piper (Vice Chair) Peter Bromley, Gareth Piper, Jim Richardson, Teresa Walters, also present were District Councillor Nigel Kenneally and the Clerk Jane Elliott.

1. **Apologies** . Councillor Ken James, Councillor Edgar Pett
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 interest in items on the agenda and their nature. *Cllr. Jim Richardson Stop Beacon Solar*
  - c) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interest in items on the agenda and their nature. *None were declared*
3. **Chair's announcements:**  
None
4. **Public Comments**  
None
5. **The minutes of the Parish Council meeting Wednesday 15th April 2025** which had been circulated by email, were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting, they were duly signed by the Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse.
6. **Reports by District and County Councillors.**

District Councillor Nigel Kenneally reported that Councillor Ken James has been re-elected as the leader of Torrridge District Council; the council has two years left to run until the LGR takes effect. Councillor NK has been elected to the internal/external committee and to the planning committee. He aims to call in Live West Homes regarding their policy of stripping carpets when a tenancy ends. The new Holsworthy Agribusiness Centre is funded through a specific government grant that cannot be used for dentists/potholes etc It is important that good, strong businesses including local farmers/producers are encouraged to occupy the infrastructure. There was no update on the Beacon Solar but another major project has been hinted at. He has been making enquiries about the planning enforcement system to understand how each application is vetted; in future councillors may be able to call in planning matters. New play areas have been approved in Great Torrington and Holsworthy with 75% funding coming from Sports England. These areas will not be exclusively targeted at sports groups and aim to provide a free play area for kids who want to kick a ball around. The market in Holsworthy Square has only two regular pitches and is losing revenue. The loss of the town banks and the decline of the market have had an impact of trade but on a positive note there are only two empty shops in the town centre. Councillor Kenneally offered to assist with the financial implications of the installation of a new dog waste bin near Holy Trinity Church. The Clerk was instructed to contacts TDC & Vicky Feather to move this process forwards.

7. **Matters Arising**
  - 1) Beacon Solar: There was no update. This item will remain on the agenda.
  - 2) Dog waste bin at Holy Trinity will cost £360 including VAT.
  - 3) Speed signs: Councillor S Moyse is working on this matter. Currently the average speed at Venn Green is 38mph from 3000 vehicles recorded. Councillors want to challenge this data and raised the question "will a death make a difference?" Warning signs cost iro £3,500; this matter will remain open.

#### **8. Planning Applications**

*None were received*

#### **9. Planning decisions**

*None were received*

#### **Planning Appeals**

*None were received*

#### **10. Financial Matters**

b) It was the unanimous decision of the Councillors to approve cheque for:

i) Clerk's salary & expenses ii) Milton Damerel Parish Hall hire costs iii) DALC/NALC membership iv) The cheque for the dog waste bins was put on hold until an application has been made for a contribution to the costs of installation.

The financial report had been sent by email to councillors. No bank statement has been received since the last meeting in April. A full report will be conducted at the June meeting when the annual audit has been done.

The Nat West bank mandate continues to be problematic. We have not been able to remove the name of the previous clerk from the bank statements or to add new signatories. Cllr. Moyse has been into the bank in person to request assistance with this matter.

A proposal was raised by Cllr. Moyse and seconded by Cllr Walters to add Peter Bromley and Jim Richardson as signatories. A vote was taken and the council unanimously agreed to support this proposal.

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

Emails from DALC, Highways, RSN, TDC, and other sources have been forwarded to members of the council. A letter from MP G Cox had been received regarding connectivity. Octopus energy had sent a further monthly invoice which the council resolved to pay as a quarterly charge to reduce the cost of writing cheques.

**12. Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman**

- a) Cllr. Bromley reported on behalf of Milton Damerel PCC on the temporary removal of slates from the lynch gate at Holy Trinity church. Repairs had failed and a considerable sum of money is required to fulfil the duty of care required by Health and Safety. The PCC have applied for funding.
- b) Roads and potholes continue to be a major concern.
- c) Cllr. Richardson reported that a new defibrillator has been installed at the parish Hall thanks to the British Heart Foundation.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:40**

**The next meeting will be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 19:30**