

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of Milton Damerel Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 16th September 2026 which commenced at 19:30

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chair), Peter Bromley, Edgar Pett, Gareth Piper, Jim Richardson, and Teresa Walters, also present were Councillors Ken James & Lynne Rowsell, members of the public, Bob and Julie Sage and the Clerk Jane Elliott.

1. **Apologies.** Councillors Richard Piper (Vice Chair) & Nigel Kenneally.
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. *None were declared.*
 - c) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interest in items on the agenda and their nature. *None were declared*
3. **Chair's announcements:**

Air Ambulance site is definitely live. Councillor R. Piper will relay this information back to the resident who made the enquiry.
4. **Public Comments**

The Forge is looking very bare and lots of work is being done.
5. **The minutes of the Parish Council meeting Wednesday 19th August 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.**

County Councillor Lynne Rowsell gave a brief resume of the LGR which has been a costly mess that has left councillors down in the dumps. The Government has put a pause on LGR proposals for the Devon split and at present the county will go forward with the present structure. The 2027 elections will go ahead as planned. Highways have continued to be a priority issue and the cabinet minister is due to meet with councillor LR who will drive around the worst roads to demonstrate the problems drivers encounter. LR has joined the domestic violence and sexual abuse committee and can take referrals forward for women in crisis to support them to access safe houses. LR still has money available in the locality budget.

Councillor Pett asked why the contractors were not filling clusters of potholes when they came out to fill an identified pothole. Repairs to manholes have actually made the road surface worse. The situation is costly and badly managed; contractors are only allowed to fix potholes on their register. LR suggested that when anyone reports a pothole that they add there is a "series of potholes at this location".

District Councillor Ken James repeated the frustration that the LGR has caused to Devon leaders. Elections are due in 2027, but there currently isn't clarity whether the elected members will be in position for 2 or 4 years. He flagged up a planning issue 1/0655/2026 where local need was highly relevant and requested the parish council to look at this application as a matter of importance. At the end of October local elected members will not be able to call planning application in due to the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework). The council has experienced difficulties with the chief planning executives regarding transparency in the case of Holsworthy Agricultural Centre. The concern is that if this is not resolved money allocated to the project will go to Bideford instead. Other local investments were progressing well at Appledore Marine Centre, Great Torrington The Globe and The Plough Arts Centre and Bideford Recycling Centre.

Councillor Richardson asked about the Xlinks BESS and Data Centre proposal at Great Torrington. KJ explained there has been no actual planning application so far, so this proposal is speculative. There is no way to connect to the grid to the site. The Pyworthy solar panel site has been recently forced to shut down due to grid overload. There is a balance to consider between the need for renewable power and the need to protect the countryside. There has

been a public furore over the preplanning correspondence.

7. Matters Arising

1) Risk Management has been converted from a PDF to an excel spreadsheet but the Clerk has not had time to make the information concise enough to send out to members of the council so this item was deferred.

2) The accessibility of the new domain using miltondamerelparishcouncil.gov.uk email system has been causing some issues for members of the council. The Clerk will contact Vision ICT to resolve this situation. The question was posed do we need to use.gov.uk The new GDPR regulations in the AGAR mean that it is mandatory for all councils to use the.gov.uk format.

8. Planning Applications

1/0655/2026/FUL The Parish Council supports this application

9. Planning decisions

1/0359/2026/FULM This application was approved

Planning Appeals

There were none

10. Financial Matters

a) It was the unanimous decision of the Councillors to approve cheques for:

i) Clerk's salary & expenses ii) Millman Contractors Ltd Hedge Trimming services

b) The cheque for £360 to TDC for the dog waste bin has not cleared

c) Hedge trimming cost twice as much as last year as twice as much work was done

d) The Clerk will submit a VAT claim

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

Emails from DALC, NALC, Highways, RSN, TDC, and other sources have been forwarded to members of the council. Most Parish Councillors are now using their.gov.uk mailboxes. The Clerk will contact Vision ICT to resolve access issues that some councillors have encountered.

12. Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

a) Councillor Richardson suggested that as the community has 3 defibrillators it would be useful to hold a training session to use the equipment. It was agreed to apply to the DCC Locality budget through Councillor Lynee Rowsell. Councillor Richardson would provide details of the Launceston based training company. The training would be advertised on the Facebook community page and Village Hall page and two sessions would be offered.

b) Councillor Moyse continues to chase Devon Highways regarding the speeding situation and has made contact with Sandra Brown. She has agreed to come and tour the village roads. This is an ongoing concern and will be revisited next month

c) The bank mandate/signatories' situation with Nat West is an ongoing issue.

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

The next meeting will be Wednesday 21st October 2026 19:30