

Milton Damerel Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2012, commencing at 7.35pm

Present	Cllr Grace Millman (Chairman)	Cllr Gareth Piper (Vice Chairman)
	Cllr Rose Haynes	Cllr Stephen Moyse
	Cllr Edgar Pett	Cllr Richard Piper
	Cllr John Webb	Mrs Roberta Jackson (Clerk)

PCSO Raquel Rowe attended but there were no other members of the public or press present.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. PCSO Rowe passed on the apologies of PC Andy Moakes.
2. Chairman's Announcements. There were no chairman's announcements.
3. Public Comments. PCSO Rowe reported that there had been no recent criminal activity in the Parish. She mentioned that a witness had seen a dog being dumped from a white van in Bradworthy but there has been no further sighting of either van or dog. She handed out Community Messaging forms and door stickers to deter cold callers before leaving the meeting.

4. Declarations of Interests on matters to be considered at the meeting. There were no declarations.
5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 January 2012, after minor spelling corrections, were signed as a true record of the meeting.

6. Matters Arising - not otherwise on the agenda

a) To complete application to join the Parish Paths Partnership scheme. This matter had to be deferred as the papers have gone missing in the post and replacements are awaited but members were advised that according to Ros Davies, the P3 Liaison Officer the papers were dated 1 March and there would be a payment made this financial year.

b) Confirmation of Speaker for Annual Parish Meeting. Mr Ricky McCormack has agreed to speak at the Annual Parish meeting on 18 April on the recycle of more different types of plastic and to explain what happens to all the items collected.

c) To report the acceptance of the nomination to the Special Service to Celebrate the Diamond Jubilee at Exeter Cathedral on 27 May and to complete and return the response form. Mrs Lilian Luxton has accepted the nomination and will take Mr Leslie Luxton as her guest. To cover the fee for the refreshments, cheque no. 100175 for £10 was made payable to 'Lieutenancy Fund' and signed by three signatories for return with the completed response form.

7. Planning Applications. There were none at time of agenda but with the Chairman's permission the following application received on the day of the meeting was considered.

1/0113/2012/FUL Proposed extension to existing dwelling including dependant relative's annexe at The Old Rectory.

All members were in favour of the proposed extension, including dependant relative's annexe at this property.

8. Planning Decisions

a) **1/1084/2011/FUL** Installation of solar photovoltaic array at Beacon Farm, Holsworthy Beacon. Permission granted

b) **1/1060/2011/FUL** Retrospective application for the Installation and operation of a solar photovoltaic array and associated equipment at Higher Woodford Farm. Permission was granted

c) **1/1074/2011/FUL** Installation and operation of a solar photovoltaic array at Worden Farm. Permission was granted.

All of the above three permissions state that '*in the event that the solar panels are not longer producing electricity they shall be removed within three months of the cessation of the use and the land shall be restored to its former state*'

9. Insurance & the Snow Warden Scheme. Latest update from DCC. County Cllr Alison Boyle took the queries regarding insurance to DCC highways and they have responded by repeating that they will cover volunteers in the scheme for public liability but volunteers are not covered for personal accidents. The concept of the scheme was building on the desire for self-help and only those competent and capable should be doing this and they undertake any clearance at their own risk. Edgar reported that he has used one bag of salt, on two icy stretches of road, at Gratton and Strawberry Bank.

10. Diamond Jubilee Souvenirs and Celebrations update . There have now been 32 applications for souvenirs. The minimum order of 50 souvenirs was ordered on 25 January. The invoice for the total cost of £143.40 will be sent on dispatch after about 8 weeks. Councillors Community Grant of £300, including the £25 allowance for Abbots Bickington, has been agreed and will be sent to the Jubilee Celebrations bank account. Next Jubilee Celebrations meeting is on 29 February.

11. Consultation on the Allocation of Accommodation. The downloaded document was sent to councillors to read before the meeting. After consideration it was agreed that as Milton Damerel Parish Council does not do allocation of social housing it was not appropriate or necessary to make any response to the consultation.

12. The Localism Bill and the Standards Regime. The Chairman, as a member of the District Council Standards Committee, outlined to members some of the changes taking place with regards Code of Conduct, Register of Interests and Declarations of Interest at meetings as a result of the Localism Bill. Failure to disclose a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will be a criminal offence. Currently Register of Interests for District Councillors are available on the TDC website. Parish Councillors interests are retained by the Parish Clerk, with copies held by the TDC monitoring officer but are not available on the TDC website. In future there will not be a government produced Code of Conduct for Parish Councils to adopt but the District councils in Devon are looking to produce a standard code suitable for Districts and Parishes. The Standards Committee, currently made up of District Councillors, Parish Councillors and independent individuals will be abolished by 1 July 2012 and a District Council committee will in future deal with complaints about Councillors with only the full Council able to decide penalties. It will be necessary to review the Parish Councils Standing Orders in the summer and a new code of conduct is expected through the District Council.

13. To discuss displaying the Agenda & Approved Minutes on the internet. The chairman pointed out that some Parish Councils have their agenda and minutes on their web sites and it was felt to be worth considering. Some Parish Councils have websites linked to the Torridge District Council website and the Clerk will make some enquires to find if it is possible to link TDC with the parish website.

14. Future Administration of the "Step Back in Time" Fund. Following an event held in 1991 a fund was set up to be used to support any applications from young people for special projects. The fund has not been advertised and no grants have been given for 10 years. The account was dormant when the bank contacted Sheila Daniel as the only signatory still around. She has asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to take over the fund. Members agreed that the money could be passed to the Parish Council. Grace will enquire if there are any written 'criteria' for the scheme so that the scheme can be advertised in a future newsletter. Members were informed that there is £203.02 in the fund to date.

Correspondence

15. How to shape where you live: A Guide to Neighbourhood Planning- Resource from CPRE in partnership with NALC. Grace took the booklet to read and will circulate to Richard and Stephen.

16. Everyone's Tomorrow Newsletter of Senor Council for Devon was made available for members to read.

17. Notification of change of date of HAAG meeting. The meeting on 2 April has been put back to 28 April due to the Memorial Hall being unavailable.

18. 'Planning System Explained' free training event 6 March from 10am to 1pm at Okehampton. Members were emailed this event and an application has been sent in for two to attend.

19. Urgent matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

a) Stephen has been approached by a member of Hartland Parish Council with a view to local Parish Councils getting together to complain to DCC regarding the state of the roads. He hopes to have further information on their intentions by the next meeting. There was a feeling that the rural north of the County does not get a fair share of the highway funding because it is allocated on population rather than road miles. Generally the roads in Milton Damerel are in reasonable state at present though the Gidcott to Henscott length was noted to be in poor repair. The Clerk will write to County Cllr Alison Boyle on this matter.

b) Edgar noted that although the unauthorised fence at Jonleen had been removed, the posts with concrete ends were still on the verge and asked who was responsible for getting them removed. The Clerk will write to Ian Sorenson at DCC on this matter.

c) Gareth reported that the overhanging branch at the common land at Chapmans Green had been cut off.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06pm