

Milton Damerel Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

of the Annual Parish meeting held at the Parish Hall on Wednesday 18 April 2012.

The meeting commenced at 7.32pm.

Present	Cllr Grace Millman	Cllr Gareth Piper
	Cllr Rose Haynes	Cllr Stephen Moyse
	Cllr Richard Piper	Cllr John Webb
	Mrs Roberta Jackson (Clerk)	Mr Ricky McCormack (Guest Speaker)

There were 7 members of the public present

Apologies were received from Cllr Edgar Pett, County Councillor Alison Boyle who was at another meeting, PCSO Raquel Rowe and Mrs. Sheila Daniel.

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

Cllr Grace Millman chaired the meeting and opened by welcoming the speaker Mr Ricky McCormack, Head of TDC Operational Services. Grace welcomed the Councillors and members of the public to the Milton Damerel Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Reports from Local Organisations

a) Monsters and Sunday Club. Sheila Daniel was unable to attend but left a brief verbal report to say that both groups keep going as before with similar numbers as previously reported and sufficient funds to continue.

b) Newsletter Group report was presented by Lesley Self. The newsletter continues to produce four issues a year with a total print run of 230. There have been some changes to the group members and to the distributors. Finances to the end of 2011 showed a profit of £726.85 which includes advertising revenue to September under the new system of annual payment in advance for advertising. Fund raising included a coffee morning and a cider and pasty walk, a grant was also gratefully received from the Parish Council. Full accounts to December 2011 were published in the March edition of the newsletter. Though responses are small in number, the newsletter group are grateful for the comments and information received. Please don't be shy at passing on items for the newsletter to any group member.

c) Over 60's Club. Mrs Joyce Daly from Holsworthy as Secretary of the Club sent a brief report which was read out by the Clerk. The last year followed the tried and tested format with monthly meetings in the Parish Hall where members catch up with friends and enjoy an informal afternoon playing cards or bingo with free tea and biscuits. Monthly coach trips to various venues in Devon and Cornwall have been held with Christmas Lunch at the Royal Hotel in Bideford. Some members were invited by the Lions to attend Snow White at HATS.

d) Parish Hall report was presented by Lesley Self. The committee thanked the Parish Council for the annual grant received. The hall is reasonably well used but the income from hirers and regular users is rarely greater than the expenses. The committee organises functions during the year which are advertised in the newsletter, the next event being a Wine & Wisdom on 28 April 2012. This year a UPVC door has been fitted on the skittle alley. The dampness problems persist and are being monitored.

e) Gardening Society report was presented by Bill Wrighton. The society had another good year. Meetings were well attended with speakers covering a wide range of diverse subjects. The Garden show last September was another success with 166 entries in 49 categories and it is hoped that this year's show will be even better supported with craft categories to enable more people to enter something they have created. With speakers costing £60 - £80 per session rapidly depleting club funds, fundraising will be a priority in 2012 with the possibility of new events including a Farmers Market under consideration. Grace thanked everyone for their reports and for all that they organise in the Parish.

3. Report from Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Committee.

The Jubilee news sheet was delivered to every household earlier this month with information about the Jubilee Celebrations in Milton Damerel. On Sunday 3 June a Thanksgiving Service will be held at the Chapel in the morning then the Big Jubilee Lunch followed by the large screen TV to watch the Thames Jubilee Pageant with tea and cake in the afternoon. The Children's Jubilee Tea with the presentation, by the Parish Council, of Diamond Jubilee Souvenirs to children Year 6 and under is being held on Tuesday 5 June. Tickets for the lunch are now on sale and the children's invitations have been delivered.

4. Guest speaker Mr Ricky McCormack as Head of Operational Services has various responsibilities which include waste management for Torridge and Lundy Island, street litter, car parking, caretakers, cleaners, cemeteries, slip ways and Bideford Harbour.

He spoke in some detail about the recycling of plastic which comes in six different types but not all types have a good commercial value needed to offset the cost of collection. He informed us that as plastic bottles are full of air it take up lots of space and 20,000 x 2litre milk bottles are required to make up one ton of plastic. Mixed plastic would cost £80 a ton for someone to take it away against £200 per ton received for good quality sorted plastic. Ships return to China with waste plastic for reprocessing otherwise their ships would sail empty and the reprocessing is cheaper than new material. Devon County Council has county wide arrangements for selling recyclables including good quality newsprint to Kent, glass to Nottingham to be used as cullet in making new glass, some plastics to Leicester, steel to Hinckley and aluminium to Warrington. The recycling rate in Torridge is 45% and for Devon as a whole it is 52% which is the top rate of any county in the country.

The dry recycling contract was up for renewal after 10 years and South Molton Recycling has again been awarded the new contract with improvements to the service and clean vehicles! There has been a 50% saving on the cost of the contract and this has allowed the employment of a 'monitoring officer' to work with the contractors and to promote recycling education and information. South Molton Recycling will also be able to take small electrical items, batteries and unwanted spectacles along with the textiles they already collect. Green bin, garden and food waste is heated to kill bacteria but an EU directive now prevents cardboard from being composted due to its carbon content. A brown bag system for cardboard will be introduced by South Molton Recycling as a result of these changes. Ordinary rubbish goes to land fill and land fill taxes have increased over the last seven years to encourage other means of disposal including energy from waste plants. Ricky said recycling will never be made a success until it is as simple as the black bag service. At present every district has different arrangements.

Devon County Council manages waste disposal and a new firm is taking over the Anvil Corner household waste recycling facility where mixed plastic can be taken. As a result of government funding being reduced and savings having to be made, there are now charges for depositing certain items, surprisingly fly tipping has not increased very much despite these changes. It was also remarked on, that Cornwall Council do not make the same charges.

5. Questions from members of the community. There were plenty of questions from the residents for Ricky to answer. He explained that the collection of co-mingled recyclables resulted in the materials having to be sorted at the processing plant both by machines and people. The material become contaminated and of lower value to the material collected ready sorted. The matter of litter in the lay-bys which are used as lunch stops was raised but it is Devon County Council policy not to have litter bins in such places as it appears to result in more rubbish being left littering. Torridge District Council is the collecting authority and Devon County Council is the disposal authority

6. Any other matters. There were no other matters raised.

The Chairman thanked the speaker for his interesting presentation and the lively discussions and closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.48pm.

There was a short break for refreshments before a Parish Council meeting commenced, all were invited to remain.