

# Milton Damerel Parish Council

## MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Milton Damerel Parish Hall on Wednesday 20 June 2012, commencing at 7.38pm

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

Cllr Alison Boyle attended but left at 9.10pm there were no other members of the press or public present.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Rose Haynes
2. Chairman's Announcements. The Chairman announced with regret that Gareth Piper had resigned as a Parish Councillor after serving as Councillor, Chairman and Vice-Chairman for a total of 9 years.

Grace also offered congratulations to the Diamond Jubilee Committee for the celebrations which were a great success. Donations from surplus funds have been made to the Parish Hall, the Chapel, Milton Damerel and Abbots Bickington Churches and a perpetual cup is to be bought for the Gardening Society.

3. Public Comments. Cllr Alison Boyle, who sits on an advisory group, updated the members on the situation regarding the Atlantic Array, the proposed off shore wind farm development being planned off the North Devon coast. As a result of delays due to maritime concerns about the site, the method of fixing to the sea bed, the impact on fish stocks, changes in plans and the technological developments that could make these turbines obsolete before they are built the time scale for the project which was originally 2007-2013 now looks likely to go on until 2019. Alison also informed the members that she had been re-elected as Chair of the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) for Torridge. She wants to be sure that the rural areas of North Devon get their fair share of Highway funding. Class 7 'C' roads are to have funding for improvements but unfortunately most lanes in the parish are in a lower category. The Chairman noted that the roads in the parish were in quite good order though the lane from Gidcott to Henscott continues to be in a poor state.

4. Declarations of Interests on matters to be considered at the meeting. There were no declarations.
5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on 17 May 2012. The minutes were signed as a true record.
6. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 May 2012. The minutes were signed as a true record.
7. Matters Arising - not otherwise on the agenda
  - a) Members were advised that the [www.miltondamerel.com](http://www.miltondamerel.com) banner can now to be seen on Torridge District Council Town and Parish website portal.
  - b) The Chairman recommended that the 'Step Back in Time' fund for young people should be advertised in the spring edition of the Newsletter each year to encourage applications. The Clerk will note this.

### 8. Planning Applications

- a) 1/0304/2012/FUL: Installation of 1 wind turbine (46.3m to blade tip), access and associated works on land at Henscott Farm, Thornbury, in the parish of Bradford. The location of this development was studied on the parish map being only just over the parish boundary. The Parish Councillors had no comment to make on this development provided that all neighbouring properties within the Parish of Milton Damerel had been informed of the proposals.

*With the permission of the chairman two applications received since the agenda*

- b) 1/0508/2012/AGR: Agricultural building for housing and handling of cattle at Withypool Farm. This is for Agricultural Determination only. The siting and design of the proposed structure were considered. Everyone agreed that no comment need to be made as it was compatible with the other farm buildings on the site. It was agreed that no response to the application was necessary.

- c) 1/0496/2012/FUL: Erection of detached double garage, store and hobby room at The Oaks.

This application was viewed with great concern by members.

The overall footprint and height of this proposed building is considered disproportionate to the size of the plot and would dominate the existing single story dwelling on the site which already has a single garage. The building would have a detrimental visual impact on the area and is considered over ambitious for its proposed purpose. The Parish Council members unanimously agreed not to support the application. Planning were also to be advised that should the decision be to grant permission for this application the Parish Council recommend that, due to the size and construction of the proposed building, its use should exclude any business or residential use.

### 9. Planning Decisions

- a) 1/0020/2012/FUL: Conversion of redundant farm building to provide holiday accommodation at The Barn, East Wonford. Permission was granted for this development. As holiday accommodation, records should be kept of the users and duration of their stay.

Signed

Date

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b)1/0380/2012/AGR: Building for storage of machinery and hay at Brendon Fields, Thornbury. The application was granted permission.

c) 1/0345/2012/AGR: Erection of agricultural building for storage of feed and straw at Gidcott Farm was granted permission but the building should not be used for housing livestock or for storage of slurry without a further application.

#### 10. New Standards Regime

a) To discuss and agree on the new Code of Conduct for adoption by this Council. The draft Code of Conduct prepared by Torridge District Council was discussed in great detail to help everyone to understand the new arrangements. Members were advised that Paragraph 16 was an optional addition to the code and members agreed that it should remain in. There was also discussion on Para 19iii regarding members leaving the meeting when they have interests in the subject to be discussed. It was agreed to take out this paragraph and members would be allowed to remain in the meeting but would not be able to speak or vote. The new Code of Conduct was hereby unanimously adopted by Milton Damerel Parish Council to take effect from 1 July 2012.

b) To complete new Register of Interests in accordance with the new requirements. New Register of Interests forms having been previously distributed were handed to the Clerk by some councillors. Remaining members to bring their forms to the next meeting.

c) To note new Registers will be published on the Torridge District Council and Parish web-sites though at this time the logistics of this have yet to be arranged by the TDC Monitoring Officer.

d) To note Standing Orders will need re-adoption with the new Code. This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

#### 11. To Report on Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3) following meeting with Rights of Way Warden

Public Rights of Way warden Tim Freeman and Ros Davies the P3 Liaison officer came to inspect some of the footpaths in May and have agreed to put in extra steps to access the ladder stile at Whitebear Cottage FP 16. At the same time the contractor is to quote for 30m of boardwalk through the copse at the bottom of FP16 to re-align the path to its correct route which is very boggy. This would be from Tim's Devon County Council Public Rights of Way budget when funds allow. Tim has also agreed to works being done on the blocked culvert on Butterfly Lane. This to be funded half from his PRoW budget and half from the P3 budget. The Parish Council will receive £500 to cover the P3 half of the cost.

#### 12. Financial Matters

a) To Report the sale of surplus Diamond Jubilee Souvenirs. By the time of the Children's Jubilee Tea there were 38 children eligible to receive Diamond Jubilee Medals and Certificates from the parishes of Milton Damerel and Abbots Bickington. The remaining 12 medals were sold at the Children's Tea to older siblings and visiting children. £42 has been credited to the Parish Council account.

*A card received from William and Harriet Allin thanking the Parish Council for their souvenir medals and certificates was passed round to the members. The children's' thanks were appreciated.*

b) To Pay Rent for use of Parish Hall for Council meetings April, May and June. Cheque No 100185 for £30 made payable to Milton Damerel Parish Hall was signed by three signatories.

c) To Pay Clerks quarterly salary to the end of June. 4 hours per week for 13 weeks at minimum pay, cheque No 100186 for £316.16 payable to R Jackson was signed by three signatories.

d) Reimbursement of Clerks expenses to 20 June. Including petrol of £20.20 (higher than usual due to trip to Barnstaple for audit), postage, telephone calls and computer ink, cheque No. 100187 for £31.04 payable to R Jackson was signed by three signatories.

#### Correspondence

13. Letter of thanks from Mrs Luxton was read out. She thanked the Parish Council for her nomination to attend, with Mr Luxton, the special service at Exeter Cathedral and Garden Party at the Bishops Palace to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. "It was a special day that we shall not forget"

14. Notification of Road Closure 16-21 August. The A388 through Milton Damerel will be closed from Worden Cross to Shop Cross with access only during the closed period, for Devon County Council resurfacing works.

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

a) It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that a planning enforcement complaint has been submitted by a neighbour regarding the use of the 'ancillary accommodation' over the double garage at White Owl Cottage as a holiday cottage.

b) The Clerk will notify TDC Electoral Services of the councillor resignation and await instructions. The Chairman suggested to members that they should encourage potential councillors to be nominated for election or submit applications which ever process is used to fill the vacant seat.

c) Cllr Moyse reported that Gareth Piper would be happy to help the Parish Council in any practical way should his services be required.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm