

Milton Damerel Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 October 2012, commencing at 7.35pm

Present	Cllr Grace Millman (Chairman)	Cllr Stephen Moyse (Vice Chairman)
	Cllr Rose Haynes	Cllr Edgar Pett
	Cllr Jim Richardson	Mrs Roberta Jackson (Clerk)

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

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Piper who was detained by a business meeting. Cllr John Webb relayed his apologies due to being unwell.

2. Chairman's Announcements. There were no chairman's announcements at this point.

3. Public Comments. PCSO Rowe reported that Sergeant Channing was now responsible for both Holsworthy and Torrington. Andy Moakes was still beat manager. She listed the crimes in the area since January and reminded members to be vigilant regarding metal theft of catalytic converters and vehicle exhaust pipes, also attempted theft of heating oil and motor fuel. Last weekend a red van was stolen from Holsworthy Beacon and found crashed into a field near to the garage the next morning. An appeal has been made in the newspaper for information. Raquel has been in touch with PC Mark Goulding, the Road Casualty Officer from Barnstaple regarding a possible reduction in the speed limit at Venn Green from 40mph to 30mph but as buffer limits are not desirable, it is unlikely to happen. St Giles on the Heath has speeding problems and a school in the area and presently data is being collected via Speed Watch. It is hoped to do more speed watch in Venn Green but there is a shortage of volunteers. She also explained that it can take a long time for police volunteers to be vetted for speed watch work and there are 3 names in the pipeline at this time.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 September 2012. The minutes having already been distributed, were signed as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising - not otherwise on the agenda.

a) The expected planning permission for the park home at Brendon Fields has not yet materialised but we are again assured it will be submitted within the next two weeks. The original report to planning enforcement was regarding the materials being used for the development already approved but this has not been addressed in his reply therefore the clerk was asked to write again.

b) The poles remain on the edge of the carriageway outside Jonleen at Strawberry Bank and as no new grass has come through, highways are to be contacted. It was also mentioned that the construction near the edge of the carriageway at the Oaks needs to be checked out.

6. Planning Application

a) 1/0325/2012/FUL Change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation for Gypsy Traveller. at Wonford Park Farm, Woodacott Cross, Holsworthy EX22 7DT.

*Councillors carefully considered this application and the statement of Gypsy Traveller status of the applicant and have therefore no objections to permission being granted for **personal occupation by the applicant during his lifetime only**, along with other conditions as suggested at 5.5 in the planning statement in support of the application.*

7. Planning Decisions

a) 1/0577/2012/FUL Proposed cubicle and feed building over a slurry storage tank at Waldon Farm was granted permission with a note that planning permission was required for the newly formed access to the north east of the holding.

b) 1/0578/2012/FUL Proposed cubicle and feed building over a slurry storage tank at Waldon Farm was granted permission with a note that planning permission was required for the newly formed access to the north east of the holding.

c) 1/0667/2012/FUL Amended plans to consent number 1/261/2011/FUL for proposed conversion of redundant agricultural building for residential use at the barn near Milton Mill was granted permission. Planning permission will be required for any further development of the property.

8. Report following Parish Emergency Planning Review meeting. Stephen reported that the meeting was not well attended with only four members present. However as there had been no emergencies, no changes were considered necessary at this time. When tested recently, the call-out system had not worked well and another test was to be held to get the team informed as quickly as possible in an emergency.

9. Report from Special Meeting of Holsworthy Advisory Group held on 24 September 2012. No one was able to attend this special meeting on the Localism Act but the power point presentation is available and will be sent to all councillors.

10. Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Update. The autumn newsletter has been sent to Councillors by email. The P3 Co-ordinator and clerk have been invited to the Autumn Workshop next week. The annual survey form has been sent to the P3 Co-ordinator and finance forms has come to the clerk both for completion and return by 13 February 2013 to get any grant for next year.

11. Highway Meeting at Woolsery on 22 October 2.30pm to 5pm. Agenda for next Monday were sent out prior to this meeting. Edgar expressed an interest in attending but could not commit until Sunday evening. Grace might be able to reschedule to attend. John Webb will be contacted to see if he might like to attend.

12. Consultation on potential changes at Northam Burrows. There was little interest in this consultation as most people had rarely if every used the facility, the entrance change was a deterrent. The consultation was to try and find ways of providing access at lower cost for residents. It was pointed out that all residents of Torridge District contribute £2.15 per year through their council tax.

13. Financial Matters

a) To report receipt of second half of annual Parish precept from Torridge District Council. £1175 was paid into the bank account on 24th September

b) Financial Report - Spread sheets were handed out. Since the last report 15p interest has been paid into the savings account and after the transactions previously reported there is £901.69 in the current account and £839.98 in the savings account making a total of £1741.67 this includes the ring fenced funds of the Step Back in Time (SBiT) fund and P3. At present SBiT has £103.02 in hand and due to Vat refund not yet claimed the P3 fund is showing a deficit of £37.82.

c) Payment of invoice for grass cutting. Charles Brimacombe sent an invoice for 'keeping the village green and bus shelter mown and tidy for the 2012 season' Cheque no. 100199 for £75 was made payable to Charles Brimacombe and signed by three signatures.

Correspondence

14. Letter of thanks from Milton Damerel Gardening Society thanked profusely the Parish Council for the £80 grant to the Gardening Society which paid for the hire of the Parish Hall for their eight meetings in the year.

15. DCC public engagement events 'Your Community Your Choice' The Leader of DCC John Hart is holding these events at various venues throughout the county including Holsworthy Memorial Hall on 8 November at 6.30pm and 19 November at Bideford (Pollyfield). Further information can be obtained on www.devon.gov.uk/localchoices

16. Devon Heritage Services – New Developments include the combining of holdings of the county archives service and those of the county local studies collections (formerly Westcountry Studies Library) historic registers of Devon Registration Service and selected county archaeological records which will be housed in new premises at Sowerton Business Park, Exeter to be known as Devon Heritage Centre. North Devon records office in Barnstaple will continue to provide services for the north of the county as part of the North Devon Local Studies Centre. Leaflets were handed to Councillors.

17. North Devon Nature Improvement Area project is one of 12 pilot projects in the country that are setting out to restore, re-connect and recreate valuable habitat. The team will be offering free advice and assistance with funding applications and practical works for any land owners who may wish to get involved. To kick start the project various information was requested and an offer of attending an annual parish meeting was made. It was agreed to provide the information and ask for a short item for the newsletter with a view to taking up their offer of speaking at the APM next April.

18. Invitation to Stakeholder Workshop from Western Power Distribution at various venues, including free lunch was read out to the meeting but there was no interest.

19. Everyone's Tomorrow – Newsletter of Devon Senior Voice (Senior Council for Devon) was made available for members to read.

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

a) The Clerk at Thornbury has asked if Milton Damerel would like to share a Parish Gritter. As a gritter was considered last year and decided against, Thornbury Parish will be informed that further details would be required before making a final decision.

b) The Autumn Snow Warden meeting has not yet been arranged.

c) Grant notices will be displayed ready for applications at the next meeting. It has already been mentioned in the last newsletter. Letters of application to be submitted with the organisations latest audited accounts.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.58p