

Milton Damerel Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 December 2012, commencing at 7.36pm

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

County Cllr Alison Boyle was present and there were two other members of the public present.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr John Webb who was unwell and Cllr Rose Haynes was lambing, PCSO Raquel Rowe and PC Andy Moakes also sent apologies for not attending.

2. Chairman's Announcements

a) Following the final event of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, a cheque for the remaining balance of £80 was received by the Chairman to be donated to the Step Back in Time fund for young people held by the Parish Council. This was agreed by the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Committee at their last meeting on 13 June. The final event was the unveiling of the Jubilee Wall Hanging at the Parish Hall on 14 December 2012.

b) The Chairman brought to the attention of the members, letters from DCC and Bradworthy Primary Academy regarding the closure of Putford School and possible re-designation of the school catchment area for Milton Damerel and agreed that this *urgent matter* would be discussed after 5. *Matters Arising*.

3. Public Comments.

Members of the public present complained about the state of the road at Whitebear Farm with mud and slurry on the road which is a danger to traffic especially if it was to freeze. Regrettably the farmer is no longer clearing the road as in the past and Cllr Piper agreed to have a word with the farmer concerned. Cllr Alison Boyle also suggested that the road safety officer might be able to get some improvement in the situation as Highways were unable to do anything and the lengthsman felt they were fighting a losing battle generally with mud on the roads. Alison agreed to have a word with Mike Newcombe (road safety officer) on this. Alison also reported that she had held a useful meeting between farmers and Highways at Hartland to promote working together. The issue of slurry spraying from the road over the hedge was also raised. Alison expects to attend a meeting with Highways next week and asked for details of road problems to be forwarded to her.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 November 2012.

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

Following the amendment agreed at the last meeting (Standing Orders 3rd Addendum re Para. 30(b) dispensations) new pages were handed to members for filing with their copies of Standing Orders.

Urgent matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

Residents of Milton Damerel in the Bradworthy Primary Academy catchment area have been sent a consultation letter, post marked 7 December 2012 from DCC regarding the closure of Putford School including the possible re-designation of the school catchment area for Milton Damerel and review of the Education Transport Policy. Milton Damerel Parish Council has not been officially consulted. Following a letter from Bradworthy Primary Academy asking for support from the Parish Council which included a copy of their letter to parents, the full implications of the consultation became clear. Two of the three options (ie Options 1 & 3) would designate Sutcombe as the school for children in Milton Damerel. Despite representations to DCC by the Chairman, Grace has not had satisfactory answers to why the Parish Council was not consulted or why it was necessary to re-designate Milton Damerel without full consultation over a proper period of time. Alison informed members that she had been involved with this matter since September and it was concluded that Putford school was no longer viable with a roll of 8 pupils and all had agreed that it should close and West and East Putford would have to be designated a primary school as soon as possible. It appears that Milton Damerel was brought into this at a later stage.

When Milton Damerel School closed 40 years ago Bradworthy was designated as the school for much of Milton Damerel. The current roll at Bradworthy Primary Academy is approximately 160 pupils in 7 single age classes with extended free child care at before and after school clubs and activities. Free school transport is currently provided *at the discretion of Devon County Council* to one designated school for each address that is more than 2 miles away from school. If the *closest* school was designated to Milton Damerel (Sutcombe) it would attract *statutory entitlement* to free school transport.

Signed

Date

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There would be no reduction in transport costs over the next 6 years due to the commitment to provide free transport for those children already receiving it and extra costs would be incurred if free transport had to be provided to a newly designated school which could also see siblings attending different primary schools.

As the closing date for comments is 31 December 2012, a public meeting was not possible, it was therefore agreed that a letter box drop would be organised for the 150 properties within the parish in the catchment area of Bradworthy to draw resident's attention to the implications of the DCC letter and encourage their response to the consultation. Councillors agreed that Grace and the Clerk would organise a covering letter and a replacement DCC letter and members would deliver these as soon as possible before Christmas. At the same time the Chairman would put together the formal reply to the school consultation, based on the discussions at the meeting when councillors unanimously agreed they had no issue with the closure of Putford School but agreed to support option two with Milton Damerel children remaining allocated to Bradworthy Primary Academy.

6. Planning Appeal

Installation of 1 wind turbine (34.5m to blade tip), access and associated works on land at Henscott Farm, Thornbury, in the parish of Bradford. All comments sent in response to the original application will be sent to the planning inspectorate and it was therefore agreed that no further comments need to be made.

7. Planning Application

1/1017/2012/DEM Demolition of Ancillary buildings at Milton Damerel Methodist Church Hall.

Due to the short timescale on this application for Demolition it was agreed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman that councillors should be consulted by email but due to her association with the Chapel Grace was not involved in the PC response to the planning officer. All other councillors agreed that *'this demolition is a sensible proposal for an unsafe obsolete building and the space would be better used as extra car parking for users of the Chapel and Hall'*.

8. Planning Decisions

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. The application was granted permission valid for a temporary period of three years after which the land should be returned to its former use unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

b) 1/1017/2012/DEM Demolition of Ancillary buildings at Milton Damerel Methodist Church Hall. The application was granted permission.

9. Snow Warden Update. A meeting was advertised in the newsletter for 10 December 2012; unfortunately some volunteers did not see the notice and only 6 were present though one or two have come forward since then. There is a tonne of salt already distributed to volunteers and at the meeting the Snow Warden, Edgar, passed on his new mobile phone number.

10. Financial Matters

a) To pay rent for use of Parish Hall. Cheque No 100200 for £40 was made payable to Milton Damerel Parish Hall for Parish Council meetings in October, November and December plus the Snow Warden meeting on 10 December 2012. The cheque was signed by three signatories

b) To pay Clerks quarterly salary to end of December 2012, 13 weeks at 4 hours per week at minimum pay of £6.19 per hour. Cheque No. 100201 was made payable to R Jackson for £321.88 and signed by three signatories.

c) Reimbursement of Clerks expenses to date. Cheque No 100202 for £11.30 to cover mileage and postage stamps was made payable to R. Jackson and signed by three signatories.

d) To pay expenses claimed by P3 Co-ordinator. Mike Jackson claimed £5 for use of Parish Hall after the parish walk on 12 November and £7.99 for petrol for strimming the public footpath behind the church (this year and next) Cheque No. 100203 for £12.99 was made payable to M. Jackson and signed by three signatories.

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

a) Travelling in Winter 2012/2013 leaflet from Highways handed out.

b) 'Twentyfourseven' newsletter of the SW Ambulance service handed out

c) Torridge Connect winter 2012 from TDC. Already seen by members

d) Members were informed of Christmas cards received from County Councillor Alison Boyle, Geoffrey Cox MP, Cllr Andrew Eastman Chairman TDC, Community Council of Devon and Devon Association of Local Councils

12. Urgent matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman (see above)

Letter from Bradworthy Academy with a copy of their letter to parents re the Closure of West and East Putford School which includes the re-designation of Milton Damerel from the catchment of Bradworthy Academy to Sutcombe Primary was brought forward on the agenda and discussed after 5. *Matters Arising*.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm