

Milton Damerel Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2013 commencing at 7.35pm.

Present	Cllr Grace Millman (Chairman)	Cllr Stephen Moyse (Vice Chairman)
	Cllr Richard Piper	Cllr Jim Richardson
	Cllr John Webb	Cllr Rose Haynes
		Mrs L D Buttery (Clerk)

1. Apologies received from PCSO Raquel Rowe, PC Andy Moakes and Rachel Webdell.
Councillor Robin Julian sent his apologies by email after the meeting as he had every intention of attending but was held up at a meeting in Plymouth
2. Chairman's Announcements.
There was none
3. Public Comments
P.C.S.O Rachel Rowe sent her report by email: The recent incidents that happened around Holsworthy Rural are theft of metal gates in Ashwater. Farmers are advised to put sufficient security on their gates and mark them so they are easily identified. There have also been reports of prowlers in St Giles on the Heath and Brandis Corner, please urge all parishioners to be vigilant.
4. Affordable Housing
'Rural Housing Enabler' Sue Southwell (CCD) : There was a lengthy discussion with the Councillors through the Chair Grace Millman, the following were the main points:
 - i) The housing needs of Milton Damerel were out of date as the last survey was done 2009
 - ii) Since the new application for a larger development at Milton Town was withdrawn by Drew Construction in early February 2013 we have been awaiting notification of re-application, to date no further progress has been made.
 - iii) Of the six original sights surveyed, none were easy to develop, but Milton Town the best option
 - iv) The feeling of all concerned was that a large scale development was not in the best interest of Milton Damerel.
 - v) Sue Southwell said that Rachel and herself would willingly meet up with Councillors to discuss new sites and possibly updating the housing needs survey and Torridge District Council would willingly agree to this.

The decisions made were as follows:

- a) Councillors to think about suitable sites and report back to the next meeting.
 - b) The parish clerk was asked to bring available maps to Milton Damerel and Councillors would look for potential sites for 5-8 dwellings
 - c) Once potential sites had been agreed an approach could be made to Land Owners
 - d) Councillors to look at how the Wessex Community Land Trust works.
5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th October. The minutes having been circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
 6. Matters arising
 - a) Town and Parish fund up-date: the Parish Clerk informed the Councillors that she had enquired from a professional organisation regarding the cost of a Lap-top and projector, she had obtained a quote of £902.60, Councillor Grace Millman requested that the Parish clerk get a total of 3 quotes and that it would be advisable that two projector screens be purchased, one for Milton Damerel and one for Sutcombe Parish Council.
 - b) One application for a new Councillor was received. Mr Gareth Piper was unanimously accepted
 - c) Torrington Advisory Group meeting on the 22nd October was attended by Cllr.Grace Millman, she reported that Councillor John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council talked about the 'tough choices' facing the DCC- the details can be found on the web at www.toughchoices.co.uk under each of the service areas that the DCC provide. In relation to Parishes he was continuing the theme that Cllr Robin Julian tried to explain at our last meeting. DCC will be looking to increase the council tax by 1.99%. At present there is no capping for Parish Councils and with the hints that Parish Councils might be asked to fund certain activities it is advisable to increase the precept this year, as there is no guarantee that the Precept will not be capped in the future.
There was also an update by Ian Rowlands on progress with the local plan, it is hoped the details will be published after Christmas.
 - d) The meeting of C.P.R.E. Understanding Commercial Wind and Solar Power and how to respond to an application was attended by Cllr.John Webb and the Parish Clerk. The details of the meeting can be viewed on the website. The main content of the meeting was the inefficiency of Wind Turbines, and that the infrastructure of Western Power could not cope with the influx of power and the great number that are being erected. Also discussed was new legislation to come into force in December : New rules will mean that developments of two or more turbines which are at least 15m high will have to go through the process of a consultation which will have to be publicised before planning application- either by email or letter or in at public meeting. Currently only developers of a few of the biggest wind farms have to discuss projects and their implications with residents.

7. New Standing orders
Item postponed till next meeting
8. Planning Application
 - a) 1/0942/2013/FUL Erection of 50kw single wind turbine, 36.6m to hub, maximum 46.3m to tip.
Location: South Arscott, Holsworthy Beacon, Devon This planning application was discussed by Councillors and no objections were raised. The Parish Clerk will send the usual response by email to Torridge Planning:
We thank you for consulting Milton Damerel Parish Council regarding the above planning application. After discussion Milton Damerel Parish Councillors have no Objections to the application provided that all properties within the Parish of Milton Damerel which might be affected by the development have been informed of the proposals.
 - b) 1/0983/2013/FULM Erection of wind Turbine 77m tip with associated infrastructure, including crane hard standing, access road, substation and temporary meteorological mast with a micro-siting of 35m.
Location: Land at Culsworthy Farm, Sutcombe, Devon.
After discussion by the councillors the following response will be sent by the Parish Clerk:
We thank you for consulting Milton Damerel Parish, being adjacent to Sutcombe in which the development is proposed. The Milton Damerel Parish Councillors have no comment to make on this development provided that all neighboring properties within the Parish of Milton Damerel which might be affected by the development have been informed of the proposals
9. Planning Decision
 - a) 1/0350/2013/FUL Erection of a single wind turbine with maximum blade tip height of 77m, formation of vehicle access track and associated infrastructure
Location – Babbington, Chilsworthy, Holsworthy, Devon
Application Granted with conditions
 - b) 1/0506/2013/FUL Erection of single wind turbine- blade tip height 79m including access and ancillary operations.
Location – Land at Down Farm, Thornbury, Holsworthy, Devon
Application Refused.
 - c) 1/0850/2013/FUL Proposed storage and workshop building
Location: Land at Strawberry Bank, Milton Damerel.
The application has been withdrawn.
10. Financial Matters
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 - a) To pay Clerks monthly salary £138.66, a cheque was signed by three signatories.
 - b) Financial report to date, balance of Parish Council funds is £2231.72 of which £937.34 is ring fenced.
 - c) Annual grants were discussed and the following amounts were agreed
 - i) Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council £75.00 ii) Milton Damerel Gardening Society £80.00
 - iv) Milton Damerel Parish Hall £150.00 v) Milton Damerel Newsletter £100
 - iii) Holsworthy Family Workshop Resource Centre will be informed that the policy of Milton Damerel Parish is to only give grants to organisations within Milton Damerel.
 - d) The Draft Budget distributed to all Councillors and was discussed fully, it was unanimously agreed to increase the precept to £3845.00,
11. Correspondence as below and as available at the time of the meeting
 - a) Travelling in winter b) Emergency Plan up-date c) Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter
 - d) DALC Newsletter e) Devon Remembers- helping communities mark the centenary of WW1

The above were distributed to Councillors
12. Urgent matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

Chairman Grace Millman opened the discussion as to what could be arranged for the Children at Christmas this year, as it was felt that there were not enough small children to have a 'Father Christmas' in attendance. After discussion it was decided to have a small gift wrapped and given out at the Carol Services on the 22nd & 24th December.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed

Date

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