

Milton Damerel Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2013 commencing at 7.35pm.

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

1. Apologies received from Cllr John Webb
PCSO Raquel Rowe telephoned on the 17th December to apologise for not attending as she was delayed by an accident, Just prior to the time of the meeting.
2. Chairman's Announcements.
Chairman Councillor Grace Millman welcomed Councillor Gareth Piper back to the Parish Council, following co-option at the meeting on the 20th November 2013
3. Public Comments
Councillor Robin Julian arrived at 8.15 owing to the adverse weather conditions:
 - a) Cllr. Julian talked about wind turbines and solar farms, he commented on the fact that wind farms reduce the land available by 15% and that in future they and land with two or more wind turbines may be classed as 'industrialised' and might be charged as such.
 - b) Cllr. Julian also commented that there will be a further cut in Devon County Funds of two and a half percent. Libraries which are in bad repair would be closed, as there are no funds available for renovations. Although he was aware that there is money 'available', but this was not being distributed, in consequence services for the disabled and vulnerable were suffering
 - c) Cllr. Julian also stated that he thought the rates in Bideford were too high, leading to no new employment. Although there are a lot of houses being built, without the infrastructure of new roads, railways, schools etc. this leads to disaster. He stated he is working and fighting hard for everyone.
4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2013. The minutes having been circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
5. Matters arising
 - a) Town and Parish fund up-date: the Parish Clerk informed the Councillors that she had difficulty in obtaining three quotes as company's seem reluctant to do so, the Parish clerk had obtained one and was waiting for another by email, quotes will be finalised for the meeting in January
 - b) 1/0983/2013/FUL this planning application was discussed and all the implications for the residents of Milton Damerel in particular Derworthy Lane. It was reported that there had been 37 separate objections to the application, and it was questioned as to whether all residents were aware of the effect of the transportation and construction of the development. The decision of the Councillors was that no further comment would be made to Torridge District Council Planning Department and that it was the responsibility of the Developers to contact individual residents that might be affected. The communication from the developer Temporis Wind was discussed regarding the offer of 'Community Benefits' amounting to £4000, the Councillors agreed that a letter should be sent by the Parish Clerk to offer suggestions for the distribution of the funds if available, it was suggested that the Parish Church, The Parish Chapel and the Parish hall would be good candidates.
 - c) Affordable housing, Chairman Grace Millman reported that there had been only one reply in response to the announcement in the newsletter. This has been passed on to Sue Southwell. It was agreed by all Councillors to invite Sue Southwell and Rachel Webdell to the Parish Council Meeting in February for further discussions. The parish clerk will contact Rachel and Sue in the New Year. The Parish Clerk was also requested to bring maps of Milton Damerel Parish to the meeting in January to look at other possible sites for housing.
6. New Standing orders
Item postponed till January 2014

7. Planning Application

a) 1/0948/2013/FUL: Conversion of Barn to residential together with extension.

Location: West Wonford Farm, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon

the plans for the development were studied and the decision was to send the following response to Torridge Planning Department:

Thank you for consulting Milton Damerel with regard to the above planning application:

The plans for the development were studied and discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on the 18th December 2013. The outcome of the discussion was that;

Although Milton Damerel parish councillors do not object to this barn being converted for residential use, the following concerns were raised;

i) It was unanimously agreed that the design and materials for the extension were not in keeping with the Victorian design of the barn

ii) The whole development was neither in keeping nor sympathetic to the existing buildings.

8. Planning Decision

1/0430/2013/FUL Erection of single 500kw wind turbine, 50m to hub, 77m to tip, together with associated works and formation of access tracks to serve the development

Location: Kingsford Farm, Thornbury, Holsworthy, Devon

Planning application was refused; the reasons in short were 'due to the proposed size and location would have an adverse effect upon the landscape due to the cumulative impact 'also insufficient information has been submitted to demonstrate that there would be no impact upon medium and high risk bat species.

Full details are available on Torridge District Council website.

9. Financial Matters

a) To pay Clerks monthly salary £138.66, a cheque was signed by three signatories.

b) To pay Clerks quarterly expenses, a cheque for £24.36 was signed by three signatories

c) The Councillors acknowledged the receipt of £500 grant from Devon County Council towards the repair of the Boardwalk. Notification has been received that this will commence as soon as the weather is suitable March has been suggested

c) Financial report to date, balance of Parish Council funds is £2593.06. This comprises of £1155.72 being general funds and £1155.72 which is ring fenced.

10. Correspondence as below and as available at the time of the meeting

a) Devon Waste Plan details were circulated to all councillors

b) Parish Paths Partnership (P3) report on the recent annual workshop was supplied by Mike Jackson this had been circulated to councillors by email, the work shop comprised of a two hour walk which was led by Tim Freeman who is the rights of way warden for Milton Damerel, the walk took in a number of paths, bridleways and an unclassified road with Tim pointing out the types of problems that we should be looking out for. After the walk there was a short presentation (slides of which are available if any person wishes to see a copy. After the presentation there was the opportunity to talk to various members of ROW staff and Caroline Gatrell from the definite Map Team.

The outcome for Milton Damerel is that the definitive map team are to contact the new owners of Halse Park as the route for the foot path (FP12) has still not been resolved satisfactorily. Tim is going to supply us with a set of tread plates to be fixed to the stile by Brayleys cottage.

c) DALC Newsletter was distributed to all councillors

d) Torridge Customer survey, each councillor was given a copy to complete and bring to the next meeting, the Parish Clerk would then forward to Torridge District Council

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10