

Milton Damerel Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20 February 2013, commencing at 7.36pm.

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

There were two members of the public present.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr John Webb who is recovering from major surgery.

2. Chairman's Announcements.

Grace had no announcements to make at this time.

3. Public Comments

Mr & Mrs Gareth Smith brought to the attention of the Parish Council the archaeological remains situated under land around the north and eastern sides of the church believed to be an important settlement of Anglo Saxon origin. Next to Woodford Bridge it could be the most significant site in the area and he is keen to find out what is there. The Parish Council will find out what it can do and the item will be on the next agenda.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 January 2013. The minutes having been distributed where signed as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising (not otherwise on the agenda)

a) Putford School. It was decided at the DCC cabinet meeting in January that West & East Putford school would close and the children would be reassigned to Bradworthy Academy. The matter of the designation for Milton Damerel children will not be decided until the cabinet meeting on 13 March 2013.

b) Brendon Fields. On 24 January Nigel Marshall, Enforcement Officer, emailed a reply to the Parish Council's original comments about the construction of the barn already approved which he says has not yet been constructed but must be built according to plans submitted. He stated that the siting of the park home and the residential use of the site are unauthorised and in the absence of a planning application he will be seeking authority to serve an enforcement notice to remedy the planning breaches on the site.

c) The Clerk will make further enquires regarding the construction at the Oakes.

d) The mud on road problem at Whitebear is improved at this time since the weather has been dry but the verges are very muddy.

6. Town Farm Planning

The plans Ref 1/1045/2012/OUT was received too late for discussion at last months meeting but the plans were put on display at the Parish Hall on 28 January in time for public comments to be made by the closing date of 4 February. An Open Forum was planned and advertised for 13 February 2013, when Drew's had agreed to send representatives. However as the plans were then withdrawn for technical reasons before this date, the event was postponed until plans are re submitted and an Open Forum can then be rescheduled.

7. Listed Building Consent Application

1/1009/2012/LBC Installation of biomass wood pellet boiler, flue, radiators & hot water cylinders at Milton House. *The members of Milton Damerel Parish Council unanimously support this proposed installation and do not believe that the flue will be visible from the public highway or any neighbouring properties.*

8. Planning Decision

1/1096/2012/FUL Retrospective planning application for the retention of a solar photovoltaic array and associated equipment with a maximum capacity of 50kw (amended location to planning permission 1/1060/2011/FUL) at Higher Woodford Farm, Milton Damerel was granted permission.

9. Report from Holsworthy Advisory Group meeting held on 28 January 2013. Richard reported that South Molton Recycling had got the contract for the next 5 years and would be collecting cardboard in brown bags and also small electrical items from 1st April 2013. Tenders are still coming in for the construction of the Agri-Business Park.

10. Consultation: - Draft N. Devon & Torridge Local Plan. The 304 page document had been studied by members on the internet and various observations were made particularly about the ideas of self-sufficiency and sustainability, affordable housing and housing numbers in general. It was also noted that Milton Damerel/Venn Green had been categorised as a village. The remainder of the Parish is therefore considered to be in The Countryside. The Chairman agreed to make Parish Council comments online via the Consultation Portal.

11. Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Update

The annual survey, P3 grant application and statement of accounts has been sent to the DCC Co-ordinator Ros Davis. After Tim Freeman (RoW Officer) suggested asking for £1000 towards the cost of the proposed boardwalk on Fp16 a revised grant application was sent in to Ros. This was before the broken ladder stile was noted.

The contractor recommended by the Rights of Way officer, Tim Freeman has inspected the damaged ladder stile at Whitebear Cottage and advised that both sides of the ladder could need to be replaced. He was asked to supply prices for repairing the damaged side and also for full replacement. Unfortunately he has only quoted for full replacement at £632.10 + Vat. This has been referred to Tim Freeman for further advice and also the possibility of changing the stile for a gate in line with DCC policy. Whatever is decided it will not cost the Parish Council anything as it will be funded either from Devon County Council P3 or Rights of Way budgets.

12. Financial Report

Since the last report in October a VAT refund of £183.28 has been received, much of this was due to P3 spending. There has also been 15p interest credited to the savings account at the end of December. After transactions already reported there is a balance of £840.13 in the savings account and £703.80 in the current account, a total of £1543.93. The Parish Council general funds are £1271.59 after allowing for the ring fenced Parish Paths Partnership (P3) fund of £89.32 and the Step Back in Time (SBiT) fund of £183.02.

13. Councillors non-attendance at meetings. Due to his ill health Cllr John Webb last attended a Parish Council meeting on 12 September. By the time of the next meeting on 20 March more than 6 months will have passed. Therefore to avoid his disqualification Cllr Webb has requested that his continued non-attendance due to his health problems be approved. Members unanimously agreed to approve the reason for his non-attendance and his request to remain a Councillor.

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

- a) Everyone's Tomorrow Newsletter of Senior Council for Devon handed to a councillor to read
- b) Email from Thornbury Parish regarding the shared use of a Parish Gritter. Members agreed to decline this offer as the present arrangement of volunteers treating their designated parts of the lanes was working satisfactorily.
- c) Letter from Milton Damerel Gardening Society thanking the Parish Council for the promised grant which will be paid to them in September.
- d) '24' newsletter of SW Ambulance Service. No Interest.
- e) Plough & Share credit union leaflet. No interest.
- f) Notification of Devon County Council Elections Event being held at Riverside House on Wednesday 20 March 2013 at 7pm for prospective candidates and their agents and to encourage as many people as possible to consider standing as candidates. Members were informed.

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

The Chairman informed members of the Parish Council that the Clerk is retiring from the post of Parish Clerk. Grace thanked Roberta for her work and commitment over the last 6 years. It was agreed that an advertisement for a new clerk should go into the next newsletter and notices will be displayed on the parish notice boards with a closing date of 1 April. Applications in writing with a CV going to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and the Clerk will be happy to give any prospective applicants details of the work involved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.