

Milton Damerel Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20 March 2013, 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 Councillor Alison Boyle was present and PCSO Raquel Rowe arrive at 7.45pm
There were no other members of the public or press present.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies were received from Rose Haynes who had arrived home too late to attend and also PC Andy Moakes.

2. Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman said that she had received the clerk's resignation letter which stated that she would see the audit through to finish at the end of May. The resignation was accepted.

Council Tax: The Clerk reported to members that the council tax bills sent out this week showed the Parish Precept to have increased by 8.4% with a band D property being charged £14.22. This is a miscalculation as there was no increase in the precept therefore the bills are being reissued over the next few weeks to show the correct lower amounts as stated in the January minutes and a press release has been issued by Torridge District Council to explain to the residents of all the parishes affected.

3. Public Comments

Cllr Alison Boyle said she had been busy with Highways matters as a result of the bad weather.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 February 2013. The minutes having been circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising (not otherwise on the agenda)

a) Town Farm area archaeology. No progress had been made on this but Cllr Jim Richardson offered to make enquires and report to the next meeting.

b) North Devon & Torridge Local Plan Parts 1 & 2.

Grace reported that she had sent in comments on-line covering the topics discussed at the last meeting by the original deadline of 15 March. The Chairman and Clerk attended a session in Barnstaple on Monday evening regarding the *North Devon and Torridge Local Plan, Part 3: Rural Areas* and there are 'Urgent Matters' to discuss as the deadline had been extended to 22 March and other issues have to be returned by 19 April. (See below under item 13)

c) Broken Ladder stile at Whitebear. After the last meeting the Devon County Council Rights of Way warden asked the P3 co-ordinator to report the suspected vandalism, on the stile, to the police. PCSO Raquel Rowe said she would make enquires at the nearest property to check if they had seen anyone hanging about there. We are still awaiting instructions from DCC re funding the repair which will come from their Rights of Way or P3 budgets.

(PCSO Raquel Rowe was called away at this point on Police business)

d) An email has been received from Simon Phillips (Highways) to say that the owner at Jonlee will be asked to remove the posts on the verge outside the property. It was confirmed at the meeting that all but one post had been removed.

6. School designation for Milton Damerel children. At the Devon County Council cabinet meeting on 13 March they voted in favour of Option 1 to make Sutcombe the designated school for free transport from Milton Damerel for all new pupils from September 2014. However young siblings of children already at Bradworthy would also get free transport to Bradworthy. It was felt that the views expressed in the consultation responses had been ignored and Grace had received a copy of a letter from a parent outlining the inaccuracies in the report put to cabinet. Parish Councillors are not happy with this decision and the procedures undertaken and members agreed that an official complaint would be prepared.

7.Planning Application

1/100/2013/FUL: Minor Material Amendment to the access on application 1/0576/2004/COU at Ley Farm. This application is to regularise the position of the access road which differs from that on the original planning permission. Due to the timescale, members were contacted by email and agreed not to ask for an extension to the comments period which has now expired.

8. Planning Decision

1/1009/2012/LBC: Installation of biomass wood pellet boiler, flue, radiators and hot water cylinders at Milton House. Listed building consent was granted because the proposal is considered to be justified.

9 Consultation - Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Draft Plans (2013/14 - 2014/15). Members had read this document on-line and it was agreed that no further action needs to be taken

10. Financial Matters

a) To pay rent for use of the Parish Hall for 3 Parish Council meetings to March 2013 and the public display of the Town Farm plans on 28 January, cheque no. 100204 payable to Milton Damerel Parish Hall for £40 was signed by three signatories.

b) To pay Clerks quarterly salary for the three months to end of March, 13 weeks at 4 hours per week at £6.19 per hour. Cheque no. 100205 payable to R. Jackson for £321.88 was signed by three signatories.

c) Reimbursement of Clerks expenses over the last three months including postage, telephone, mileage, A4 paper and computer ink. Cheque no. 100206 made payable to R Jackson for £36.19 was signed by three signatories.

d) The clerk also requested that three signatories sign a letter to the Bank to allow her to collect mini-statements in order to complete the annual accounts to the end of March. This was agreed and completed.

11. Annual Parish Meeting on 17 April 2013. The speaker is Matt Edworthy from the Biosphere Reserve to talk about the North Devon Nature Improvement Area Project and how the Parish might get involved. Invitations will be sent to local organisation to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and give reports where appropriate. A Parish Council meeting will follow the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

a) Devon Towns & Parishes Digital Agenda to identify public access IT services and support, due to planned welfare reforms which requires customers to seek advise and claim benefits on-line. Milton Damerel does not have any such IT services and the survey will be completed and returned accordingly.

b) Private Sector Housing Renewal. An email from Wessex Home Improvement Loans who deliver affordable loan finance on behalf of Torridge District Council was read out and passed to Grace and the Newsletter for a possible article in the next edition.

(Cllr Alison Boyle left the meeting at this point)

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

a) Parish Clerk Vacancy. There has been no response to the advertisement in the newsletter or the notices on the notice boards. It was suggested that the local newspapers might be able to include the vacancy in their local news columns. The Clerk will investigate. DALC also display adverts free to members on their website.

b) Local Plan Part 3: Rural Areas. Grace went through the items from the power point presentation from the meeting on Monday attended by the Chairman and Clerk, which discussed strategy for rural areas. In the settlement hierarchy, Milton Damerel (actually Milton Town) and Venn Green have been identified as 'villages' however other settlements were also identified within the Parish by members as being of a similar makeup - they are: Holsworthy Beacon, Whitebear/Forestreet and Strawberry Bank. The parish facilities listed were mostly not in the 'villages' but scattered in the 'countryside'.

It was suggested at the session on Monday that there might be a place for a further definition between 'village' and 'countryside' e.g. hamlet/settlement. Grace will respond on this by the extended deadline of 22 March as well as including the other three settlements to be given draft development boundaries if possible.

The Neighbourhood Planning toolkit included census and planning data also maps which showed the draft development boundaries at Milton Town and Venn Green. There is an expectation of a 5% growth in housing rounded to a minimum of 5 dwellings in 'villages' up until 2031. The Parish Council has until 19 April to amend the boundaries if appropriate. This will be decided at the next Parish Council meeting on 17 April 2013.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm.