

Milton Damerel Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2013, commencing at 7.38pm

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

Also present Lorraine Buttery, Alison Boyle, Beth Simons & County Cllr Robin Julian who arrived at 7.45pm.

There were no other members of the public or press present.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Jim Richardson who was away on family business, PCSO Raquel Rowe who was not on duty and Mike Jackson (P3) who was at a Neighbourhood Watch meeting. John Webb apologised for arriving at 8pm having been delayed by family matters.

2. Chairman's Announcements

Grace welcomed Lorraine Buttery and introduced her as the new Parish Clerk from 1 July 2013.

It was agreed that item 8. Bluecoats would be heard after item 3. Public Comments, to allow Beth Simons to depart sooner.

3. Public Comments

a) Alison Boyle advised members that the Atlantic Array Steering Board is made up of 4 representatives from each of Torridge District Council, North Devon Council and Devon County Council. Due to her past experience Alison has been invited back as the only member of the Board not to be a Councillor or Officer. Alison reported that following public consultations the Atlantic Array Wind Farm application (approx. 240 turbines) was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 14 June and they have 28 days to decide if the application is acceptable for consideration. TDC & DCC are consultees and North Devon, as an interested party will register during the 14 day time scale for local areas to register. Alison explained that she would like to see community benefits packages available for the lifetime of the Array and not just during its construction stage. The project has received subsidies of £74m during 2012. If granted permission the project will take at least 5 years to develop.

b) Mike Jackson (P3) sent in a report to inform members that the ladder stile had been repaired and the invoice was due for payment. The condition of footpath 15 from Whitebear Farm has improved a little but wellies rather than boots are still required due to there being two particularly muddy sections. Progress on the board walk on footpath 16 is on hold until the new owners of the adjacent land, currently up for sale, are known.

c) Cllr Robin Julian is also on the Atlantic Array Steering Board and expressed his concerns about the efficiency and cost of wind turbines compared to hydro and wave power. The Atlantic Array is expected to be 35.5% efficient and cost between £1.1billion and £1.6billion compared to hydro or wave power costing £600million and 90% efficient and he felt that alternatives should be looked at. Cllr Julian also reminded everyone that highway problems can be reported on the DCC website.

As agreed above item 8 was brought forward

8. Report on the services offered by the Bluecoat Torrington Children's Centre. Beth Simons is the outreach worker covering part of Milton Damerel, the rest being covered by Holsworthy Children's Centre offering family support to and activities for children 0-11years during school holidays and 0-5years at other times. There is no school in the parish and there are only a small number of families with young children, however, Beth would like feedback on how local people wish to access services, possibly to bring some services to the Parish Hall. Beth would be put in touch with the Milton Monsters which is the local focus for children's activities.

Beth was thanked for her information and left the meeting.

4a. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on 15 May 2013. The minutes having been circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

4b. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 May 2013. The minutes having been circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

a) North Devon & Torridge Local Plan Part 3 – Rural Areas.

Grace reported that following the last meeting a response was prepared and circulated to Councillors for their comments before being submitted to Torridge District Council before the deadline of 1 June 2013.

b) The Parish Biodiversity Audit has been received on CD from Matt Edworthy of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve. The 'Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites' page of the report was distributed to members for their consideration. A follow up email from Matt was read out which needs to be considered, however it was agreed that all members should read the Audit report first. It was suggested that with the permission of Matt Edworthy the Parish Biodiversity Audit report might be put onto the miltondamerel.com website for any interested persons to view. The clerk will email to get permission to put it onto the website. If permission is granted then a note can be put in the next newsletter to inform resident of its availability. The Parish Biodiversity Audit and the questions raised in Matt's email will be considered at the next meeting.

c) The litter bin enquiry made to Street Cleaning on 4 June was passed to Michael Crocker at TDC but as yet there has been no response from him. The clerk will send a follow up email.

d) Steve reported that work on the bus stop flags would be completed by the August meeting as he was having a digger to clean a ditch which would also be used to remove the bulk of the surplus soil around the existing flags before the extra flags could be laid. Cllr. Robin Julian remarked 'excellent'

e). Parish Clerk Vacancy. Grace and Steve attended the interview together with S. Horn & C. Quance from Sutcombe Parish Council when they recommended that Lorraine Buttery be appointed to the Parish Clerk vacancies at Milton Damerel and Sutcombe.

6. Planning Applications

a) **1/0430/2013/FUL.** Erection of a single 500kw wind turbine, 50m to hub, 77m to tip, together with associated works and formation of access tracks to serve the development at Kingsford Farm (in the parish of Thornbury)

Due to time constraints Councillors were consulted by email and agreed that the Parish Councils standard response to wind turbines out of the parish should be sent: *We thank you for consulting Milton Damerel Parish, being adjacent to Thornbury Parish in which the development is proposed. The Milton Damerel Parish Councillors have no comment to make on this development provided that properties within the Parish of Milton Damerel that may be affected in any way by this development have been informed of the proposals.*

The Chairman gave permission for the following Planning Application, received since the agenda was produced, to be considered.

b) **1/0518/2013/FUL.** Conversion and extension of outbuilding to form an annexe – amended plans – proposed treatment plant sewage at The Meadows, Strawberry Bank. This is a resubmission of an application already given permission on 3 Jan 2013 in order to change the siting of the sewage treatment plant. Councillors had no objections to the amended plan and Planning will be advised accordingly.

7. Planning Decisions. There were no planning decisions to report

8. Report on the services offered by the Bluecoat Torrington Children's Centre. See above, after item 3 on this agenda

9. To consider depositing the old minute books with the County Records Office. Members agreed that some time in the near future the first three historic minute books of the Parish Council from 1894 to 2000 will be deposited for safe keeping at the County Records Office in Barnstaple along with two account books covering the accounts up to 31 March 1988. Members were advised that the books would remain the property of the Parish Council and could be borrowed if need be. Before taking them in, a phone call or email is advised to arrange for the hand over when a receipt should be provided.

10. Financial Matters

a) To pay invoice for the repair to the ladder stile at Whitebear Cottage from the P3 funds. Cheque no. 100212 made payable to Nicoll & Co (as per invoice request) for £235 was signed by three signatories.

b).To pay rent for use of Parish Hall for three meetings (April, May & June) Cheque no 100213 for £30 made payable to Milton Damerel Parish Hall was signed by three signatories

c) To pay Clerks monthly salary. Cheque no. 100214 payable to R Jackson for £107.30 was signed by three signatories

d) Reimbursement of Clerks expenses. Cheque no 100215 for £9.69 to cover the clerks expenses for the quarter including postage, telephone and petrol costs was made payable to R Jackson and signed by three signatories

e) Financial report to date. When all the above cheques have been presented there will be £1368.28 in the Parish Council generals funds, £183.02 in the ring fenced Step Back in Time fund and £754.32 ring fenced in Parish Paths Partnership (P3) funds making a total of £2305.62 in the Parish Council bank accounts.

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

a) Email from 'Devon Remembers'. It was agreed to have Milton Damerel removed from the mailing list.

b) Notification of P3 grant for 2013-2014 (?). This letter is to advise that £1600 has been paid in P3 grants, including £700 last year and £900 received very early April. Grants are usually paid at the end of the financial year.

c) Letter re error on re-issued Council Tax bills. New Council Tax bills have been issued due to an earlier miss calculation in the Parish Precept but unfortunately they failed to correct the percentage difference though the amounts due had been corrected. Milton Damerel Parish Precept has reduced by 1.1% , it was NOT an 8% increase as shown on the bills. Despite this error the bills are legal and corrections will not be issued again due to the cost.

d) Email from TDC re Textile & Media Recycling Banks. The parish is already well served with textile banks. No further action to be taken.

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

a) The clerk reported that a section of the wall on the bridge over Fishpool Lake at Strawberry Bank was broken off and in the water below. Simon Phillips at Highways will be notified of the damage.

b) Steve reported a trail of cardboard litter from Wheelers Cross to Milton Damerel on Tuesday 18 June, assumed to have been lost from the dump bag on the back of the SMR collection vehicle. The clerk will inform Ricky McCormack, TDC environmental services.

c) Following a consultation from DALC re Parish Council Mayors. It was agreed that a response would be sent that disagreed with the suggestion.

d) It was reported that a large caravan had been positioned in the front garden at Crossways, Strawberry Bank, it would appear that the property owners have already been in contact with planning concerning this matter.

e) And finally, this being the current clerks last meeting, on behalf of the Parish Councillors, Grace presented Roberta Jackson with flowers and a card for her retirement at the end of the month. These were received with thanks.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm