

# Milton Damerel Parish Council

## MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014 commencing at 7.30pm

Present Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chairman) Richard Piper (Vice Chairman), Grace Millman, Rose Haynes

Gareth Piper, Jim Richardson, John Webb and Lorraine Buttery (Clerk)

1. Apologies received from PC John Noakes and P.C.S.O Raquel Rowe

2. Chairman's Announcements

There were none.

3. Public Comments

Councillor Robin Julian arrived at 8.10pm he apologised for being late, the Chairman informed Robin that he could give his report as soon as the planning applications discussions were finished.

Councillor Robin Julian apologised for not attending the last few meetings but had been very busy with meetings and had been working jolly hard behind the scenes. The library in Bideford had been saved as had the Bideford Bay Centre for vulnerable children. Other centres in Bideford are staying open but the County Council is not spending any money on them, private funding is being sought for the centres to remain open. Councillor Millman asked if Holsworthy children's centre and library were staying open, Councillor said it was partially open in conjunction with the Bideford centre, he was not hundred percent sure about this as it was not his 'patch', he would make enquiries and email the Clerk.

Councillor Gareth Piper asked that by keeping these centres open at what cost to other services? Councillor Julian reiterated that private funding was actively being sought. Councillor Julian had some good news that from his 'budget' he had given £3800 to Bideford Football Club, substantial amounts to the Cricket Club, Woolsey and Hartland Parishes WW1 commemorations. He also urged the Milton Damerel Councillors to apply for grants for groups within the Parish.

Councillor Gareth Piper stated that with the onus of some work that Parishes might be asked to do wouldn't it be a good idea if fit and able people on benefits were asked to have a patch of verges/drains to maintain, Councillor Julian replied that there is a scheme being piloted where those convicted and given Community Service Orders are used to maintain highways etc.. If successful the scheme could be rolled out to Parishes, there would be gangs of approximately 8 persons the police are very keen on the idea. There would be a cost involved for the Parishes of a one off charge of approximately £100. Councillor John Webb commented how the verges are being cut, Councillor Julian replied that there is a criterion for cutting verges, these can be viewed on CSC road, complaints and comments could be emailed to [csc.roads@devon.gov.uk](mailto:csc.roads@devon.gov.uk)

The Parish Councillors also voiced their concern regarding the very poor state of the road between Gidcott Cross

And Bason Cross

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014. The minutes having been emailed to all Councillors prior to the meeting they were signed as being a true record of the meeting

5. Matters Arising

a) Dangerous exit –Crossways, Holsworthy Beacon, and the Parish Clerk informed the Councillors that she had had no further information from Tony Curtis from Devon Highways although she had emailed and telephoned. Mr Curtis had been on holiday until Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August; the clerk telephoned that day but was unable to speak to him, but left a message and was informed that Mr Curtis would phone her back. The clerk telephoned again on Wednesday The 20<sup>th</sup> August, Mr Curtis was once again unavailable and was then informed by his secretary that it would take up to 10 days to get a reply. The clerk was requested to contact the signs department to see if they can help as well as persevering in her efforts to speak to Mr Curtis. This matter was also brought to the attention of Councillor Robin Julian who said he would also look into the matter.

b) Archaeological dig, the clerk had written to Mr Rabbetts as requested at the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July for a copy of the written report regarding the 'dig', at the proposed development site, Mr Rabbetts informed the clerk that there are two small areas still to complete before a report can be finalised, he will send a copy as soon as it is available

c) Darlands – stable block, the clerk wrote to Nigel Marshall as requested at the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July his reply on the 25<sup>th</sup> July was "I have been made aware of this complaint by planning support who have taken calls from neighbours. I believe that the stables may well be a development permitted under Class E of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the 2008 amendment to the GPDO. A google search for GPDO 2008 will bring up the legislation if you are not already aware of it. I will raise this as an enforcement complaint and will visit the site as soon as possible and let you know the outcome". The clerk informed the Councillors that she had not heard any more. The Councillors discussed the issue further and it was agreed that in this instance the Parish Council although very sympathetic to the complaints were unable to help as the 'stables' were not classed as a permanent structure as they had no foundations.

6. Planning Applications

i) 1/10772/2014/FUL Proposed conversion of barn to dwelling and removal of hedge to provide visibility

Location: Lower Walland, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon

The above application was discussed and the following was unanimously agreed upon to end to Torridge

Planning dept:

*We thank you for consulting Milton Damerel Parish Council with reference to the above planning application. Milton Damerel Councillors unanimously support this development, being an appropriate use of a redundant building, **but** the Councillors voiced their concerns regarding the removal of the hedge bank.*

*At present there is a 'good run off' which relates to a water ditch along the road verge which crosses the entrance to Lower Walland and then into a piped drain, this is not always well maintained. If the drain is not well maintained in the future and with the removal of the hedgerow the consequence of this is the risk of flooding and in the event of very cold weather conditions, dangerous ice patches forming on the road, which would be very hazardous to both vehicles and pedestrians.*

- ii) 1/0802/2014/FUL Proposed Solar Array (5 Rows of panels between 75m & 100m long)

Location: Cross Farm, Holsworthy Beacon, Holsworthy, Devon. Application received after Agenda Printed and distributed, Councillor Gareth Piper declared an interest and took no part in the decision.

After discussion the application was voted on and the unanimous decision was to support the application, the Clerk will email this to Torridge before the deadline of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

7. Planning Decisions

- i) 1/0224/2014/FUL Proposed Replacement Dwelling.

Location: Pentreve, Milton Damerel.

Application was granted permission

Councillor Grace Millman stated that she had called on the residents of 'Springfield' who showed her their view of the new building at 'Pentreve', they were concerned with the height of the house. The original planning application and the comments made by the Parish Council were discussed and the error in the Delegated Report by Torridge Council was pointed out. "The ridge of the new build will increase from approx. 5m to 7.6m" The report then goes on to state "Given the current building lacks any architectural merit, and the good level of screening around the site, the relatively slight increase in height of 1.6m, it is not considered that the larger dwelling would have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the open countryside" This is a glaring error on Torridge's part as the difference between the original and the new build is 2.6m.

After discussion the Parish Council felt it time to write to Kate Little to express the Parish Council's views on this matter and also to ask "what is the point of the Parish Council sending their comments to Torridge if they are disregarded. We make decisions on the information that we are given and it seems that our comments and are irrelevant to any decisions made.

- ii) 1/0587/2014/AGRPD Proposal: Class Mb (a) Convert Agricultural building to residential

Location: Brenden Fields, Woodacott Cross, Holsworthy, Devon

Application refused

- iii) 1/0653/2014/FUL Proposal: Conversion of barn to residential and extensions (received after agenda circulated)

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

Application refused

8. Financial Matters

- a) A Cheque for the Clerks monthly salary of £138.66 was signed by three signatories although not on the agenda the Councillors agreed to sign a cheque for £19.29 being the clerk's expenses
- b) Financial report to date, the clerk reported that the balance of the current account is £1912.77 comprising of £1559.65 general parish funds, P3 funds £84.32, Step back in time funds ££183.02 and balance of TAP Grant £85.78

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

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| i) Devon Highways Town and Parish Conference | ii) TAP Fund-Hospice Long House Project  |
| iii) Connecting Devon & Somerset -Update     | iv) DALC August newsletter               |
| v) Community Council of Devon Conference     | vi) North Devon Journal Community Awards |
| vii) TAP Fund reminder                       | vii) Barnstaple Environment School       |

The above communications were distributed by email, no further action required except ii) in conjunction with vii) the clerk will look into the matter further and report back to the meeting in September with further information and the sum involved.

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

- i) The matter of 'The Oakes' was raised after complaints were received, building control had been there. The councillors voiced their concern to the fact that plans change after the consultation with the Parish Council and approvals given for the amended plans.

The questions were asked as to whether what has been built is strictly what planning permission was granted for. It was explicitly stated that the hedge would not be removed but this has not been adhered to. It would seem that what has been built is not a permitted development. The decision of the councillors was that these complaints would be incorporated within the letter as stated in 7i.

- ii) Reference footpath No 16, Whitebear Cottage to Holy Trinity Church and Methodist Chapel, comments were made that if stock were put in the field there would need to be a gate or some method of stopping livestock from going onto the boardwalk. The parish clerk was requested to speak to Michael Jackson the footpath coordinator.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.17 pm

Signed

Date

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