

Milton Damerel Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th October 2014 commencing at 7.30pm
Present Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chairman) Richard Piper (Vice Chairman), Grace Millman, Rose Haynes
Gareth Piper, John Webb and Lorraine Buttery (Clerk)

1. Apologies received from Jim Richardson

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.

His report was to use his own words 'not good news', the main focus of this was to do with recent meetings and Developments within the 'Highways Department', under consideration and consultation at the present time are the following:

- i) Parish Councils to have road wardens
- ii) Parish Councils to repair potholes, clean drains, ditches and to cut hedges.
- iii) To clean Road Signs

also being considered is that Parish Councils repair small lanes that are deemed 'beyond repair' with all materials being supplied e.g. Tar, chippings etc. The district council will supply 'Health and Safety Training', with the Parish Councils having no liability for any accidents, this would need to be in writing.

The 'lengthsmen' will no longer be employed.

Strotsworthy Parish Council have agreed to repair a road with the materials being supplied by the Highways department, once repaired the road would then be handed back to the Council.

Councillor Julian rounded off this subject by stating that 59million had been cut from the budgets of Councils, maintenance on roads in the future would be impossible if the current situation continued, and that at present there are no contingency plans if Parishes do not take up the District Councils proposals

Councillor Gareth Piper remarked that the Council was always saying that there is no money but they spent over £900,000 on the new roundabout at the junction for the Holsworthy Market, which was next to useless, with no foresight for the large vehicles that would be using it. Councillor Julian said that a bigger roundabout would have been better but the highways department 'run out of money'. The roundabout was deemed by all to be dangerous and councillor Julian ensured the Parish Councillors that he would bring the matter to the attention of the 'Scrutiny Committee'

On the Brighter side Councillor Julian said that he had spent a lot of money to help communities, especially the older generation in their own homes, also to get them 'out and about', this has all been achieved using his 'locality budget' And urged the Parish Councillors to think of ways that he could help the Milton Damerel community.

The suggestion was made that a Christmas Party be held for MD pensioners, with a grant to cover the cost, this idea will be looked into.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th September 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, all councillors had read the emails regarding this matter, it was suggested that the offending sign be placed above the directional signs, the clerk to send an email to highways making this suggestion. Councillor Robin Julian had broached the subject with Highways but had received no response.
- b) Planning matters: replies regarding letter sent to Kate Little, all Councillors had read the communications regarding this matter, the Clerk was requested to write back to planning stating "looking forward to hearing from you regarding 'The Oaks' and 'Pentreve'"
- c) Standing Orders, this is still under review.

6. Planning Applications

There were none.

7. Planning Decisions

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

Location: Cross Farm, Holsworthy Beacon, Holsworthy, Devon

The above application was granted permission.

- ii) 1/0772/2014/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 refused permission.

Planning Appeals

There are none

8. Financial Matters

- a) A cheque for Clerks monthly salary £138.66 was signed by three councillors
- b) A cheque for Clerks expenses of £37.22 (includes £15.00 for course at Barnstaple) as signed by three councillors. The bank balance of £1181.16 includes £183.02 Step Back in Time Funds, £84.32 P3 funds, £85.78 balance of TAP fund, leaving a balance of £828.04 PC general funds
- c) A copy of the accounts was given to each Councillor
- d) To acknowledge receipt of the second half of Precept £1753.00
- e) Although not on the Agenda it was agreed to sing a cheque for £80 for grass cutting the invoice being received after the agenda was distributed

9. Correspondence

- i) Long House Project – 10 Parishes £4349
- ii) Community News Round Up
- iii) DALC October Newsletter – Preparing for Election
- iv) Highways Review.
- v) James Pool- Church Parking
- vi) Devon Highways – Parish and Town Council Webpage

The above communications were previously forwarded to all Councillors no further actions are required except:

iv) Highways review- date for response to be checked.

v) James Poole: Parking near the Church- The Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse informed the Parish Council that James had also telephoned him, the parish Clerk to reply to the email and inform James that the matter was being looked into and he would be informed of further developments. A letter to Mr of Town farm to be delayed whilst the complaint regarding the overgrown hedge was sorted.

At this point Councillor Gareth Piper pointed out the email 'Tough Choices' regarding recycling had been omitted from the Agenda, the clerk apologised for the omission. The contents of the email were discussed and the decision was taken to respond to the Devon County Council regarding the proposed changes.

The Councillors stated that making charges for further household items would discourage recycling and the comments were made that it might encourage further 'dumping' of unwanted items. The staff at Anvil Corner gave no encouragement to residents to recycle with their unhelpful attitude.

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

1. Councillor John Webb Informed the Parish Council that he had had two complaints regarding the overgrown hedge: which is the boundary hedge to Town Farm, under the chestnut trees on the Church side of the garden gate, the matter was discussed and the Parish Clerk with the help of Councillor Grace Millman was requested to draft a letter to the owner with the request to cut the hedge back.
2. The Parish Clerk requested that she be reimbursed for parking fees for the Barnstaple day. The decision was unanimous That the £7.80 be added to her expense claim the next quarter. She also informed the councillors that she would be Preparing the Budget and the Councillors to think about the fact that there will be elections next year which could Result in a cost to the Parish Council. The clerk will look into this before the next meeting and before preparing the budget.
3. The subject of Holsworthy Hospital in patients beds for Community Care for people in need was raised by Councillor Grace Millman, this will be held over until the next meeting g.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40pm