

Milton Damerel Parish Council

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th September commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chairman), Richard Piper (Vice Chairman), Gareth Piper, Jim Richardson, John Webb, Rose Haynes, Grace Millman and Lorraine Buttery (Clerk).

1. **Apologies:**

P.C.S.O. Raquel Rowe

2. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman brought to the Councillors attention that there will be a coffee morning in aid of 'The MacMillan Cancer Trust', at Sutcombe School on Friday 26th September 9.30-11am.

Also all have been invited to attend the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the meeting at Lake House, Shebbear on October 9th and the formation of the 'Bible Christians'. Tea will be at 5pm in the Lake School room followed by the evening celebration

3. **Public Comments**

Councillor Robin Julian arrive a little late for which he apologised he gave his report after matters arising had been completed he reported on the following:

- 1) As Councillor Julian is Vice Chairman of the Highways Committee he would report the matter of the road signs not being visible. The highways had a duty of care to ensure all important road signs were visible and they should not expect the community to cut back on any roads that are 'over 30 miles per hour' - far too dangerous. He also commented on the fact that the majority of people are very fed up with the state of the roads, this will be discussed at the next highways meeting. Please notify Robin Julian of all complaints.
- 2) The NHS is on everyone's agenda, at the meeting on the 14th September at Holsworthy, Councillor Barry Parsons also attended.. Councillors want to keep local hospitals like Holsworthy and Bideford open, this is a 'cross party' subject as no-one in Central Government seems to be listening. Torridge District Council is all for keeping Cottage/Community Hospitals open as the infrastructure for 'Care in the Home' is not in place. Everyone would prefer to recover 'at home' but interim care is needed for those who cannot be cared for at home. Councillor Grace Millman pointed out that the visiting to Barnstaple Hospital for elderly people is very difficult And it is much better to have a local community hospital. There is no infrastructure for 'Care in the Home' with nursing shortage a big stumbling block. Hospitals are regularly employing 'agency nurses' at a very high cost. Councillor John Webb pointed out that NHS nurses enroll with 'agencies' because of the much better salary. Why can't the Government see that it would be cost effective to raise nurses salaries? Councillor Julian finished off by reminding Councillors of the locality budget and to come forward with ideas for grants.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19th August 2015, the minutes having been emailed to all Councillors prior to the meeting, were signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.

5. **Matters Arising**

- 1) email from Terry, this was the question of how long should the minutes of the Parish Council be held on the website? The Clerk informed the Councillors that she had made enquiries with Leslie Smith at DALC and the answer was six years.
- 2) The Chairman asked Councillors if they had any remarks to make regarding the cutting of the verges? All Councillors agreed that the work had been carried out efficiently and no complaints were voiced. Councillor Gareth Piper pointed out that some signs on the main road were not visible because of over grown hedges.

6. **Planning Applications**

- 1) 1/0915/2015/AGMB
Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to
1 no dwelling under class Q (a & b)
Location: Farm Building, Lower Walland, Milton Damerel, Devon
All Councillors had looked at the plans online and the above application was discussed, it was the unanimous decision of the Councillors to support the application. The clerk will post the remarks on-line
- 2) 1/0857/2015/FUL
Proposal: Agricultural Building
Location: Land Adjacent to Pentreve House, Milton Damerel, Devon
All Councillors had looked at the plans online and the above application was discussed, although the application was approved in principal the Councillors voiced their concern regarding the dimensions of the building in relation to the size of the property, also the effect on the landscape, the Clerk will send these observations to Torridge Planning.

7. **Planning Decisions (received after the Agenda was distributed)**

- 1) 1/0806/2015/FUL
Proposal Proposed first floor extension
Location: 1, Fore Street, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon
The above application was approved

Planning Appeals

There were none

Signed

Date

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8. Financial Matters

- a) Three Councillors signed a cheque for Clerks monthly salary £173.33 and expenses of £25.02 (21/05-21/08)
- b) An up-to-date financial report was presented to the Councillors. The Current account has a total of £2270.29 comprising of: Step Back in time fund £183.02, P3 funds £100, balance of TAP fund £85.78 and PC general funds £1901.49
- c) Three Councillors signed a cheque for £35 being cost of hall hire for meetings July-September and Parish Walk
- d) Three Councillors signed cheques for annual Grants to:
Milton Damerel Parish Hall £150
Milton Damerel Newsletter £100
Holy Trinity Church £100
Gardening Society £80
- e.) Three Councillors signed a cheque for £306.00 in favour of Clements Hill Farms for the invoice for the cutting of grass verges as decided at the meeting in August. The invoice was received after the agenda had been circulated.

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

- i) N.D.H.T Consultations; Safe and effective Care within our Budget
- ii) D.C.C Minerals Planning.
- iii) D.C.C. Community News Roundup iv) Say 'No' to junk mail
- v) Devon Communities Together Newsletter
- vi) DALC Update including Transparency Code Grant Funding
- viii) Neighbourhood Highway group new contacts
- viii) TAP Fund

The above correspondence was distributed to Councillors and no further action is required except for:

- i) The clerk to reply to the consultation with the preferred option of Holsworthy hospital staying open.
- vi) The Clerk was requested to apply for the grant if applicable. And obtain as much as possible.
- viii) It was the unanimous decision of the Councillors to join with Sutcombe Parish Council to apply for the TAP grant for the enhancement of both Parishes. The cutting of grass verges for the appearance of the Parishes and the safety of all residents. The clerk was instructed to apply as soon as possible.

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

- 1). The clerk brought to the Councillor's attention that the question of how long emails should be kept had been raised, it was agreed that three months is an appropriate time with important emails being specially filed.
- 2) The clerk informed the Chairman and councillors that she had been questioned by Councillor Ken Carroll at a meeting Sutcombe Parish Council regarding the keeping of a 'Conflict of Interest Book' that Councillors could sign at the beginning of a meeting. The clerk had received information from DALC that this was not necessary provided that the said 'conflict of interest' was noted in the minutes. To clarify the situation it was agreed that in future this issue would be a separate item on the agenda.
- 3) Councillor Gareth Piper reported that there was a dangerous excess of water on the road (A388) outside Cross Farm, This has been reported before, the clerk was requested to contact Highways department to report the complaint.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed

Date

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