

Milton Damerel Parish Council

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2015 commencing at 7.30pm

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

1. **Apologies:** none received

2. **Declarations of Interest**

a) Register of Interest: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

b) To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature: Councillor John Webb declared an interest in

9.e) Application for an annual Grant from the Holy Trinity Parochial Church and will take no part in the discussion or decision.

c) To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature

There were no other declarations

3. **Chairman's Announcements**

There were none

4. **Public Comments**

No members of the public were present but Councillor Robin Julian reported on the following:

- 1) Petition against the reduction in beds at Bideford Hospital, over 300 signatures had been collected, and presented to North Devon Healthcare Trust.

- 2) The state of Devon roads was again discussed, with the proposed cut backs it is highly unlikely that the situation will improve in the near future. Councillor Robin Julian reiterated that the Parish Council should still send in complaints, and emails to Stuart Halls.

- 3) Devolution, there has been much discussion regarding this subject and "it is going to happen", it is likely that Devon will be linked to Dorset and Somerset as Cornwall is not interested in linking with any other County. There will be a meeting in January with all political leaders, District and County Councillors attending to discuss the issues, decisions have to be made or central Government will just dictate the terms. Councillor Grace Millman asked the question "will this make the running of the Counties better", Councillor Julian replied that this is not known and he cannot speculate, but he would not like to see Devon 'carrying the can' for others poor service, he would like to be informed of any particular worries that the Parish Council might have as the Parish Council will not have a 'voice' in the decision, as it will all be made at County level.

- 4) With town halls given the power to charge up to 2% extra to pay for adult social care, council tax bills could rise by 4% a year without triggering a referendum of residents - up from the current limit of 2%, and the final increase could even be higher because of potential additional rises to help pay for police and fire brigades.

- 5) Councillor John Webb stated that with all the 'cut backs' that have happened and are going to happen why is it that all Councils have so much money in 'reserve'. Councillor Grace Millman replied that it is good financial management to keep money in reserve, Councillor Julian agreed and said that most of the 'reserves' are earmarked. Councillor Julian rounded off by saying that if the Parish Council had any worries at all they must contact him as that's what he is here for. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th November 2015, these having been circulated and read by all Councillors were signed as being a true record of the meeting.

6. **Matters Arising**

- 1) TAP Fund, application had been sent and had been approved
2) To date no quotes had been received, the Clerk was requested to contact John Binns to enquire where the new Notice board for the Church had been obtained.

7. **Planning Applications**

- 1) 1/1167/2015/FUL

Proposal: Removal of condition 3 of 1/0325/2015/FUL to allow permanent occupation.

Location: Wonford Farm, Woodacott Cross

The above application was discussed via email as comments had to be reported to Torridge Planning before the meeting.

The following comments were reported to the Torridge Planning Portal by the Clerk:

Thank you for consulting Milton Damerel Parish Council regarding this application.

The Parish Council support this application but on the basis that it is for the renewal of a 'Temporary Licence' for a period of 4 years, be for the personal occupation by the applicant and apply for his lifetime only.

The Parish Council do not support the granting of a licence allowing permanent residential use.

- 2) 1/1176/2015/FUL (Received after November Agenda was printed)

Proposal: Two Storey extension to side of dwelling

Location: South View, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon

As the application was only received on the day of the meeting, it was agreed that the Councillors would look at the application over the next day or so and pass any comments onto the Parish Clerk.

No objections and unanimous support was received by email from the Parish Councillors:

The clerk conveyed this decision on to the Torridge planning portal.