

# **Milton Damerel Parish Council**

## **Minutes**

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chairman), Richard Piper (Vice Chairman), Gareth Piper, Rose Haynes, Grace Millman, Jim Richardson 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..
  - c) To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature
- There were no declarations

3. **Chairman's Announcements**

There were none

4. **Public Comments**

No members of the public were present but Councillor Robin Julian attended and wished all a very Happy New Year and 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, and would be now presented to the Cabinet, it is the understanding that although 'beds' would be reduced to save money and improve services, there is no actual extra finance available to increase and improve the service for 'care in the home'. The nurses that are no longer needed at the hospitals concerned will be moved to community care.
- 2) Now that town halls have the power to charge up to 2% extra to pay 'vulnerable groups, council tax bills Are set to rise by 4% a year without triggering a referendum of residents - up from the current limit of 2%, as this is ongoing year to year final increases will be higher, the lower paid will be hit hardest
- 3) Torridge District Council have encouraged Parishes to get together to increase their 'voices' and be a bit stronger, but the Town Councils are hijacking this schemes as they want to be in charge, thus negating the idea of the Parishes being stronger. He finished off by saying that if the Parish Councillors have any complaints please let him know as often complaints are sorted much quicker when coming from him

Councillor Grace Millman asked Councillor Julian if any decisions had been made regarding the reduction of District and County Councillors, he replied "that central Government had made the decision to cut the number of County Councillors by two, this will be achieved by amending the boundaries that each Councillor covers. The decision regarding district Councillors has yet to be made."

Councillor Millman also complained that Milton Damerel Parish had not been consulted regarding the prospective closure of Sutcombe School and has it has a direct effect on the children of Milton Damerel she would like to know why? Councillor Julian replied "he did not know why but was appalled to hear this. He is very upset regarding the the closure of any 'small school' due to the effect it had on the whole community, the communications received he said " have been very wishy washy" and had complained bitterly. He will send copies of all emails regarding the subject and would keep the Parish Council informed of any further progress. The final decision it is believed will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015, these having been circulated and read by all Councillors were signed as being a true record of the meeting.

6. **Matters Arising**

- 1) Notice Board: Councillor Grace Millman reported that she had not as yet got a quote for a new board to be made. The Clerk had some quotes but the Boards with an acceptable price were aluminum and if this was used to replace the wooden notice board permission from Torridge Planning and/or Devon Highways would have to be obtained. The Clerk reported that she was concerned that the board might now be in danger of falling down, after discussion the decision was to accept Councillor Jim Richardson's offer of making a temporary repair.

7. **Planning Applications**

1/1177/2015/FULM

Proposal: 5 Megawatt solar park and ancillary development (on 14.6 hectares of land)

Location: Land at Bulkworthy, Devon

The above application was discussed and the unanimous decision was to send the following reply:

*Thank you for consulting Milton Damerel Parish Council regarding this application, the Parish Council has no Comment to make other than, we must be assured that any resident of Milton Damerel that this application might affect have been notified.*

Signed .....

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## 8. Planning Decisions

### 1) 1/1080/2015/FUL

Proposal: Retention of existing structure for use as a single garage, hobby room and as overspill  
Accommodation ancillary to the use of The Oaks  
Location: The Oaks, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon  
*Application granted permission*

### 2) 1/1081/2015/FUL

Proposal: Retention of 2 metre high wooden close boarded fencing  
Location: The Oaks, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon  
*Application refused*

### 3) 1/1139/2015/FUL

Proposal: Retention of Kennel Block for a maximum of 6 dogs and attached pig sty  
Location: The Oaks, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon  
*Application refused*

### 4) 1/1176/2015/FUL

Proposal: Two Storey extension to side of dwelling  
Location: South View, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, Devon  
*Application granted permission*

## Planning Appeals

There are none

## 9. Financial Matters

- a) Three Councillors signed the Clerk's monthly salary cheque for £173.33
- b) Three Councillors sign a cheque for £79.99 for the new printer as approved at the December meeting, the Clerk apologized for the error of stating £79.95 in the agenda, the invoice was shown to confirm the correct cost
- c) The Clerk presented all Councillors with a copy of the accounts with bank reconciliation, the balance of the bank is £3981.68 as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, this being £183.02 step-back-in-time fund, £84.21 P3 funds, £300 locality grant, the balance of £3414.45 being Parish general funds. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent the precept request to Torridge Finance Dept.

## 10. Correspondence as below and as available at the time of the meeting

- |  |  |                         |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| i) NHS Complaints procedure PALS                       | ii) Bideford & Ilfracombe Minor Injury Units |                         |
| iii) Holsworthy Area Advisory Group meeting 11/01/2016 | iv) Devon Air Ambulance – Night Flying       |                         |
| v) North Devon Records Office.                         | vi) Community News round-up                  | vi) M.Jackson –Poaching |
| vii) J.Fisher –development                             | viii) Queens Birthday Beacon 21/04/2016      |                         |
| ix) North Devon Neighbour Dispute Centre               |  |                         |

The above correspondence was distributed via email, no further action required except:

- iii) Holsworthy Area Advisory Group meeting 11/01/2016, Councillor Richard Piper had attended and reported that the road from Stibb Cross to Holsworthy Beacon is scheduled for repair in March/April, concentrating on the Woodford Bridge area but other bad areas would be improved, as this was scheduled for March 2015 the Councillors voiced their doubts and hoped that this time it would actually take place.  
The subject of 'dog fouling' was discussed and notices were given out for Parishes to display, the Parish clerk was asked to contact John Binns to get permission to display a notice in the Church notice board, as this was the area where there is a problem, also to display it in the Chapel notice board  
If there is a serious problem Torridge District Council will send an officer to investigate.

## 11. Urgent Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman

- 1) Footpath 15: Councillor Richard Piper informed the Parish Council that he had had an email from Mike Jackson Apologizing for not contacting him regarding this matter, but he had been very busy, he would contact him in the near future to set a date to discuss this matter.
- 2) Footpath 7: Councillor Grace Millman reported that there would be no more dumping of garden waste here. Grace also reported that the National Speed limit sign near the Milton Damerel sign had fallen down, the Clerk was requested to report this to Devon Highways.
- 3) Councillor Grace Millman said that she had studied the DALC information regarding 'Procurement of Audit for smaller Councils' and confirmed that it did not affect the Parish Council and the Clerk did not need to do anything about it. The Clerk thanked Grace for the information.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45.pm

Signed.....

Date.....

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