

# Milton Damerel Annual Parish Meeting

## Minutes

of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Parish Hall on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 The meeting commenced at 7.30pm. Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse (Chairman), Richard Piper (Vice Chairman), Grace Millman, Jim Richardson, Rose Haynes, John Webb, Gareth Piper and Lorraine Buttery (Clerk).

There were 6 members of the public present, District Councillor Robin Julian and P.C.S.O Raquel Rowe  
**Apologies** were received from Roger Copp, Pat Palmer and David Taylor

1) **Welcome and Introductions** by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr Stephen Moyse chaired the meeting and opened by welcoming the guest speaker P.C.S.O Raquel Rowe. Stephen also welcomed the members of the public and Councillors present who needed no introduction.

2) **DVD Presentation by P.C.S.O Raquel Rowe**

The DVD presentation was called 'Operation Jessica', this proved to be a very informative and moving presentation which concerned the fraudulent use of postal offers to trick vulnerable people out of their money. Jessica is the daughter of a pensioner who was tricked into parting with her life savings. Jessica is fronting the campaign to make people more aware of the dangers of fraud by unscrupulous criminals. Once a person has replied to one of the postal 'offers' and parts with cash, they are very often put on a 'suckers list' and then are inundated by different offers and scams promising they would win large amounts of cash.

Raquel stated that anyone could be victims of scams and all must be aware and try to protect those that might be drawn into the vicious circle of thinking that they will be big winners. The only winners are those that set the scams up. Raquel quoted that a person in the area had been the victim of fraud and over a period of 9 months was tricked out of £110, 00.00. Raquel emphasised that you should never give out personal details over the phone and remember the police or banks will never phone you and ask for bank details. If in doubt always hang up and use a different phone to the one that you were contacted on to continue the enquiry.

3) **Report from Parish Paths Partnership (P3)** Report given by Co-ordinator Michael Jackson

There is not a great deal to report about our footpaths over the past 12 months. All of our footpaths are currently open and no major repair works have been needed. The only works undertaken, apart from bramble cutting, is the re-siting of the finger post at Worden Cross, this is now out of the way of hedge cutting machinery. The pedestrian gate on footpath 16 has been replaced where it exits the Churchyard. The monthly inter-Parish walks, which come under P3 are going extremely well with about 20 people turning out regularly. Unfortunately the first walk in February had to be cancelled due to the gales. The walks are open to everyone and last approximately two hours, as they are frequently over muddy or rough ground suitable footwear is recommended. Michael asked if there were any questions- there were none.

4) **Reports from local organisations**

i) **Parish Hall:** The report was read out by the secretary Roberta Jackson: The Parish Hall Committee are grateful to the Parish Council for the regular financial support of the annual grant and hire charges for the monthly meetings. The hall is in regular use by the, Gardening Club, over 60's, line dancing, aerobics and Zumba classes. During the winter the skittle alley is used regularly by three skittles clubs. The programme of fund raising events such as , Wine & Wisdom, Whist and beetle drives are held regularly throughout the year, these are advertised in the notice boards and at various places around the Parish.

We are very grateful to the Church, Chapel and Sanders (Garage) for allowing us to display our notices. Although hire charges have remained the same for a number of years the rental income is still just covering running costs and minor maintenance. The Committee are very grateful for grants received from Councillor Robin Julian's locality fund (£2000) which was used towards the refurbishment of the Skittle Alley, and £400 from the Balsdon Trust which helped towards the new carpets. We would like to thank everyone who supports our events and would welcome new Committee members. The Parish Hall AGM will be held on Monday the 12th September and is open to all members of the community.

ii) **Neighbourhood Watch:** The report was read out by Michael Jackson on behalf of Roger Copp who sent his apologies. NHW continues to thrive with household member numbers currently standing at 97, which is an increase of 7% over the last 12 months. This is much better than Holsworthy and its rural Parishes, as a whole, which have seen a reduction of 5%, this mainly due to the area losing 5 watch schemes because the co-ordinators have left, and replacements have not been found. We have been lucky that Peter Fry has stepped in to take over from Jackie Beckles. Traditional types of crimes are very low in our area, but scams of all types are all growing rapidly. This is why our newsletter articles tend to concentrate on these types of crimes.

I would like to thank everybody for their continued vigilance in reporting strange vehicles that have been parked in the area and remind also continue to lock sheds, outbuildings and garages, as these continue to be high on the list of opportunist thieves.

**iii) Milton Damerel & District Gardening Club:** The report was read out by the Chairman Stephen Moyse on behalf the secretary Pat Palmer: At the first meeting of the club in March 2015 11 people attended, by the end of February 2016 there were 25 paid up Members. We are very lucky to have two expert gardeners as members, Nigel Alford and Richard Hart. The Annual show in September was very well supported with well over 200 entries. There were glorious displays of fruit, vegetable, flowers and craft from all around the area, with some wonderful pieces in the under 16years categories. The October and November talks were about Basic Gardening and autumn and winter colours for the Garden. We have organised various outings throughout the year and ended our calendar with a social get-together and quiz. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone including the Parish Council for helping us to have a very successful year.

**iv) Toddler Group:** Read out by Sheila Daniel:

We have now been going for about two and a half years and meet on a Tuesday morning in the Methodist Schoolroom. The lower room houses the toys and equipment and we use the large school room for 'ride-on' and bigger equipment and general running around. Numbers have built up again recently, with a new local family and others from West Putford and Newton St Petrock joining. At a recent meeting there were 11 children, this included two babies and a range of ages up to pre-school, as three of our 'regular' children will be moving onto school in September it is good to have some little ones. We have organised several trips this year, the Gnome Reserve, Soft play at Milky way and the local pottery at Little Torrington to name a few. We have been truly blessed to have a wonderful helper Debbie who along with myself have recently attended 'Safeguarding Training' which has given us greater confidence in our work with the children. We wish to thank the Parish Council for instigating the grant of £100 from Councillor Robin Julian's locality fund, this has been used to purchase chairs and a small Wendy house.

**v) Holiday Club:** Read out by Sheila Daniel:

This is a group that meets occasionally in the Methodists schoolrooms during school holidays. We had a New Year party in January and once again thank the Parish Council for instigating the grant of £100 from Councillor Robin Julian's locality fund, which went towards the cost of a very successful event. We have a varied programme from cooking to crafts and our grateful thanks go to our wonderful band of helpers. Jackie and I along with a couple of the Mums have attended safeguarding training.

**vi) Milton Damerel & District Over 60s:** No report received

Lesley Self commented that Colin Boucher stated that he was sending a report, the Clerk confirmed that she had not received it.

**vii) Newsletter Group.** David Taylor report was read out by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Moyse:

We continue to print quarterly editions, with 235 copies being distributed to households in the Parish and Abbots Bickington, Our thanks to all the volunteers that help deliver the newsletter each quarter. Our finances show receipts of £1302.38 and payments of £1178.44 a gain of £123.94. Advertising costs were not increased in 2015 as funds were sufficient to cover printing costs. Community groups continue to support us with interesting reports on their activities, for which we remain grateful, but we continue to have difficulties in encouraging input from individuals regarding content and presentation. Remember significant family events can only be included if we are made aware of them

**viii) Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council** A short report was given by Isobelle

The PCC, congregation and supporters of the Church thank the PC for their annual Grant. The funding goes much of the way to cover the costs associated with the maintenance of the Churchyard, its boundaries and the public footpath. It contributes to the cost of fuel for Private strimmers and other machines brought by supporters. Any remainder goes towards servicing costs to prolong the life of the 2 mowers the Church owns. I would add, most of the grant money ends up being spent locally, at local business, a double benefit for the same funds. The ongoing maintenance of the churchyard and footpath shows a strong community spirit to keep these public spaces in a good state of repair and the grant provides a level of recognition from the PC to all the church supporters for the work they undertake. Thank you to them and the PC.

**ix) Milton Damerel Ladies Skittles Team**

Milton Damerel Ladies Skittles team play in the Holsworthy & District Ladies Skittles League on Thursday nights. The twelve regular players are divided into two teams and reserves that step in when needed. The team has enjoyed playing in the newly refurbished Ally and have played away in various villages. Members of both teams attended the social evening in the Memorial Hall last October to celebrate 50 years since the formation of the league, presentations were made to a number of ladies who have been around since the first days of the league. The 'A' team has done very well this year coming top of division 2 and the 'B' team has done less well by ending the season near the bottom. At the annual dinner to be held in May the 'A' team will be presented with the trophy for the top of the league and also receive an award for the highest away score of 399 pins. The club is holding an end of season presentation evening when trophies will be awarded for highest score and average score for the season in each team. Not to mention the 'wooden spoon' for the lowest score of the season. The teams are self-funded by member's subs and donations (e.g. raffle prizes each home match) the funds are used to pay rent for The Parish Hall and also pay towards replacement of skittles and balls.

**6) Any other matters:** there were none

The Chairman congratulated all the representatives of local organisations for their successes of the year and wished them all every success in the future. He also thanked P.C.S.O Rachel Rowe for her very interesting presentation and closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15pm.

*Everyone was invited to remain for refreshments before the Parish Council general meeting commenced.*