

MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The digital Parish Council Meeting was held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1 September 2021

Present:

Parish Councillors Mrs Sheena Hudson, Mrs Esther Ridley, Ted Rodger, Mike Sharp
(Chairman in the chair), Matt Skillen and Mrs Alison Young

Stephen Rickitt – Clerk

1: Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, expressing regret issues meant that this was being held digitally.

2: Public Participation

No parishioners were present nor had any questions been emailed to the clerk.

3: Apologies for Absence

County Cllr Glen Sanderson and PC Andrea Teasdale had presented their apologies.

4: Declarations and Grant of Dispensations

Cllr Mrs Ridley declared her membership of the village hall committee.

Cllr Skillen declared that he was an employee of the applicant in Application 21/03083/FUL

5: Coronavirus

Councillors were not aware of any new issues affecting parishioners.

6: Report from the Beat Manager

PC Teasdale had sent the following report:

It's been relatively quiet recently with not many reports of poaching across the area, but Operation Hawkeye are still working addressing these issues. I have had reports about speeding vehicles in the area and motorbikes speeding along the rural roads and these complaints have been passed on to our operations department – but we are looking at this as well with speed deployment patrols.

7: Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Sanderson had presented his apologies but saying that if there are any issues with which I can help please let me know and I'll be glad to help if I can.

8: Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2021

These were approved as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman.

9: Any Matters Arising from the Minutes, not reported elsewhere

9.1 A new Seat for installation at the entrance to Fontside

The Council confirmed that a deposit of £450.00 could be paid to Twists 'N' Turns Woodcrafts. It was agreed to ask the Warden to see if the existing seat could be repaired over the winter with a view to it being placed on the wider verge to the east of Mitford.

Action SER

9.2 The main noticeboard

Cllr Sharp offered to make a new back and cork pinboard, an offer which was gratefully accepted by his fellow Councillors. Whilst the noticeboard is being repaired, the Warden will be asked to sand and paint the metal legs. **Actions Cllr Sharp, Cllr Skillen and the Village Warden**

9.3 Possible cuts to rail services

The Council was pleased to note that the proposed changes would not be implemented in 2022.

9.4 Streetlight MF 24

Councillors remain concerned about the streetlight MF 24 on the footpath between Fontside and The Plough Inn being obstructed by trees. The Council asked the clerk to continue to press the County Council to act, noting that the initial step of contacting the landowner was in progress. **Action SER**

9.5 Waste Bins

The clerk reported that the County Council had confirmed approval of the two revised locations, by the post box in Tranwell Woods and by the bench at Stable Green. He had therefore initiated the order for the bins.

10: Planning

The Council considered the following applications and commented as shown

Application	Resolution or Action
21/01314/FUL Tranwell House and Tranwell Cottage – New access	The Council agreed to draw the Local Planning Authority's attention to the concerns of neighbouring residents about the safety of a further access being allowed on this stretch of road with several existing accesses. The closure of the original access was welcomed but residents wonder why the property needs a separate entrance onto the road?
21/02976/LBC The Old Farmhouse Morpeth – Listed Building Consent for replacement windows	The Council had no issues of concern to express to the Local Planning Authority.
21/03041/SCREEN - The Whitehouse Centre Ltd Whitehouse Farm - Screening Opinion	Although the application is just outside the parish boundary, the potential development will have a significant impact on parishioners. Councillors asked that the Local Planning Authority require an Environmental Impact Assessment as well as a Traffic Impact Assessment which should include effects on the highway network within the parish (and beyond) and the appropriate safety measures which would be required.
21/03083/FUL – East Coldsdie – change of farm steading to four houses	The Council noted this was identical to the application considered at the meeting in February 2021 (20/0388/FUL) and resolved to repeat the comments made on that occasion, viz.– No objections were raised but the plans indicated that four well-established trees close to the hedges were to be removed. These are very close to the hedge line and thus should be retained as providing screening with appropriate conditions to protect their roots during construction works.

11: Erosion of the Riverbank at the foot of the Allotment

Cllr Sharp reported on his discussions with Phil Straughan who believes that the live willow posts and whips can be manually installed over two years with access from the path by the allotment. A proposed section sketch was displayed and met with approval. Cllr Sharp is to meet the Environment Agency to seek their confirmation that carrying out the work in this manner would not require their licence. It was agreed to ask Cllr Sanderson to consider earmarking part of his Members' Small Schemes Allowance to assist in funding this work. Mr Straughan will provide an estimate once the need for a licence has been clarified with the Environment Agency. **Action Cllr Sharp**

12: Highways

12.1 Potential Safety Improvements at Tranwell Village and Tranwell Woods

Cllr Mrs Hudson and the clerk met the design engineer from the County Council on Monday 12 July. He would be preparing potential safety schemes for consideration during the autumn. One aspect which emerged from the visit was the possibility that parts of the road network in Tranwell Woods may be subject to a 30-mph speed limit given the presence of streetlights. The engineer will have to measure the distances between the lights to see if they are less than two hundred yards apart. The clerk will chase up the speed survey results.

Action SER

12.2 Installation of gateway features

The clerk has informed the County Council that the Parish Council is willing to use the Highways Dept. for the installation of the gateway features and will continue to press for a site meeting to discuss the precise locations. **Action SER**

12.3 No parking signs at Fontside

Councillors gave further consideration to the possible installation of such signs. Councillors were not aware of any groundswell of opinion seeking such signs as parking is generally by residents and their visitors. After discussion it was agreed to take no action at this stage. The clerk was asked to seek information on the ownership of land which had been owned by Castle Morpeth Borough Council. **Action SER**

12.4 Abbey Mills – Signs and road markings - See below item 12.7

12.5 Water on Spital Hill

Councillors were pleased to note the recent works which had led to the road being dry for the first time in some months. It was agreed to send a message of appreciation to the Highways Dept. **Action SER**

12.6 The state of the B6343 through Mitford Village

Councillors were alarmed at the deteriorating condition of the well-trafficked route through the village and asked the clerk to continue to press the County Council to carry out repairs as soon as possible. **Action SER**

12.7 The Council's bids for funding under the LTPP 2022/2023

The Council agreed to make the following bids

- The investigation of safety and speed reduction measures on the B6343, including Abbey Mills
- The continuing programme of the installation of Gateway Features within the Parish

Action SER

13: Fibre Broadband

It is unclear whether the properties at Lightwater and Newton Underwood may remain to be connected. It was agreed this need not be a standing item on future agendas.

14: Financial Matters

The Council noted and adopted the current accounts and approved the following payments

- Gavin Christie – The Village Warden – May, June & July 2021 - £690.00
- Ian Sharp t/a Twists 'N' Turns Woodcrafts - Deposit for Oak Bench - £450.00 [see item 9.1 above]
- Glasdon UK Ltd – Two waste bins - £327.60 [see item 9.5 above]
- HCE Healthcare Equipment – Replacement battery and pads for the defibrillator - £119.95

15: The Website

Cllr Mrs Ridley advised that the Village Hall are creating their own website, but it was agreed there should be a link with a short explanation on the Council's site. **Action Cllr Mrs Young**

16: The Village Warden and other Environmental Matters

Cllr Mrs Ridley asked that the Warden tidy up the area around the Tranwell Woods post box. Cllr Mrs Hudson requested that the warden trim back the vegetation obscuring the Tranwell Village noticeboard. Cllr Mrs Young asked that he clear up the pathway between Fontside and the back of the Plough

. Action Cllr Skillen**17: The Village Hall**

Cllr Mrs Ridley had reported on issues during other items of business.

18: The 2020/2021 Accounts

The clerk reported that he had not been advised of any issues being raised with the external auditors on or before the end of the six-week period for inspection of the draft accounts for 2020/2021. The Council therefore resolved to confirm those accounts as final.

19: Correspondence

The clerk reported there were no substantive items which had not been distributed to Councillors.

20: Any other business

None, not raised elsewhere

21: Time and date of next meeting

The Council agreed to change their meetings to the first Monday of the month to avoid clashing with booking for the main room in the Village Hall as the Council wish to resume face-to-face meetings if possible.

The next scheduled meeting is on Monday 4 October 2021 at 7.30 pm

Further possible meetings are scheduled for

- 1 November 2021
- 6 December 2021

Confirmed as a true record

and signed by the Chairman Date

DRAFT