

Mitford Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

The Parish Council met at 7.30pm, on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at the Village Hall, Mitford.

**Present:**

Councillors: Vice Chair Mike Sharp (M.S), Matt Skillen (M.Sk.), Eric Dodd (E.D), Michael Jeans (M.J.) and Ted Rodger (T.R.)

Damian McEnroe (D.M.) - Clerk

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**1: Chairs Opening Remarks.**

Vice Chair M.S. welcomed all to the meeting.

**2: Public Participation.**

One member of the public was present.

**3: Apologies for absence.**

No apologies had been received.

**4: To receive the resignation of Councillor Alison Young and elect a new chair.**

Vice Chair M.S. announced that the chair, Alison Young had tendered her resignation from the council both as chair and councillor with immediate effect due to family circumstances.

A vote of thanks for all her work on the council was supported by all. M.S. will write to her with a letter of appreciation.

The need for a new chair was raised and M.S. volunteered to resume the role if supported. It was agreed unanimously that he perform this role.

As chair, M.S. then proposed that T.R. perform the role of vice chair, seconded by Councillor Skillen, to which T.R. agreed. This was also agreed unanimously.

It was agreed that E.D. would assume overall responsibility for the website, and that the facebook page would hopefully be managed by a parishioner who had been approached.

A new councillor would be required the Clerk will notify N.C.C. of this, with a view to advertising the vacancy. **ACTION DM 35/2023**

**5: Declaration of any interests and the grants of any dispensations.**

T.R. declared an interest in the village hall and M.Sk. an interest in Mitford Estate.

Part of **ITEM 16** was then brought forward and the council heard from Ms. Carole Burn, parishioner, regarding her concerns on the access to Ashford Grove on the B6343, and how stone walls at the

estate entrance restricted sight lines and fast-moving vehicles added to the issue of safe egress from the estate.

Ms Burn proposed that a solution to the sight-lines may be found by moving the walls back from the road edge and was hoping that the speed issue might be addressed with the help of the P.C.

M.S. stated that highway and planning permission consent may be required before moving the walls and that this should be sought by Ms Burn from N.C.C., and that the project would need to be self-funded. The P.C. would support the applications in principle.

Regarding potential speeding issues, the P.C. were already in discussions with N.C.C. about similar matters but, due to rules governing speed limits, it was unlikely that a satisfactory resolution may be achieved. Meanwhile the P.C. would enquire about a speed survey in the immediate area of Ashford Grove. **ACTION D.M.36/2023**

Ms Burn left the meeting at 8pm.

**6: Report from the County Councillor.**

None received.

**7: Report from the Police.**

One incident of antisocial behaviour had occurred but location and circumstances were unknown.

**8: Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**9: Any other matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda.**

The action list was discussed and all had been completed satisfactorily with the exception of 34/2023 which it was agreed would be subject to no further action.

At 8.10pm M.Sk. left the meeting.

**10: Financial matters.**

The previously circulated accounts were accepted.

The following payments were authorised:

Gavin Christie	Grounds Maintenance	£233.00
Damian McEnroe	Microsoft Office License	£24.95
NALC	Councillor Training	£30.00

**11: Parish Round-up.**

Karbon Homes Land – T.R. will drive this but clarity of what the P.C. seeks to achieve with the land is required. Could it become a car park? Could the bottle banks be moved? Can the land be transferred or leased to the P.C.?

After liaising with the last chair, Alison Young, M.J. will speak with David Towns for advice regarding

transfer or lease of the land. David has previously advised on registration of the village greens and transfer of the village hall and allotment to the PC. **ACTION M.J. 37/2023**

Turnberry House – Mr Davis, a Tranwell resident recently had one of his chickens killed by a dog which had escaped from Turnberry House via a fence-hole. The dog was owned by someone staying at the house. Mr Davis has already informed N.C.C. of the incident.

It was agreed the P.C. would await the findings of the N.C.C. regarding the current contravention notice served on the Turnberry House owner.

**12: Planning Applications, both current and new.**

<b><u>Application</u></b>	<b><u>Resolution</u></b>
23/02222/FELTPO Juniper Gubeon Wood	No issues identified.

E.D. stated that the parishioners of Tranwell thanked M.S. and his predecessor Alison Young for their hard work and their presentation at the public hearing regarding the NE1 Golf/Archers application, which had been rejected.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lancaster Park hearing was today. A second hearing for the housing application will be heard on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023. We have previously made a submission and M.S. will consider the need for a further submission **ACTION M.S. 38/2023**

Gubeon Wood Farm is a reapplication which was previously visited by M.S. and Alison Young. The P.C. has no issues with the current reapplication. M.J. will formulate a response **ACTION M.J. 39/2023**

All other applications had been commented upon by the P.C. and there was nothing further to add.

**13: Highways.**

Gateways – There is a commitment from N.C.C. to fund this project and add it into the Local Transport Plan. This may allow the P.C. to free up and use the reserved funds to purchase mobile speed limit signs.

Spital Hill Drainage – The only practical solution going forward is to manage the “run off” water and if the drains become blocked, to report them via “Fix my street”.

Fence and vegetation on the B6343 – After meeting with Martin King, it has been agreed that N.C.C. will cut back the vegetation, assess the fence damage and prepare a costing for repairs to which the P.C. may have to contribute.

Local Transport Plan (LTP) - submissions for the 2024/25 LTP are being sought by N.C.C. and it was agreed that Mitford P.C. would ask for:

- A) The “Mitford Steads” Rd in its entirety to be resurfaced, and
- B) The road passing east to west through Tranwell Woods from the north/ south junction to Bets Lane be resurfaced.

Both are due to the road surface collapsing. **ACTION D.M. 40/2023**

Parking under A1 flyover and the marking of parking bays. M.S. will liaise with Martin King, N.C.C. to take this forward. **ACTION M.S. 41/2023**

**14: Village Hall.**

T.R. gave an update on the energy resilience project for the hall, which involves solar panels and battery storage for emergency situations. It has been identified that any emergency lasting over 2 days then becomes the responsibility of N.C.C.

Meanwhile an application to the National Lottery for funding assistance has been unsuccessful, and it is thought that they are not currently supporting solar installations for village halls.

T.R. will liaise with Louse Curry of C.A.N to establish a way forward. **ACTION T.R.42/2023**

The village fayre was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June and despite a smaller than anticipated turn out, the weather was perfect, the bands melodious, and the hog roast well received.

**15: The Village Warden and other Environmental Matters.**

The new bench has been placed opposite the Plough Pub and looks very good. The removed bench is redeemable and permission will be sought from N.C.C. to re-site it within the Millenium Tree area.

**ACTION M.S. 43/2023**

**16: Correspondence.**

An invitation has been received from Morpeth Town Council for councillors to join them as they begin a review of their Local Neighbourhood Plan. M.S. and M.S. agreed to attend when possible.

Clerk to inform Morpeth. **ACTION D.M.44/2023**

**17: Any other Urgent Business.**

The Billy Elliott "Mitford in Need" charity needs two trustees nominated by the P.C. M.S., a current trustee will continue his role and M.Sk. has agreed to replace David Towns if the council agrees. This was agreed by all.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.45 p.m.

**18: Time and dates of next meetings.**

7.30pm, Wednesday at Mitford Village Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Confirmed as a true record and signed by the chair

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Date.....

Action Sheet

<u>Number</u>	<u>Action By</u>	<u>Description</u>
35/2023	D.M.	Notify N.C.C. Democratic Services to advertise councillor vacancy.
36/2023	D.M.	Liaise with Highways, N.C.C. re speed survey B6343.
37/2023	M.J.	Liaise with David Towns re Karbon Land ownership.
38/2023	M.S.	To consider a response to hearing for housing on Lancaster Park site.
39/2023	M.J.	To formulate a response re Gubeon Wood planning application.
40/2023	D.M.	To formulate response for LTP 2024/25.
41/2023	M.S.	Liaise with martin King, N.C.C. re car parking under A1 flyover.
42/2023	T.R.	Liaise with Louise Curry re village hall energy resilience funding strategy.
43/2023	M.S.	Liaise with N.C.C. to seek permission to re-site bench on Millenium walkway.
44/2023	D.M.	Notify Morpeth Council of Neighbourhood plan collaborators.