

## **MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the electronic Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on  
Wednesday 3 June 2020

### **Present:**

Councillors Mrs S Hudson, Mrs E Ridley, T Rodger, M Sharp (Chairman –  
presiding) and Mrs A Young

### **Also present:**

SE Rickitt – Clerk

*NB: "NCC" means "Northumberland County Council"*

#### 1: Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the third electronic meeting of the Council.

#### 2: Public Participation

The clerk reported that there had been no questions emailed to the  
Council's email address and no parishioners had requested log-in details.

#### 3: Apologies for absence

Cllr Skillen

NCC Cllr Glen Sanderson

PC A Teasdale

#### 4: Declaration of any interests and the grant of any dispensations

| <b>Councillor</b> | <b>Item</b> | <b>Reason</b>  |
|-------------------|-------------|--|
| Mrs E Ridley      | 15          | Parish Council representative<br>on the hall committee |

#### 5: Coronavirus

Councillors indicated that there had been no change since the previous  
meeting, the community continues to assist vulnerable and isolated  
parishioners. Councillors were concerned about the assistance to those  
shielding once lockdown ceases. The clerk was asked to make enquiries of  
NCC. **Action SER**

## 6: Report from the Beat Manager

PC Teasdale had sent her apologies. It was noted that the statement regarding rural crime had been read by over 250 people when placed on the Council's Facebook page.

## 7: Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Sanderson had sent the following report

Things continue to return to relative normality for our services from schools to older people care and in my areas of responsibility our car parks are open, we have Socially Distance signed our main towns, all but a couple of our public toilets are now open and work on our roads is going well - West Edington is done for some work soon - as we crack on with our large roads programme.

I suppose at the back of our minds is the possibility of a Covid return and if that happens it will probably cause further delay to all the work we want to see done.

This week we awarded the works contract for the Union Chainbridge - 200 years old this month - and the largest Heritage Lottery funded cross Council cross Border projects ever undertaken.

We hope to see work started on the bridge next month which will renovate and restore this beautiful and historic structure.

And we are moving forward on our Climate Change work - we are looking to install more EV chargers across the County this year and we may be able to make a modest start on our free tree offer. We have recruited an engagement officer to increase our dialogue with residents, groups and schools.

We open up our new cafe at Druridge Bay Country Park on Saturday morning for take away snacks only at the moment and I have included two new improvement schemes for extra car parking at Plessey Woods to meet the demand and at QE11 near Ashington where the car park is in a very bad state. The Parks generally have proved invaluable in recent months providing space, nature to enjoy, and fresh air - so I'm pleased we have invested in them over recent years.

Finally, I'm hoping we can get together with officers to look at a traffic calming scheme for Tranwell and before too long a walk around Mitford.

I will move both of these forward as soon as we can but currently there are virtually no staff at County Hall and face to face meetings are not happening.

## 8: Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2020

The minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman.

## 9: Any matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda

9.1 The clerk confirmed that no further information had been received regarding the proposed Bank Holiday Music Festival at Tranwell.

## 10 Planning

10.1 The Council considered the following application

*Planning Consultation 20/01740/VARYCO Mitford Water Treatment Works*

and resolved there were no matters to bring to the attention of the local planning authority.

10.2 The Council considered expressions of concern by parishioners regarding a development in Tranwell Village. It was suggested that the parishioners are advised to contact the building control and planning enforcement teams at NCC to ensure the structure is being built in accordance with the approved plans. **Action SH**

## 11: Highways

11.1 The walkaround with NCC Highways has been raised with Cllr Sanderson, see item 7 above.

11.2 The Council noted that the Mitford Road is to be closed to traffic to enable works to repair the erosion of the footway. Councillors asked that NCC be asked to confirm that the remedial works on Spital Hill and St Leonard's Lane are undertaken prior to the closure as this will be an alternative route. **Action SER**

## 12: Financial Matters

The Council noted the current accounts for 2020/2021. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

## 13: The Website

Cllr Mrs Young informed the Council that the new policy on lowering the Flag if requested on the day of a parishioner's funeral had received favourable comments, including one from a local undertaker.

## 14: The Village Warden

Councillors discussed a number of outstanding items of work to be brought to the attention of the warden. **Action ER and MSk**

## 15: The Village Hall

There was no further information to provide to the Council.

### 16: Seats and Noticeboards

The Chairman was authorised to seek quotes from local contractors for the refurbishment of the noticeboards and seats. Details would be circulated by email to Councils and subject to there being no objections to the cost, the Council agreed that the work could be undertaken prior to the next meeting. **Action MSh**

### 17. Time and date of next meeting

The Council noted next meeting was to be an electronic one held on Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Future meetings are

- 7 October 2020
- 4 November 2020
- 2 December 2020

Meetings may be cancelled if there is insufficient business

Confirmed as a true record

and signed by the Chairman..... Date.....