

## **MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 1 May 2019 in The Village Hall, Mitford.

### **Present:**

Councillors Mrs Esther Ridley, Ted Rodger, Mike Sharp (Chairman – presiding) and Matt Skillen

### **Also present:**

PC Andrea Teasdale (who left after presenting her report)

Three Parishioners

SE Rickitt – Clerk

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

#### 1: Election of Chairman

Councillor Sharp was elected as chairman for the forthcoming municipal year

#### 2: Declaration of acceptance of office

The declaration of office was completed.

#### 3: Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Mrs Ridley was elected as vice-chairman for the forthcoming municipal year.

#### 4: Chairman's opening remarks

These had been made at the preceding Annual Parish Meeting.

#### 5: Public Participation

Parishioners asked about the continuing failure of the streetlight on the alley between Fontside and The Plough Inn. Councillor Sharp assured them that the Council was continuing to press for repair. It was agreed that the Meeting's safety concerns would be sent to senior officials at County Hall, with a request for a site meeting. **Action SER**

#### 6: Apologies for absence.

Parish Councillors Mrs Sheena Hudson and Mrs Alison Young

The Rev. Alyson Lamb

NCC Councillor Glen Sanderson who had been present at the preceding Annual Parish Meeting and taken questions and comments from Councillors and Parishioners

7: Declaration of any interests and the grant of any dispensations

Councillor	Reason
Mrs Ridley	Council nominee on the Village Hall Committee

The Council agreed to grant Councillor Mrs Ridley a dispensation to remain, speak and vote during any discussions relating to the Village Hall. The dispensation was to remain in effect until the May 2021 elections.

8: Report from the Beat Manager

8.1 PC Teasdale reported on the continuing problems with poachers and rural crime. The clerk reported that NALC is to consider the Council's request for a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner at the June meeting of the NALC County Committee.

8.2 Anti-social use of off-road vehicles is an increasing problem with a reluctance on the part of the County Council officers to consider orders removing motor vehicles from byways.

9: Report from the County Councillor

Councillor Sanderson had attended the Annual Parish Meeting which had followed a lengthy meeting of the County Council that afternoon.

10: Minutes of the meetings held on 3 April 2019

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

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

11.1 In the absence of Councillor Mrs Young, it was agreed to defer consideration of the draft Banner policy until the next meeting. **Action SER**

11.2 There has been no response from Karbon Home regarding the former garages on Fontside. **Action SER**

11.3 The Council noted that no correspondence had been received from Morpeth Town Council regarding their proposals for a boundary review.

11.4 Councillor Skillen was pleased to report that the post for the former dog waste bin has now been removed.

11.5 The Council wished to record its appreciation to Richard Gill and Cathy Patterson for allowing The Plough to be used as the location for the defibrillator. The Chairman will write formal letters of appreciation. **Action Mike Sharp**

11.6 The Clerk reported receipt of an email that day saying that the cycle race on 9 June 2019 would not be starting from Mitford but would now be run out of Cambo.

## 12: Planning

The Council considered application *19/01138/FUL - Bramblings Tranwell Woods - Proposed erection of a single storey oak framed detached carport/workshop* – but Councillors had no observations they wished to be passed to the local planning authority.

## 13: Finance

13.1 The Council authorised the following BACS payments

- NALC – Annual Subscription - £124.39
- Pieter Vermaas – Internal Audit - £45.00
- HMRC – PAYE (Q1) - £112.50

13.2 The Council considered and confirmed the Risk Assessment and Assets Register. [Copies are attached to the signed minutes]

### **Action SER**

## 14: Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2018/2019

14.1 The Council considered the report of the internal auditor [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

14.2 The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement. [A copy of the draft is attached to the signed minutes]

14.3 The Council approved the draft annual accounts for 2018/2019 [A copy of the draft is attached to the signed minutes]

14.4 The Council approved the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances [Copies are attached to the signed minutes]

14.5 The Council confirmed and approved the Certification of Exemption [A copy of the draft is attached to the signed minutes]

15: The Website

In the absence of Councillor Mrs Young, this item was deferred.

16: The Village Warden

16.1 Environmental issues had been discussed at the preceding Annual Parish Meeting. Councillor Skillen will remind the Warden of the Fayre on 22 June 2019.

**Action Matt Skillen**

16.2 Councillor Mrs Ridley drew attention to cars being parked in a way which obstructs the footpath under the A1 Flyover. Councillors agreed to erect a simple post and chain fence to mark the footpath at that location. **Action Matt Skillen**

16.3 The clerk was asked to contact the County Council to ensure that there is a proper reinstatement of the verge at site of the current utility works by the former water treatment works **Action SER**

17: The Village Hall

A report had been presented to preceding Annual Parish Meeting.

18: The General Power of Competence

On consideration of a report from the clerk, a copy of which is set out below, the Council resolved that they satisfy the requirements and adopted the General Power of Competence.

19: Correspondence

The clerk distributed details of the surface dressing programme to Councillors and will send a scanned copy for placing on the website. **Action SER.**

20: Any other business

None – not noted above

21: Time and date of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting is diaried for Wednesday 5 June 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, but this is unlikely to be required. The next meeting is therefore likely to be Wednesday 3 July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Confirmed as a true record

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

## **Item 19**

### **The general power of competence**

Part 1 Localism Act 2011 gives local authorities a general power of competence. Section 1 Localism Act 2011 provides that "a local authority have power to do anything that individuals generally may do". Previously local authorities had to identify a specific statutory power before carrying out a function.

A local council may only use the power if they satisfy the criteria for eligibility set out in the *Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012* (SI 2012/965):

- At least two thirds of the members of the Council were elected (i.e. not co-opted)
- The clerk has a one of a list of qualifications and has had relevant training – I now have the Certificate in Local Council Administration (one of the specified qualifications)
- The Council resolved that it meets the order's conditions.

A local council must confirm eligibility at subsequent annual meetings.

Before the Council can use the power, it has to consider, inter-alia,

- no other statutory power sets out restrictions,
- the proposed use is not prohibited,
- it is not altering the Council's governance arrangements
- any charging complies with the detailed rules.

Possible uses of the power:

- creation of a flood insurance scheme
- having prayers at the start of a meeting
- paying a larger grant than be permitted under section 137 Local Government Act 1972.