

MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2 October 2019 in The Village Hall, Mitford.

Present:

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

Also present:

SE Rickitt – Clerk

NB: "NCC" means "Northumberland County Council"

1: Chairman's opening remarks

All were welcomed to the meeting.

2: Public Participation

No parishioners were present

3: Apologies for absence

Cllrs W Rodger and M Skillen

Rev. A Lamb

PC A Teasdale

NCC Cllr G Sanderson

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

Councillor	Item	Reason
Mrs E Ridley	16	Parish Council representative on the hall committee

5: Report from the Beat Manager

PC Teasdale had provided the following report

There is an increase in reports of poachers and vehicles on land – although this wet weather has curtailed the vehicles! We have the details from Matt Skillen about a car he had seen. I spoke with another Gamekeeper on Sunday and he said they've had males with dogs on their land during the

daytime as well as at night. I would advise you do not approach people and phone 101 or 999 if appropriate and report these incidents. We have a weeklong rural crime action week starting on Sunday so hopefully we will get some success from that.

There are no crimes of note in the area – but we are having issues with persons and property being egged again. There are reports of this happening all over the area – there were 3 in Hadston yesterday. It's happened in the town centre and out near Meldon recently as well. Hopefully this will not happen to you but please try and get a registration number if it does and we can then take action against those responsible.

If you need anything from me – let me know!

6: Report from the County Councillor

6.1 Cllr Sanderson had provided the following report

Good morning - I am attaching the results of the speed monitoring you asked me to organise for Tranwell.
You will see that the 30-mph limit is being exceeded.
Although this will go to the Camera Van section of the Police (NSRI) my experience is that they will not want to deploy for the relatively small numbers of vehicles involved.
So, I will probably need to see what our traffic calming section think might be done - I think it will need a contribution from my members schemes budget and that is almost spent for this year.
I will pop a note around the village to explain that the Parish Council and I have been working on this together and that I will arrange a meeting re traffic calming once we hear back from NSRI which will take a month or so probably.
I will circulate some possible dates, but I expect it will be early November.
I hope this is helpful.
Meanwhile, I have to be at Lynemouth PC for some issues they have on the evening of your meeting, but I don't have a great lot to add to my update I gave at your last meeting. But let me know if I can help with anything.
And I will see Mike and whoever else might be coming next Friday at our 0915 rearranged meeting at County Hall.

6.2 The speed monitoring figures are in the following message sent to Cllr Sanderson

Dear Councillor Sanderson,

Following your request please find enclosed a copy of the speed survey results.

Following the analysis of the results. I can inform you that the results have met the criteria required by the Northumbria Safety Roads Initiative (formerly Camera Partnership) for consideration of additional enforcement measures. I have therefore forwarded the data to them.

Given that the 85th %iles are 35.1mph for northbound vehicles and 35.2mph for southbound vehicles, we would forward this information onto Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative in this instance because they fall inside the Association of Chief Police Officers limits.

With regard to ACPO limits – NSRI can only enforce at sites where the 85th%ile is at or above ACPO limits which are Speed limit + 10% + 2mph. Surveys are only sent to NSRI where the 85th%ile (25h) speed is at or above the following limits.

- 20mph = 24mph
- 30mph = 35mph
- 40mph = 46mph
- 50mph = 57mph
- 60mph = 68mph
- 70mph = 79mph

7: Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2019

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

8: Any matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda (Items numbers are those in the minutes)

8.1 - Item 8.2 – The Chairman has written the letters of appreciation in connection with the defibrillator.

8.2 – Item 8.2 – Councillor Skillen will contact the Warden about a modest fence under the A1 flyover. The Council confirmed this should be done at the agreed cost estimate of £194.00. **Action MSk**

8.3 – Item 6.4 – Cllr Mrs Hudson and the clerk will endeavour to see if there is any written commitment by NCC to provide a sign at Tranwell Court. **Action SH & SER**

9: The Boundary Review being suggested by Morpeth Town Council

No consultation had been received.

10: To consider the outcome of the two workshops seeking ideas for improving the Parish environment

10.1 Cllr Rodger had provided the following report

I have to proffer my apologies as I am unable to attend tomorrow evening's meeting due to a late holiday booking (just made on Monday).

I am aware that the subject of environmental improvements was to be discussed.

As you know I submitted a report on the two meetings to the last PC meeting and that captured the specifics of all that was discussed.

In my opinion the sentiment of the meetings were different.

Tranwell

The main concern was clearly road safety, specifically speed reduction. There was an awareness that there was a lack of opportunity for the community to come together and there was some appetite for any scheme that could provide the spark.

Mitford

Road safety was again a concern but there was enthusiasm for simple visual improvements such as refurbished notice boards and bench seating. Floral embellishment around village signage was also a popular and practical idea.

I hope these comments are of some benefit and once again apologise for my absence.

10.2 Councillors present first considered potential improvements in Tranwell Village having the benefit of photographs provided by Cllr Mrs Hudson. Having regard to the issues in Cllr Sanderson's report, the Council agreed that the mock-gate gateway features were the preferred option with improvements to the verges.

10.3 It was agreed to request Cllr Rodger to organise a similar meeting in the vicinity of Tranwell Woods in consultation with Cllr Mrs Ridley. Subject to that meeting, the Council was minded to install similar features at the entrances to Tranwell Woods. **Action ER and TR**

10.4 Councillors then discussed gateway signs/features on the approaches to Mitford, having the benefit of indicative sketches provided by Cllr Mrs Young. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes].

10.5 One on the wide verge on the north side at the A1 Flyover could include a planter as there is the space to erect a structure without it being a road safety hazard.

10.6 On the other approaches to Mitford space is more restricted, and planters may well have to be smaller and incorporate the existing 30 mph signs.

10.7 A feature at the top of Spittal Hill would assist in slowing traffic and NCC would be approached to consider this (or part-funding) as part of the safety work being sought by the Parish Council in its bids for funding in the LTPP 2020/2021.

10.8 Councillors have seen entrance features to other villages in Northumberland which incorporate planters, and all present were asked to take photographs of any which seemed potentially appropriate for Mitford.

Action All

11: Planning

11.1 There no new applications for Councillors to consider

11.2 The Chairman reported that the landowner has agreed in principle to dedicate a cycle route from the farm bridge over the A1 to St Leonard's Lane as and when consent is given for the developments on land to the west of Lancaster Park.

12. Highways and Street Lighting

Councillors noted an apparent increase in fly-tipping around the parish and, in particular, garden waste at Highford Bridge. **Action SER**

13: Financial Matters

13.1 The Council noted the current accounts for 2019/2020, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes.

13.2 The following payments were approved

- G Christie – Village Warden (July/August/September 2019) – £408.00
- Came & Co – Insurance - £349.94
- HMRC – PAYE Q2 - £111.50

14: The Website

Cllr Mrs Young reported on her continuing work to refresh the website.

15: The Village Warden

It was agreed to receive a report for consideration as part of the budget process at the November meeting. **Action SER**

16: The Village Hall

Cllr Mrs Ridley updated the Council on the works to the kitchen which are currently in hand and a successful MacMillan Coffee morning.

17: Correspondence

The clerk had circulated significant emails received since the previous meeting and tabled various items of information material for Councillors.

18: Any Other Urgent Business

Cllr Mrs Ridley asked the clerk to make enquiries about an apparent farm conversion in a neighbouring parish. **Action SER**

19. Time and date of next meeting

The Council agreed the following programme of meetings

- 6 November 2019
- 4 December 2019
- 8 January 2020
- 5 February 2020
- 4 March 2020
- 1 April 2020
- 6 May 2020 – this will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting

Meetings may be cancelled if there is insufficient business

Confirmed as a true record

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