

MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3 July 2019 in The Village Hall, Mitford.

Present:

Councillors Mrs S Hudson, Mrs E Ridley, W Rodger, M Sharp (Chairman – presiding) M Skillen 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

PC A Teasdale

NCC Cllr G Sanderson

Rev. A Lamb

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

Councillor	Item	Reason
Mrs E Ridley	15	Parish Council representative on the hall committee

5: Report from the County Councillor

5.1 Cllr Sanderson had emailed as follows

In June we agreed to declare a climate change emergency. This is a big word to use but having spoken to many young people and heard their views I felt emergency is appropriate.

As part of this we have committed to reduce the Councils carbon footprint by 50% by 2025 and to work with Government to achieve carbon neutrality for the County as a whole by 2030.

Additionally, we have set up a multi organisation steering group which will bring forward an Action Plan laying out key actions for the next three years. I will be chairing this group.

Yesterday I met Climate Action Northumberland members and took their petition.

As well as some other initiatives we hope to introduce a pilot kerbside glass recycling trial this year which, if it's successful, we will roll out across more of the County next year.

Work is continuing well on our County Hall refurbishment programme and the new school nearby.

Our Parks improvement programme is proceeding well - we have just completed a new bird hide at Bolam Lake as well as other improvements there, put in a new play area at Plessey, and will be refurbishing the cafe at Druridge Bay over the winter.

Our roads programme is well underway with surface dressing repairs in Hepscott.

We will be starting on our new car park at Morpeth station once the work is finished on the building and we are looking at other sites for extra car parking in the town.

5.2 The clerk was asked to contact Cllr Sanderson to see if he had had any further information about the speed surveys in Tranwell as residents in both Tranwell Village and Tranwell Woods remain extremely concerned.

Action SER

6: Report from the Beat Manager

6.1 PC Teasdale had emailed as follows

There have been reports of suspicious vehicles in the area and we have had thefts from further afield in the Morpeth area so please be vigilant. A horsebox was stolen from Widdrington and after a short chase stopped in Ashington a few weeks ago. The car towing the horse box had false plates ready to put on it so they could take it out of the area. Fortunately, this was returned to its owner, but it is worth considering wheel locks or other devices to immobilise any trailers that you have to prevent thefts.

The poaching is an on-going issue and there is still work around establishing a rural crime team to deal with the issue as it generally goes hand in hand with other rural crime like the above.

I have been in touch with the Council and our Camera Van unit with regards to speeding in the village. The van will not deploy due to locations it can/cannot park however we will continue to address this issue as operational commitments allow.

6.2 Councillor Skillen reported that he now sits on a Police Working Group looking at rural crime.

7: Minutes of the meetings held on 1 May 2019

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

7.2 The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were noted. The Council was pleased to note that the streetlight, in the alley from Fontside to The Plough, was now functioning.

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

8.1 - Item 11.1 – The draft policy on the banner will be considered at the September meeting. **Action SER**

8.2 – Item 11.5 – The Chairman is to write letters of appreciation in connection with the defibrillator. **Action MSh**

8.3 – Item 16.2 – Councillor Skillen will contact the Warden about a modest fence under the A1 flyover. **Action MSk**

9: The Boundary Review being suggested by Morpeth Town Council

The Council considered the draft report from the Town Council and agreed the following response [attached to the minutes](#)

~~**TO BE INSERTED**~~

10: Planning

10.1 The Council considered *Application 19/01362/REM - Land West of Lancaster Park - Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for proposed 150 residential* and resolved to make the following comments

The Council considers that the application accords with the outline permission for the site and the draft Northumberland Local Plan as now submitted for examination but asks that the following issues are taken into account and conditioned as appropriate.

1: Affordable and Rented Dwellings

The Council is delighted to see the percentage remains at 30% and trusts this will be secured as firmly as possible as this was one of the principal reasons which lead the Council to support the outline application due to the lack of affordable property (to rent or buy) within the parish. The Council asks that there is a local allocation policy for these properties to try to ensure they are available for local people.

2: Cycleway Link to St Leonard's Lane

The Council's examination of the plans has revealed no provision for this outside the site boundary. Such a link is important as it provides a non-motorised route to Mitford with its village hall and pub. We believe that the Plough Inn will be the nearest pub to the development. The Council asks that this link is secured by a Grampian Condition.

3: Site Lighting

As stated in the Council's response to the outline application, Councillors were concerned by the potential for existing Lancaster Park residents to be adversely affected by light from the application site. The technical detail on this issue is complex and beyond the knowledge of Councillors. The Council asks that the Local Planning Authority robustly tests the applicant's expert report in this aspect.

10.2 There were no further applications to consider.

11: Highways and Street Lighting

11.1 The clerk was asked to report another pothole at the entrance to Fontside and the blocked gully at the foot of Spittal Hill (which may be an issue with the non-return valve at the river). **Action SER**

11.2 Councillors Mrs Hudson and Mrs Ridley asked that NCC be chased up regarding the provision of the "Private Road" and "No Tipping" signs as previously promised by the County Council. **Action SER**

12: Financial Matters

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

12.2 There were no payments requiring approval.

13: The Website

CLlr Mrs Young reported on actions to refresh the website including items on the history, especially for Tranwell. Others present will pass on various items for consideration. **Action All**

14: The Village Warden and Future Environmental Projects

14.1 Councillor Rodger updated the Council on the two forthcoming meetings on 23 July at the Village Hall and 24 July at the Pegasus Centre. Councillors approved the actions taken and agreed to assist with leaflet delivery. **Action All Cllrs**

14.2 The Council agreed to ask the Warden to carry out work in Tranwell at the junctions.

15: The Village Hall

Cllr Mrs Ridley updated the Council on the changes in the Management Committee and the success of the funding application for the improvement work. She will remind the Committee of the need to invoice the Council for room hire. **Action ER**

16: Correspondence

The clerk had circulated significant emails received since the previous meeting.

17: Any Other Urgent Business

None

18. Time and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4 September 2019

Future meetings are

- 2 October
- 6 November
- 4 December

Meetings may be cancelled if there is insufficient business

Confirmed as a true record

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