

MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4 December 2019 in The Village Hall, Mitford.

Present:

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

Also present:

PC A Teasdale – who left after presenting her report

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

Rev. A Lamb

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

5.1 PC Teasdale advised the Council that opportunistic thefts from unlocked cars were increasing. Parishioners are urged not to leave vehicles unlocked not to leave valuable items on display.

5.2 The police are concerned that they do not have a true picture of crime in the rural areas as crimes are often not reported. Suspicious activity should also be reported as this assists in providing information on

potential offenders undertaking reconnaissance visits prior to committing an offence.

6: Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Sanderson had presented his apologies.

7: Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2019

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 October minutes)*

8.1 – Item 8.2 – The Warden had erected a modest fence under the A1 flyover but sadly this had been removed within a few days. The Council reluctantly concluded a further fence would also be removed. After debate, it was agreed to request NCC to paint hatched markings and “Footpath” (or similar) to see if this would deter cars from obstructing the footpath. **Action SER**

8.2 – Item 8.3 – Cllr Mrs Hudson and the clerk had been unable to find a written commitment by NCC to provide a sign at Tranwell Court and it is understood that the residents will now purchase and erect one.

8.3 – Item 10.3 – Cllrs Mrs Ridley and Rodger had discussed the potential for a meeting of Tranwell Woods residents but concluded that attendance would be unlikely. A leaflet will be prepared and distributed seeking views. **Action ER & TR**

9: The Boundary Review being suggested by Morpeth Town Council

9.1 The consultation had been delayed until January because of the General Election.

9.2 The Council considered the likely issues to be placed in the Council’s response following a paper circulated by the Chairman.

9.3 The clerk will prepare the first draft and aim to email this to Councillors prior to Christmas. **Action SER**

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

10.1 The Council gave further consideration to the erection of gateway features for Mitford, Tranwell Village and Tranwell Woods.

10.2 After discussion it was agreed that the clerk should seek indication costs from Glasdon following perusal of their catalogue. The preferred style would be white and include the 30 mph sign together with a statement that the sign has been provided by the Parish Council. The clerk will also contact NCC to see what their conditions would be for allowing such signs within the highway verge. Councillors felt that a consistent style within the parish should be sought. **Action SER**

11: Planning

11.1 The Council commented upon the applications listed below

A: 19/03997/FUL - *N1 Golf Centre Tranwell Woods - Change of Use of land at N1 Golf Course to Tourism Site Comprising up to 20 pitches - no objections but*

- There should be a condition prohibiting permanent residence
- The lodges should be wooden or wood-faced and only single storey
- The two pitches immediately adjacent to the site entrance should be deleted or relocated to provided better screening from the road

B: 19/04443/AGTRES - *Convert single storey agricultural brick building with dual pitched slate roof to single bed dwelling using existing openings. - Land West of Coach House, High House Road* - Whilst the Council had objected to the self-build estate on this field, this application was stated to be within the terms of the permitted development rights allowing the conversion of redundant agricultural buildings. The Council asked that the local planning authority carefully scrutinise the proposal to ensure that it was a redundant agricultural building and all the conditions in the permitted development order were satisfied.

C: 19/04659/FUL - *New access and gate to field - High House, High House Road* - The Council had no objection to this as it was the relocation of an existing field access to a safer location with the current access being blocked up

11.2 The Council noted the continuation of the examination into the Draft Northumberland Local Plan.

12. Highways and Street Lighting

12.1 Councillors were pleased to note that the drainage and other remedial works on St Leonards Lane and Spittal Hill were due to commence on 16 December 2019 and wished to record their thanks to

Cllr Sanderson for facilitating the meetings with NCC staff leading to this work being programmed. The clerk was asked to check that the road was on the gritting route pending resolution of the drainage problems. **Action SER**

12.2 The Council was concerned that NCC's attempts to conduct a speed survey in Tranwell Woods had been thwarted by the apparatus being criminally damaged. The clerk was asked to contact NCC to see if there are other ways of monitoring speed at that location. The Council also noted the correspondence between Cllr Sanderson and a parishioner on this issue, sharing the frustrations of the parishioner. **Action SER**

12.3 The need for a site meeting with Highways officers and Cllr Sanderson is awaiting the outcome of the surveys but may be necessary to hold give the issues above. **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 Council agreed to release the reserved sum of £1800 to Mitford Village Hall as a grant towards the current refurbishment.

13.3 The following further payments were approved

- G Christie – Village Warden (October/November 2019) – £444.00
- HMRC – PAYE Q3 - £11.50

13.4 The Council debated the clerk's report on the budget and precept for 2020/2021. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]. Noting that there had not been an increase in the precept for some years and the wish to carry out environmental improvements around the parish, the Council set the budget as shown in the table below and agreed to levy a precept of £8500 [Eight thousand five hundred pounds] in 2020/2021

Budget Head and Number	Budget for 2020/2021
Clerks Costs including PAYE [1]	2300.00
Misc. Expense & Fees [2]	100.00
Insurance [3]	400.00
Legal /Audit /Subscriptions [4]	300.00

Village Warden [5]	2000.00
Hall Hire [6]	200.00
Support Payments [7]	500.00
Village Hall or Community Works [8]	5000.00
Contingency [9]	250.00
Website [10]	300.00
Total	11350.00
Precept	8500.00
<i>Balance from reserves</i>	(2850.00)

14: The Website

Cllr Mrs Young reported on her continuing work to refresh the website with new pictures and the promotion of various activities within the parish.

15: The Village Warden

15.1 It was agreed to delay a decision on retendering the contract due to the work involved in responding to the forthcoming boundary consultation (see item 9 above)

15.2 The work on mowing verges in Tranwell Village was appreciated.

16: The Village Hall

Councillors were pleased to observe the redecoration currently in progress.

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

A parishioner had asked about the potential for the reinstatement of a bus service and the clerk was asked to make some enquiries. **Action SER**

19. Time and date of next meeting

The Council agreed the following programme of meetings

- 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

The meeting provisionally earmarked for 8 January 2020 was cancelled.

Meetings may be cancelled if there is insufficient business

Confirmed as a true record

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