

**MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4 July 2018 in The Village Hall, Mitford.

**Present:**

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

**Also present:**

Morpeth Town Councillors D Bawn and R Wearmouth

NCC Councillor G Roughead – Chairman of NCC’s Town & Parish Liaison Working Group

4 Members of the Public

[All the above left after item 7]

The Rev. A Lamb – Vicar of Mitford

SE Rickitt – Clerk

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

**Part One – Public Session**1: Chairman’s opening remarks.

All were welcomed to the meeting.

2: Public Participation.

Members of the public participated in the discussion on item 7.

3: Apologies for absence.

Councillor W Rodger

NCC Councillor G Sanderson

PC A Teasdale

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

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Reason</b>
None		

The clerk stated he was a resident of Morpeth for the sake of transparency.

## 5: Report from the Beat Manager

PC Teasdale had sent her apologies

## 6: Report from the County Councillor

Councillor Sanderson had provided a written report as follows

I can report that the jobs that you would like us to do on St Leonard's Lane - the planings at the junction, a passing area, and the 30 roundels are in the system now that the road has been repaired and surface dressed.

Any issues please let me know and I will help if I can -

Stephen might report on the cycle event and the meeting I called at County Hall?

*[See items 9.2 and 9.3 below]*

## 7: The Boundary Review being suggested by Morpeth Town Council

7.1 The Chairman welcomed Morpeth Town Cllrs David Bawn and Richard Wearmouth to the meeting, who thanked the Parish Council for their invitation. The following minute is a summary of a frank and robust discussion. It was accepted that the final decision on boundaries is for the County Council, irrespective of the views of either Council and that such a review might extend its remit beyond what might be sought by the Town Council.

7.2 Cllrs Bawn and Wearmouth explained the Town Council's purpose in seeking the review was to take account of the expansion of Morpeth beyond the current administrative boundaries with the new housing already under construction or where planning permission has been granted. In their view, these sites form, or will form, part of the town and it was only fair that they should contribute to the services provided by the Town Council. In response to concerns about the Town Council's approach to this review, they stated that a proper process was required within the Town Council and this meeting was part of their consultation with other parish councils.

7.3 If there was to be a formal *Community Governance Review*, the Town Council would like it commenced in early 2019 which does give an opportunity during Autumn 2018 for further informal discussions to take place.

7.4: The discussions evolved into two distinct parts

### A: Existing Dwellings

The Parish Council articulated residents' concerns that they would lose their connection to Mitford, the increase in council tax and a fear that taking the boundary west to the AI would open High House Road and Abbey Mills more susceptible to pressure from developers. Cllrs Bawn and Wearmouth indicated an

understanding of those concerns and agreed to suggest to the Town Council that the existing boundaries with Mitford should remain so that all current dwellings were not transferred into Morpeth. **Action DB & RW**

#### B: Land west of Lancaster Park

This land is broadly the area shown as Area E on the plan presented to the Town Council albeit now with a modification to exclude existing dwellings along the southern edge.

Cllrs Bawn and Wearmouth indicated a wish to resolve the boundary for this land ahead of dwellings being occupied. In their opinion, houses in Area E would be marketed as being in Morpeth and occupiers would consider themselves to be inhabitants of the town using its facilities.

Parish Councillors pointed out that residents of parishes beyond the Town Council's proposed boundaries also use the town and asked if they too should form part of Morpeth? Cllrs Bawn and Wearmouth sought to draw a distinction between the suburbs and those rural communities, believing that Area E would be suburban in nature.

Following discussion, Cllr Sharp suggested, with the approval of fellow Parish Councillors, that the Town Council be invited to call a meeting of the parishes within the Neighbourhood Plan area to explore what other options there may be rather than just seeking a change in the boundaries. Cllrs Bawn and Wearmouth agreed to take this to their next meeting of the Town Council's F & GP C'tee.

#### **Action DB & RW**

#### 8: Minutes of the meetings held on 2 May 2018

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

8.2 The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were noted.

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

9.1 - Item 8.3 – The clerk is to contact the police about a demonstration of the camera van. **Action SER**

9.2 - Item 9.2 – The British Time Trial Championships held on 28 June 2018 – Cllrs Mrs Hudson and Mrs Ridley had received no reports of any difficulties experienced by residents of either Tranwell Village or Tranwell Woods. Cllr Mrs Ridley was pleased to report that there was no rubbish when she walked part of the route the following day.

9.3 – Item 9.3 - St. Leonards Lane and Spital Hill - Councillors were pleased that the resurfacing and road marking had now been carried out. Outstanding works are

- The advisory 30 mph signs at the top of Spital Hill
- Permanent warning signs at the bend towards Fairmoor
- Filling the ruts at the junction of St Leonard's Land and the link to the A1.

### **Action SER**

9.4 - Item 11.2 – The Mitford Telephone Box – The clerk reported that NCC have no current usage data – that would need requesting from BT. Cllr Mrs Young will be carrying out the consultation in due course. **Action AY**

9.5 – Item 13 – The General Data Protection Regulations – Cllr Mrs Young and the clerk confirmed that the notices are now on the website

9.6 – Item 21.1 – Fly-tipping in Tranwell Woods - The clerk will forward an email about the anti-dumping signs to Cllr Mrs Ridley. **Action SER**

9.7 – Item 21.2 – Village Flags – The Chairman was pleased to report these had been obtained and one is now flying on the flagpole. The clerk was authorised to invoice Mitford Estates and the Cricket Club for their share of the cost (the latter being offset against any grant payable). **Action SER**

### 10: Planning

10.1 The Council was advised that NCC had refused *Application 18/00250/OUT - Land At Tranwell Airfield C153 At Gubeon Plantations Tranwell Woods NE61 3YJ - Outline Planning Permission with All Matters Reserved for four detached dwellings with associated garages, parking and garden areas* which had been the subject of a joint objection with Whalton Parish Council.

10.2 There were no new applications to consider. The following applications had been circulated since the previous meeting and NCC advised that the Council had no objections

- TPO Felling Application 18/01931/FELTPO - Acorn Lodge, Gubeon Wood
- 18/01900/FUL - Warwick House Tranwell - Proposed erection of ancillary garden building

10.3 The clerk reported receipt of the draft Local Plan pack from NCC which was handed to the Chairman. The Council authorised the clerk to make representations to NCC regarding the need for settlement boundaries for both Tranwell Village and Tranwell Woods, especially in the light of the recent judgment by the Court of Appeal in R (oao Tate) V NCC on 29 June 2018.

### **Action SER**

### 11: St Leonard's Lane / Spital Hill

See *Item 9.3 above*

## 12: Street Lighting and Highway Issues

See item 9.2 above

The Council was advised that NCC should be sending out their request for schemes for the *Local Transport Policy Programme 2019/2020* and Councillors were asked to think of possible works. **All Cllrs**

## 13: Financial Matters

13.1 The Council noted the current accounts for 2018/2019, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes.

13.2 Three BACS payments were approved

- Mitford Village Hall - £250 – Grant towards cost of the Fair - retrospective
- NALC - £119.97 – Subscription for 2018/2019 – Retrospective
- Broxap - £197.94 – Purchase of new waste bin

13.3 The Council asked the clerk to prepare a draft of a revised Grants Policy to include possible dates/timings for the submission of applications. **Action SER**

## 14: The Website

Cllr Mrs Young will provide a report to the next scheduled meeting. **Action AY**

## 15: The Village Warden

15.1 Cllr Skillen will chase up the erection of the noticeboard in Tranwell Village. **Action MSK**

15.2 Cllr Sharp will chase up the repairs to the village green following the recent electricity works. **Action MSh**

15.3 The warden was asked to consider repairs to the fences along the Mitford Road. **Action MSk**

## 16: The Village Hall

Cllr Mrs Ridley reported that the kitchen and redecoration estimates are circa £18,000. After discussion the Council agreed to offer a contribution of £1800 [One thousand eight hundred pounds] subject to the Hall raising the remainder. **Action SER**

## 17: River Bank Erosion

The Chairman was pleased to report the removal of the overhanging chicken shed. He will be taking photographs of the bank for the next scheduled meeting as there may have been further erosion of the bank above the boulder clay. Cllr Skillen will attend to the reduction of the witch elm. **Action MSh & MSk**

18: Correspondence

The clerk reported receipt of a letter from Karbon Homes that day giving details of their grounds maintenance teams which he will circulate to Councillors.

**Action SER**

19: Any Other Urgent Business

19.1 Cllrs Mrs Hudson and Mrs Ridley both expressed concern over the noise from a recent wedding. After discussion, it was understood that this was likely to have been a one-off event but the clerk will make discrete enquiries. **Action SER**

19.2 There was some disappointment at the turnout for the village fair. At the Chairman’s request, Cllrs Rodger and Mrs Young will offer assistance to the organisers. The Rev. Lamb indicated her willingness to assist as well. **Action Rev. AL, WR & AY**

19.3 The Rev. Lamb took the opportunity to invite Councillors and Parishioners to an open day at the Vicarage on 8 September 2018 to foster greater community involvement. Councillors were also pleased to hear that the parts of the Churchyard visible from the road are to be mown.

20. Time and date of next meeting

In the absence of urgent business arising, it was agreed to cancel the August meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5 September 2018.

Confirmed as a true record

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