

MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5 February 2020 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:

SE Rickitt – Clerk

NB: "NCC" means "Northumberland County Council"

1: Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman was saddened to report the death of Billy Elliott, the first Honorary Freeman of the Parish. Councillors reflected on his decades of service for the whole community.

2: Public Participation

No parishioners were present

3: Apologies for absence

PC A Teasdale

NCC Cllr Glen 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 sent the following report

I am aware of the vehicles getting stuck at Mitford which have either been poaching – I imagine – or off-roading. We have had several reports of poaching across the area and it is really important that you get these reported via 101 so it highlights where the issues are.

There have been some thefts of heating oil and diesel recently – a car was uplifted by police in Stobhill on Wednesday evening with syphoning equipment – this had no current keeper so will be destroyed.

The cold callers have been in the area again trying to sell household goods – please do not buy anything of these people as they are not registered to do it.

There are also scam callers pretending to be the police or the tax office asking for banking details. Never give your details out over the phone or in response to any emails – either go to your branch or through the website directly.

6: Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Sanderson had been delayed elsewhere but the clerk was able to inform that Council that the B6524 Gubeon to Whalton Road was in the NCC programme for surface dressing during 2020/2021.

7: Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 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

8.1 The clerk reported on a meeting he had with Neil Snowdon of the NCC Highways Dept. It had been suggested that there be a visit to various sites around the parish to consider the various issues raised by the Parish Council. This was agreed by the Council to take place after the forthcoming works on Spital Hill and St Leonards Lane. **Action SER**

8.2 Councillors agreed that the following sites should be on the itinerary

Community	Location	Issue to be considered
Mitford		
	Beneath A1 bridge	Better indication of the footpath
	Entrances to Mitford	Installation of Gateway features – sizes and locations
	Spital Hill & St Leonard's Lane	Outcome of the expected works

	The B6343 – Morpeth to Mitford Road	Resurfacing required, especially in the vicinity of the Spital Hill junction, and potholes at other locations within the parish
	Roads generally	The need for frequent gulley clearing and/or repairs
Tranwell Village		
	Entrances to the Village	Installation of Gateway features – sizes and locations
	Road through the Village	Speeding traffic and equestrian & pedestrian usage
Tranwell Woods	Roads through the Woods	Speeding traffic and how to take speed surveys in the light of vandalism to monitoring equipment

9: The Boundary Review being suggested by Morpeth Town Council

9.1 The consultation had commenced by NCC. A draft response had been prepared by the Chairman and the clerk and circulated to Councillors. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

9.2 The draft was agreed with some minor amendments being suggested. Authority given to the clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to amend the text and submit a final version to NCC. **Action MSh & SER**

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

There were no further issues to report until the outcome of the site visits with NCC Highways Dept. *See item 8 above*

11: Planning

11.1 The Council considered the following applications but considered there were no matters they wished to draw to the attention of the local planning authority

- 20/00044/FUL - Land North West of Craik Park High House Road - Building of an agricultural shed for the purpose of lambing farming on site with associated access and hard standing
- 20/00299/NONMAT - Mitford Water Treatment Works - Non-material amendment (to replace approved plan no 5) on approved planning application 19/00249/VARYCO.

11.2: *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* – the clerk reported this had been withdrawn at the applicant's request.

11.3 The clerk reported a recent paper by a think-tank reputed to be close to Number Ten on the planning system.

12. Highways and Street Lighting

See item 8 above

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 reserve £900 to Mitford Village Hall as a grant towards the replacement of the floor.

13.3 The following further payments were approved

- G Christie – Village Warden (December 2019/January 2020) – £420.00
- SE Rickitt – Clerk's 2019 Admin expenses - £68.68 (paid by cheque)

14: The Website

Cllr Mrs Young had no new issues to bring to the Council.

15: The Village Warden

Councillors were happy with the service being provided and favourable comments had been made by parishioners.

16: The Village Hall

Councillors were pleased to observe the redecoration recently carried out and to hear the encouraging news that bookings were increasing.

17: Correspondence

The clerk reported a survey from NALC on anti-social behaviour and petty crime. Councillors provided information for this to be completed on-line.

Action SER

18: Any Other Urgent Business

At the previous meeting, the clerk had been asked to make enquiries about the potential for the reinstatement of a bus service. Although this is unlikely the clerk is attending a forum with the bus companies in his capacity as the NALC Officer and will report back. **Action SER**

19. Time and date of next meeting

The Council noted the following programme of meetings

- 4 March 2020 – only to be held if there was urgent business requiring a meeting
- 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.....