

MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5 September 2018 in The Village Hall, Mitford.

Present:

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

Also present:

PC A Teasdale - [Who left after item 5]

SE Rickitt – Clerk

NB: "NCC" means "Northumberland County Council"

Part One – Public Session1: Chairman's opening remarks.

All were welcomed to the meeting.

2: Public Participation.

No members of the public were present.

3: Apologies for absence.

Councillor Mrs E Ridley

NCC Councillor G Sanderson

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

Councillor	Item	Reason
None		

5: Report from the Beat Manager

5.1 PC Teasdale advised the Council of a very recent burglary within the parish. Active enquiries are underway but vigilance is urged. If parishioners notice suspicious activity then that should be reported to the police as soon as possible.

5.2 There have also been reports of aggressive selling by itinerant traders in the more rural parts of the area and again parishioners are advised to call the police if "NO" is not taken for the answer.

5.3 Anti-poaching operations are underway in the area.

6: Report from the County Councillor

6.1 Councillor Sanderson had provided a written report as follows

I am going to struggle to make it tonight so probably apologies please.

The Contractors made a disappointing job of filling the side of the road at the junction so we will return and make a better job along with the passing place.

Busy as usual - verge cutting and weed spraying this year have received a lot of compliments which is good and I hope you are happy with the service you've had.

Preparing now for winter - filling grit boxes etc. begins soon.

We are now in the structural patching programme using the £1.2 m taken from the LTP this year and there are two teams of contractors plus our own staff cutting out sections of potholes and relaying with much more permanent repairs.

The surface dressing programme is now complete and we have done some work for Gateshead Council in addition to our own.

We are now in the early stages of Budget setting for next year and need to find around £38/40 million more in savings over the next two years.

I will cover that at your next meeting if I can make it or give you a written update.

As always - if I can help with anything please let me know.

Best wishes

Glen

6.2 With the exception of the junction above, where a hard surface is suggested because of damage caused by turning lorries, the Council asked that their thanks be passed to the County Council for the work done to repair the potholes. **Action SER**

7: The Boundary Review being suggested by Morpeth Town Council

The Chairman advised the Council that no further information had been received from the Town Council. A meeting of the Town Council's relevant committee was due that evening and the Chairman or clerk will circulate the draft minutes when they become available.

8: Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July May 2018

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

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

9.1 - Item 9.1 – The clerk reported an offer for the camera van to be demonstrated in the pub car park. Following discussion it was agreed that the clerk will contact the police about a better location. **Action SER**

9.2 - Item 9.4 – The Telephone Box – no usage data is available from the NCC who would have to ask BT. Discussion then turned to the location for the defibrillator kindly given to the Council. The clerk will seek advice on whether security cabinets are available with a view to then asking BT if one could be collocated within the box along with the telephone. Mobile reception is notoriously poor in that area of the parish and thus a landline would be needed to contact the emergency services. The local consultation on the future of the kiosk would be delayed until that advice had been obtained. **Action SER**

9.3 – Item 9.6 – Fly Tipping in Tranwell Woods – the Council was advised that NCC staff had been asked to contact Councillor Mrs Ridley to discuss possible location(s).

9.4 – Item 15.1 – Councillor Mrs Hudson was delighted to report that the noticeboard had been erected in Tranwell Village.

10: Planning

10.1 The Council adopted the responses sent in to NCC regarding Applications *18/02462/OUT Land North West of Spital Hill Lodge and 18/02851/FELTPO – Tree felling at Bromily, Gubeon Wood*

10.2 The Council considered *Application 18/02925/VARYCO seeking to amend garage plans at land south east of Tranwell House, Tranwell Woods, the permission being varied is 15/03212* and resolved that the Council had no issues to bring to the attention of the local planning authority.

10.3 The Council adopted the response to the draft Northumberland Local Plan, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes.

11: St Leonard's Lane / Spital Hill

See Item 12.1 below

12: Street Lighting and Highway Issues

12.1 The Council was advised of receipt of NCC's request for schemes for the *Local Transport Policy Programme 2019/2020*. After discussion the

Council agreed to ask that remedial work to the drainage at the 90 degree bend on St Leonard's Lane be included within the programme. **Action SER**

12.2 The clerk was asked to report a number of minor highway issues to NCC

- A broken and/or blocked gully opposite the Plough Inn Mitford
- A blocked gully in the layby outside the Blacksmith's Cottage
- A blocked gully on the B6343 west of Mitford Hall near the large layby

Action SER

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 Two BACS payments were approved

- Gavin Christie – Village Warden - £558.00 - retrospective
- HMRC – PAYE Q2- £112.50

13.3 The Council agreed revisions to the Grants Policy, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes.

13.4 No issues having been raised during the period for public inspection of the accounts, the Council formally resolved to adopt the accounts for 2017/2018. A copy is attached to the signed minutes.

14: The Website

Cllr Mrs Young is waiting to hear from the Parish Church about cross-linking the two websites.

15: The Village Warden

Cllr Skillen is to ask the warden to resume grass cuts and to remove the post for the dog waste bin formerly on the Mitford Road. **Action MSK**

16: The Village Hall

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Ridley, there was no report given.

17: River Bank Erosion

The Chairman described the erosion by comparing a photograph taken in Spring 2017 with one taken recently. It seems the recent heavy rain has washed away the root ball which had provided some protection to the land below the allotment. There has been no further erosion at the site of original concern, namely the bank directly below the playground at the rear of the village hall, but a considerable amount of rock and loose material has been swept away from the site of the old root ball directly below the allotment exposing roots of the wyth elm. The Chairman will continue to monitor the position. Councillors were pleased to note that residents were no longer tipping green waste onto the river bank with the consequence that natural vegetation was spreading and assisting in providing stability to that portion of the bank. **Action MSh**

18: Correspondence

The clerk tabled some items for Councillors to take away.

19: Any Other Urgent Business

19.1 The Chairman will provide the clerk with a copy of the report on the tree which needs pruning to avoid problems with the electricity cables. The clerk will then provide a copy to Northern Powergrid. **Action MSH then SER**

19.2 Councillors were concerned at the state of the former garages site at the bottle bank on Fontside. The clerk was asked to contact Karbon Homes to seek information on their future intentions for the site. **Action SER**

20. Time and date of next meeting

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 November 2018.

Confirmed as a true record

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