

MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6 February 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:

NCC Cllr G Sanderson – who left after item 5

PC A Teasdale – who left after item 6

One parishioner – who left after item 2

SE Rickitt – Clerk

NB: "NCC" means "Northumberland County Council"

1: Chairman's opening remarks

All were welcomed to the meeting.

2: Public Participation

2.1 One parishioner was present who expressed grave concern at the state of Spittal Hill in the recent snow and ice. Vehicles continued to use the route as a shortcut to the A1, including those over the weight limit.

2.2 The Chairman explained that Spittal Hill had been salted as a temporary measure during construction of the Bypass but despite the best efforts of the Parish Council had been removed from NCC's list of routes for salt spreading.

2.3 Cllr Sanderson invited the parishioner to email him with details of the incidents and concerns, with a copy to the Parish Council. He would then arrange a meeting with relevant officers and the parishioner. **Action GS**

3: Apologies for absence

Rev. A Lamb

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

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

5: Report from the County Councillor

Councillor Sanderson updated the Council on several issues, including

- The anti-littering campaign which will be repeated in 2019
- The waste strategy is being reviewed and may include the return of kerb-side glass recycling
- NCC are looking into the potential for a North of Tyne Food Waste Biodigester with Newcastle and North Tyneside Councils
- Some car parks will have charges introduced in order to raise funds for improvements to the NCC car parks
- Details of the LTPP Programme for 2019/2020 had been sent to Parish Councils – see item 11 below
- There will also be a programme of renewing white lines

6: Report from the Beat Manager

PC Teasdale reported several issues including

- The continuing anti-poaching operations
- A surprising number of incidents where domestic premises are being “egged”

7: Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2018

The minutes of the 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 - Item 8.2 – The Telephone Box and Defibrillator – The Defibrillator Case has been purchased and delivered. The electrician is due to install the case within the following week. The landlady of The Plough as agreed to be the “responsible person” for the defibrillator. It was agreed that the telephone box should remain as the phone would be needed given poor mobile reception in the village.

8.2 – Item 8.3 – River Bank Erosion – Cllr Skillen believes that Northern Powergrid have made access arrangements with the Mitford Estate and the work should be carried out in the near future.

8.3 – Item 8.4 – Former garages at Fontside – Cllr Mrs Young provide a plan which she will forward to the clerk. Councillors agreed to ask Karbon Homes to consider a low-cost home on the site. **Action AY then SER**

9: 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. He had monitored their minutes and it appeared that the Town Council was concentrating on the potential agreement with Hebron Parish Council with consultation about to commence with the affected households.

10: Planning

10.1 The Council considered Application 19/00249/VARYCO – *Mitford Water Treatment Works – Amendment of Plot 5 house type* – and considered no response to the LPA was required.

10.2 *Application 18/03394/REM _ Land West of Lancaster Park - Development of Phase 1 of proposals which include Trunk Road Service Area, Hotel and Innovation Centre plus associated access, parking, landscaping and other associated infrastructure* – There was no information on the date of likely determination by the LPA.

10.3 There were no further current applications to consider.

10.4 The Council noted the information from the LPA's enforcement team regarding the apparent car port/garage being constructed at New Cottages, Mitford.

10.5 The Council noted the formal consultation for the draft Local Plan.

11: Highways and Street Lighting

11.1 Councillors asked the clerk to report/chase up the following

- Street Light MF 24 remains off with the occasional flicker and is a safety hazard in icy conditions
- The "No Tipping" signs
- The "Private Road" sign at Tranwell Court

11.2 Cllr Mrs Hudson reported on incidents caused by speeding traffic in Tranwell Village ignoring the 30 mph limit and the potential dangers to disabled riders using the Pegasus Centre. It was agreed that a site meeting should be sought with NCC to consider what measures might be used to slow down traffic.

11.3 The gully on the northside of the road to the west of Mitford Hall is blocked and is a significant danger to road users.

All items Action SER

12: Financial Matters

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

12.2 The following BACS payments were approved

- HMRC – PAYE Q4 - £112.50
- Gavin Christie – Village Warden (Oct, Nov & Dec 2018) - £582.00
- HCI Data – Fee for “.gov.uk” domain - £84.00
- Mitford Village Hall – Grant for Fair - £250.00 – see also item 15.2 below
- Defib Store – Defibrillator case - £610.80 – retrospective
- Colin Crowe – Electrician – Fee for fitting Defibrillator - £122.90 – Clerk to pay on receipt of an invoice

12.3 The Council authorised a cheque for £61.59 in respect of the clerk’s admin and other expenses for calendar year 2018.

13: The Website

Cllr Mrs Young reported she will be discussing a refresh with Widescope soon and would report back to the Council. **Action AY**

14: The Village Warden

The post for the former dog waste bin on the Mitford Road requires removal. The Chairman and Cllr Skillen will arrange for it to be removed. **Action MSh & MSk**

15: The Village Hall

15.1 Cllr Mrs Ridley updated the Council on the progress of the funding application for the improvement work.

15.2 The Council discussed and agreed the Hall’s application for a grant of £250.00 towards the costs of the Fair. Councillors were supportive of the intention to reach out to other parishioners and were pleased to note the greater involvement of the Church. The Council indicated that should the 2019 event be a success, then it would be prepared to consider a higher grant in future years.

16: Correspondence

The clerk drew attention to a few items for Councillors to take away. He also reported the action taking by NALC in asking for evidence of itinerant sellers using high-pressure methods on the vulnerable.

17: Any Other Urgent Business

None

18. Time and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 3 April 2019. There will be no meeting in March 2019.

The programme for future meetings was agreed as

- 1 May – this will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting
- 5 June
- 3 July
- *7 August – unlikely to be required*
- 4 September
- 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.....