

**MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6 September 2017 in The Village Hall, Mitford.

**Present:**

Councillors Mrs E Ridley, M Sharp (Chairman – presiding) and M Skillen

**Also present:**

NCC Councillor G Sanderson (who left after item 10)

PC A Teasdale (who left after item 5)

Mrs J Fenwick (who left after item 10)

SE Rickitt – Clerk

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

**1: Chairman's opening remarks.**

All were welcomed to the meeting.

**2: Public Participation.**

Mrs Fenwick raised issues under item 10 below

**3: Apologies for absence.**

Parish Councillors D Towns and Mrs A Young

Councillor Towns was granted a further extension of time in which to submit his declaration of acceptance of office.

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

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

**5: Report from the Beat Manager**

5.1 PC Teasdale reported there had been two break-ins within the parish. Metal thefts were being reported in the wider area. Diesel thefts have restarted as well.

5.2 The clerk advised the Council that he had been advised, in connection with another Council, to request beat managers' to take enforcement action regarding speeding traffic as an initial step prior to seeking deployment of the camera van.

PC Teasdale confirmed that her colleague had alerted her to the issues raised informally by the clerk. The Council agreed to make a formal request to the local inspector to seek enforcement action in the Tranwell area. **Action SER**

#### 6: Report from the County Councillor

6.1 Councillor Sanderson apologised for his non-attendance at recent meetings due to his new role as the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Local Services.

6.2 Councillor Sanderson updated the Council on actions taken, or in hand, by the new NCC administration since the May elections. These included

- The decision not to move NCC HQ from its present site
- The work in changing the operations of ARCH
- A review of NCC's finances
- A review of school transport
- A review of Active Northumberland
- The aim of responding quickly to issues raised by parish councils and residents

6.3 He then explained the reason for the withdrawal of the draft Core Strategy as enabling a review of the housing numbers, the strengthening of Neighbourhood Plans and greater protections for the Green Belt.

*The Chairman then brought forward item 10 as Mrs Fenwick had indicated she wished to make comments and Councillor Sanderson wished to participate in the discussion.*

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

10.1 The Chairman invited Mrs Fenwick to express her concerns about the traffic issues arising since the opening of the Morpeth Northern Bypass (MNB). Mrs Fenwick stated her concerns included

- Not only the increase in actual numbers but the increased use by large vans, lorries and even buses, some of whom were clearly ignoring the weight limit.
- On Sunday 3 September 2017, Mrs Fenwick and her sister had counted 63 vehicles between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm.
- Some of the new signs had been placed in positions which reduced run-off areas for vehicles to avoid on-coming traffic.

- The road surface, edges and verges were in a dangerous condition, and at least one man-hole cover was now sinking.

10.2 Parish Councillors supported her concerns adding

- The vision splay at the new link to the MNB on St Leonard's Lane was poor for car drivers coming from the A1
- Vehicles were taking to the un-kerbed edges thus causing further erosion.
- The use by commercial traffic had and would increase as the MNB was now on sat-nav updates.

10.3 A general discussion followed with the need to balance improvements against making the road more attractive to traffic.

10.4 Councillor Sanderson offered to arrange a further meeting with the senior NCC Highways Officers on site. He and the Chairman had already met the officers to consider initial improvements, including signage, but it was clear more is needed. A second traffic survey will be undertaken within the next few weeks.

**Action GS and MSH**

10.5 The clerk reported the receipt of the request for LTPP priorities. The Council decided to retain the need for improvements to St Leonard's Lane and Spital Hill as its priority with emphasis that the increase in number and types of vehicle mean the need is more pressing than before. **Action SER**

7: Minutes of the meetings held on 5 July 2017

The minutes of the previous meetings 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 It was agreed that interviews for the prospective co-optees will take place at the next scheduled meeting of the Council on 4 October. The meeting will start at 7.00 pm and each of the three applicants will be given a 20 minute interview.

**Action SER**

8.2 Further work is required on the branches by Light 24MF. Councillor Skillen will ensure this is carried out as soon as possible. **Action MSk**

8.3 Councillor Skillen has spoken to a senior manager at Carillion about their failure to paint the outside of the Village Hall as promised.

8.4 The clerk will endeavour to arrange a meeting with the County Ecologist to discuss tree management plans. Councillor Mrs Ridley will be the Council representative, together with the clerk. **Action ER & SER**

8.5 The clerk was asked to chase up the PCC regarding mowing a place for wedding photographs. He will also ask if there is a grave plan which can be put on the Council's website. **Action SER**

8.6 Councillor Mrs Ridley reported that the gullies by the Water Tower are still in need of attention. **Action SER**

## 9: Planning

9.1 There were two current applications to consider. Applications received since the previous meeting had been circulated.

9.1.1 *17/02372/FUL - N1 Golf Centre Tranwell Woods NE61 3YJ - Construction of an adventure golf course* – although on its own the application was not seen as contentious, Councillors wanted sight of the draft master plan and response to pre-application consultation (both being referred to in the application) in order to assure themselves that this was not Phase I of a larger application where housing / chalets etc. would be sought as “enabling development”. The clerk's submission of an FoI request for these papers was endorsed.

9.1.2 *17/02929/FUL - Site 2 Seaton Ryde Tranwell Woods - 1no residential dwelling* – The Council resolved to object to this application as the size was increased from 527 sq. metres to 883 sq. metres which is too large for a site of this size. It would be too large and over-development of the site given the rural and wooded surroundings.

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

See above

## 11: Erosion at Fontside

11 The clerk has drafted letters which are being considered by the Chairman who will also contact the Environment Agency with a view to

- Confirming the clay extends below the river bed
- The most suitable location for markers to monitor bank movement
- The potential to fell a tree just downstream of the allotment and re-use the wood as strengthening for the bank

## **Action MSh**

## 12: LED Street Lighting

No further concerns had been expressed regarding the installation of LED Street Lighting. Councillors had considered Light 24 MF above.

### 13: Financial Matters

13.1 The Council noted the current accounts for 2017/2018.

13.2 The following BACS payments were approved

- Gavin Christie – Village Warden – four months - £772.00
- HMRC – PAYE Q2 - £112.50

13.3 The Chairman asked all Councillors to consider what items of Community Works were being planned within the Parish for discussion at a future meeting.

#### **Action ALL**

13.4 The clerk reported the successful conclusion of the external audit of the 2016/2017 accounts with one minor matter being reported. A copy of the Issues Arising Report is attached to the signed minutes. The Council formally adopted the 2016/2017 accounts.

13.5 The Council reappointed Malcolm Wilkinson as the internal auditor.

13.6 The Council approved an application to the national *Transparency Fund* for a laptop and software. **Action SER**

### 14: The Website

There was no report in the absence of Councillor Mrs Young.

### 15: The Village Warden

15.1 See item 8.2 above

15.2 Councillor Skillen will be walking around the parish with the warden to identify autumnal work. The warden will be asked to repair the dog waste bin on the Mitford Road.

### 16: The Village Hall

Councillor Mrs Ridley will remind the Hall Committee of the need to replace the sign and will seek a bill for the Council's use of the Hall. **Action ER**

### 17: Correspondence

The Clerk tabled some information material for councillors.

### 20. Time and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4 October 2017.

Confirmed as a true record

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