

MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the electronic Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7 October 2020

Present:

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

Also present:

County Councillor Glen Sanderson – who left after item 7

SE Rickitt – Clerk

NB: "NCC" means "Northumberland County Council"

1: Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to this electronic meeting of the Council.

2: Public Participation

The clerk reported that there had been no questions emailed to the Council's email address and no parishioners had requested log-in details.

3: Apologies for absence

PC A Teasdale

Rev A Lamb

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

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

5: Coronavirus

Councillors indicated that there had been no known changes concerning vulnerable and isolated parishioners since the previous meeting. The Meeting noted that The Plough was to reopen.

The Chairman was asked to contact the Rev A Lamb to see if she was aware of any parishioners in need of assistance. **Action MSh**

6: Report from the Beat Manager

PC Teasdale had sent her apologies and the following report

There continues to be reports of poaching across the area. Numerous cars have been sighted driving over fields and other reports of males with lurchers walking across fields. These reports are coming in both throughout the day and night. If you see anything like this please phone in straight away– use 999 if you cannot get through on the 101 system as this is very dangerous to the livestock and anyone trying to intervene. Operation Hawkeye is running which is the rural crime team that look into all of these complaints. If you suspect there have been poachers on the land please let us know via 101 or a web submission on the Northumbria Police website so we know where people have been and we can focus our resources to the area.

Northumbria Police now have a COVID taskforce working every shift to address and breaches in the current regulations. You can report breaches via 101 or a web submission. If this is something you have witnessed you may be asked to provide a statement to police to assist with a prosecution. At the moment most people appear to be adhering to the rules and regulations and the taskforce carries out patrols to ensure compliance by shops and licensed premises as well.

7: Report from the County Councillor

7.1 Cllr Sanderson was congratulated on being elected Leader of the County Council and updated the Parish Council on a number of matters including

- The interactive sign for St Leonards Lane will be installed once the 30-mph limit has been extended. I guess the process may take quite a few months but hopefully it won't be too long.
- He alerted the Council to the existence of the Coronavirus dashboard on the County Councils website giving statistical information regarding the pandemic
- A leader, he is part of the LA7 Group of North-Eastern Leaders putting pressure on the Govt. NCC are in the process of preparing what will be a very difficult budget because of the pandemic pressures with extra expenditure and loss of anticipated income.
- Cllr Sanderson will provide Cllr Sharp with details of who to contact at the County Council to discuss rural broadband.

7.2 Cllr Sanderson gave the Parish Council background information on the LTPP process which assisted the Council when considering this later in the meeting. The Chairman thank Cllr Sanderson for his attendance.

8: Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2020

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

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

Cllr Skillen will chase up the Warden to see if he is interested in refurbishing the seat and noticeboard. If not, then Cllr Mrs Young will seek use the Council's Facebook page to see if a local trader is interested. **Action MSk & AY**

10: Planning

There were no new applications to be considered.

11: Highways

11.1 The Parish Council debated the current state of the highways within all parts of the parish and the bids for work under the Local Transport Policy Programme 2021/2022 in the light of the background information given earlier in the meeting by Cllr Sanderson.

11.2 After debate, it was agreed to send the following bids but at the same time express concern about outstanding maintenance issues which fall outside the LTPP process in the following terms

LTPP 2021/2022 – Mitford Parish Council

Thank you for your letter of 14 August which was given detailed consideration at the meeting of the Parish Council on 7 October 2020.

In recent years Parish Councillors have witnessed increasing numbers of walkers, cyclists and horse riders using the roads within the parish with a notable increase this year, such leisure activities are welcome and to be encouraged.

The Council is very conscious of parishioners' concerns about the safety of pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists using the highway network within the parish, given the generally narrow carriageways and conflicts with motor vehicles in the three settlements of:

- Mitford
- Tranwell Village
- Tranwell Woods

The Parish Council would therefore like to submit as its three priorities the investigation and implementation of suitable traffic calming measures, including gateway features, within those three settlements. If it assists with implementation, the Parish Council could make a modest contribution towards costs, particularly gateway features which have already been the subject of discussion in a digital meeting with Mr Laux.

Other Highway Issues – Mitford Parish

The Parish Council would like to take the opportunity to request repairs to carriageway surfaces in the following locations as there are alarming increases in the size and number of potholes

- The main road through Mitford between Mill Farm at the east end of the village to the junction with the Steads/Molesden road at the top of the bank.
- The Mitford Steads Road, particularly the section west of the Church
- The unclassified road that runs through Tranwell Woods from the Saltwick road to the Tranwell/St Mary's Road.

The Parish Council appreciated the rapid response to the continuing problems of water running down Spital Hill. Is a solution to tarmac the road up to the walls, thereby reducing the amount of soil and other debris being washed into the drains?

11.3 Concern was expressed about a school bus using St. Leonard's Lane. NCC has raised this issue with the bus operator who has agreed that the approved route is via Dogger Bank and the drivers will be reminded accordingly. If Cllrs see a recurrence, they will endeavour to provide details to the County Council.

Action All Cllrs

11.4 Later in October the clerk will chase up Mr Laux for a response to the issues raised with him at the September meeting. **Action SER**

12: The Boundary Review

The clerk reported no substantive response to his request for early sight of the report which Cllr Sanderson had understood was intended to go to the County Council in early November.

13: Financial Matters

The Council noted the current accounts for 2020/2021 [A copy is attached to the signed minutes] and gave retrospective approval to the following payments

- HMRC – PAYE Q2 - £112.50

14: The Website

Cllr Mrs Young reported that changes had been made in the light of the *Accessibility Regulations*.

15: The Village Warden

Cllr Skillen is in regular contact with the warden and asked his fellow Councillors to bring any matters of concern to him as soon as possible. **Action All Cllrs**

16: The Village Hall

Cllr Mrs Ridley reported that socially-distanced activities had resumed. The order for the new floor has been placed and a date for installation is awaited.

17. Time and date of next meeting

The Council noted next meeting was to be an electronic one held on Wednesday 2 December at 7.30 pm at which the budget and precept for 2021/2022 will be discussed.

Future meetings were agreed as

- 6 January 2021
- 3 February 2021
- 3 March 2021
- 7 April 2021
- *6 May 2021 – any contested parish council elections in Northumberland*
- 19 May 2021 – The usual date would be prior to the elections. The Council must hold its annual meeting no later than 24 May 2021. The intention is to hold the Annual Parish Meeting immediately before the Parish Council Meeting.

Meetings may be cancelled if there is insufficient business

Confirmed as a true record at the meeting held on.....

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