

Mitford Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

The Parish Council met at 7.30pm, on Wednesday 1st November 2023 at the Village Hall, Mitford.

Present: Chair Mike Sharp (M.S.), Cllrs Matt Skillen (M.Sk.), Michael Jeans (M.S.), Ted Rodger (T.R.) and Carole Burn (C.B.)

Damian McEnroe (D.M.) - Clerk

1: Chairs Opening Remarks.

The chair welcomed all to the meeting and especially Cllr Carole Burn who had recently joined the council after responding to an advertised vacancy.

2: Public Participation.

Pc Lucy Sutcliffe attended on behalf of Northumbria Police.

3: Apologies for absence.

Apologies were submitted by C. Cllr Glen Sanderson, and Cllr Eric Dodd.

4: Declaration of any interests and the grants of any dispensations.

Cllr M.Sk. declared an interest in Mitford Estate, and T.R in the Village Hall committee.

5: Report from the County Councillor.

The report from C. Cllr Sanderson, previously circulated, was accepted.

6: Report from the Police.

PC Sutcliffe gave an overview of the standardised reports we can expect in the future which will be crafted to avoid providing personal information which might identify victims.

She also stated that regular high visibility patrols are occurring within parish areas to provide reassurance to residents and visitors.

At 7.40pm PC Sutcliffe left the meeting.

7: Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th October 2023.

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

8: Any other matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda.

Actions 58 and 59 were marked as completed.

Action 60 - M.S. stated that having approached C. Cllr Sanderson, he has agreed to fund one speed warning sign whilst the parish council will fund a second, with one sited in Mitford and the other in Tranwell. An initial survey has been undertaken and it is the preference of the P.C. that the sign designated for the approach to Mitford village from the west on the B6343 be moved further west; can this be discussed with Michael McMonagle, NCC, who is in charge of the project - **ACTION 65/2023 D.M.**

The sites for the Tranwell sign still need agreeing after parishioner consultation. Cllr M.J. will do this and contact NCC directly – **ACTION 66/2023 M.J.**

M.S. asked if the signs required insuring for damage and the clerk agreed to enquire about this with Michael McMonagle.

Action 61 - No response had been received. M.S. stated he would take this up with NCC head of planning. **ACTION 67/2023 M.S.**

Actions 62 and 63 were marked as completed.

Action 64 - The village hall committee will accept responsibility for this, which appears to involve a simple rehangng of the playground gate.

9: Co-option of New Parish Councillor

After a successful interview, Carole Burn, who lives to the east of the parish has accepted the role of Councillor.

10: Financial matters.

The previously circulated accounts were accepted.

The following payments were authorised:

Purchase of new laptop, mouse and protective bag.	£532.35
Purchase of Microsoft office for above.	£17.99

The chair requested that a forecast for the next financial year be prepared for the next P.C. meeting to assist in setting the precept for 2024/25. **ACTION 68/2023 D.M.**

11: Parish Round-up.

Turnberry House – This issue remains unresolved and M.S. will follow it up with NCC Planning.

Cllr M.S. met with complainant regarding the siting of the waste bin at Stable Green and it has been agreed that the situation will be monitored and should it remain unsatisfactory, then the waste bin will be changed to a lidded one.

M.Sk reported a hole in the road on the Mitford Steads Road which water flows from. The clerk was able to report that “Fix My Street” had already been notified of the problem.

12: Planning Applications, both current and new.

<u>Application</u>	<u>Resolution</u>
23/03464/FUL 3, Tranwell Court, Tranwell	This is within a private carpark and affects only the residents surrounding it.
23/03423/FELTPO Juniper, Gubeon Wood	Approved.
19/01362/REM Land west of Lancaster Park	Comments previously submitted. Nothing further req'd.
23/02203/FUL Land at S.W. Gubeon Farm	Application refused. Finalised.
23/02494/FUL Fairfield, Tranwell Woods	Application approved. Finalised.
23/01729/FUL Khalsa Manor, Tranwell Woods	Comments previously submitted. Await hearing date.

It has been established that planning permission has been given for the siting of a number of telegraph poles through Mitford village, (23/03832/Misc) the tallest, adjacent to Mitford Bridge standing at 13m. The members considered these poles would have a visually negative impact upon the village and so a site meeting to discuss the matter be sought a.s.a.p. **ACTION 69/2023 D.M.** to contact and arrange same.

13: Highways.

Following a crash involving a lorry on St Leonards Road, a report was sent to Neil Snowden NCC, pointing out the inconsistencies in the signage used to control the three separate entrances to the road. A reply has been received to say the matter will be looked at.

The Interactive speed sign project has previously been discussed.

14: Village Hall.

Cllr T.R. reported the hall woodwork had been repaired.

Alcom, the broadband supplier had moved their electrical power supply to a more suitable location.

An email had been received concerning riverbank erosion at the rear of the hall. Councillors heard that a potential remedy to the erosion had been explored some time ago but the demands by the Environmental Agency were prohibitively expensive for the P.C. and so remedial work in the form of willow planting was undertaken. This is still being evaluated and the P.C. will monitor the situation.

A grant application to Northern Powergrid for Solar Panel resources had been submitted but unfortunately was declined with no substantive reasons given. T.R. will follow this up – **ACTION 70/2023 T.R.**

Karbon Homes have indicated they will gift, or sell for a nominal fee, the car park area in Fontside. M.S. will speak to David Towns to see what needs to be done to transfer the land and how that can be done. **ACTION 71/2023 M.S.**

15: The Village Warden and other Environmental Matters.

CLlr M.Sk. stated that cars were cutting up the lower green in Fontside and it might need paving stones laid at the edges of the grassed area to alleviate this. The Xmas tree will be arriving around December 1st. Bulbs will be planted on Flag Hill, and planters will be sited once the gateway features are installed.

16: Correspondence.

A briefing on the Environmental toolkit available to the council was mentioned, and also the “Rough sleeper census” was brought to the councils notice with any submissions to be forwarded to the clerk.

17: Any other Urgent Business.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9 p.m.

18: Time and dates of next meetings.

7.30pm, Wednesday 6th December 2023, 7th February and 6th March 2024 at Mitford Village Hall.

Confirmed as a true record and signed by the chair

.....

Date.....

ACTION SHEET

<u>Number</u>	<u>Action By</u>	<u>Description</u>
65	D.M.	Liaise with Michael McMonagle re Mitford speed sign positioning.
66	M.J.	Liaise with Michael McMonagle re Tranwell speed sign positioning.
67	M.S.	Speak to head of planning, NCC, re Turnberry House.
68	D.M.	Prepare forecast for 2024/25 precept year.
69	D.M.	Arrange site meeting with Openreach re telegraph pole installation in Mitford Village.
70	T.R.	Seek feedback from Northern Powergrid re failed grant application.
71	M.S	Speak with David Towns re way forward for transfer of Karbon Homes land to P.C.