Mitford Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

The Parish Council met at 7.30pm, on Monday 6th February 2023 at the Village Hall, Mitford.

**Present:**

Councillors: - Chair Alison Young (A.Y.), Mike Sharp (M.S.), Ted Rodger (T.R.), Matt Skillen (M.S.), Eric Dodd (E.D.)

Damian McEnroe (D.M.) - Clerk

**1: Chairs Opening Remarks.**

The chair welcomed all including Cllr Eric Dodd on his first full council meeting.

**2: Public Participation.**

No members of the public were present.

**3: Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were submitted from C.C. Glen Sanderson and from Olivia Coulson, Northumbria Police.

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

Cllrs M.SK. and M.S. declared Mitford Estate interests and Cllr T.R. declared a Village Hall interest

**5: Report from the County Councillor.**

The report from County Councillor Sanderson had been previously circulated to all members and its contents were noted.

**6: Report from the Police.**

Nothing of note.

**7: Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 5th December 2022.**

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.**

Cllr M.Sk reported that a short presentation by representatives of Northumbria Police on Operation Hawkeye will be given to the council at the meeting on 6th March 2023.

The chair asked Cllr T.R. if it would be possible to arrange a wall monitor to be installed prior to that meeting. **ACTION: T.R. 1/2023**

Hall Hire Fees – An invoice has been received and awaits payment authorisation.

Spittal Hill – The drain crossing under the B6343 has been unblocked and appears to have solved the issue.

Christmas Tree and Lights – A number of compliments have been received from parishioners. A letter of thanks has been sent to Mr B. Shepherd for the gift of the tree.

**9: Financial matters.**

The new precept has been submitted to N.C.C. by the clerk but no response from N.C.C. has yet been received.

A discussion they took place regarding the Budget headings for the forthcoming accounts year, 2023/24 and the values of potential expenditure assigned to each heading as follows:

**Clerk Costs** - £2300.00

**Miscellaneous** - £100.00

**Insurance** – Reduced to £300.00

**Legal/Audit** - £300.00

**Village Warden** – Raised to £2400.00

**Hall Hire** – £200.00

**Support Payment** – Remove from budget

**Village Hall and Community** - £5000.00

**Contingency Fund** – Raise to £1500.00 (this recognises the need to fund a potential Parish Council election at some point in the future.)

**Website** - £350.00

**Covid recovery Fund** – Previously removed from budget

**Fayre Support** - £750

The following payments were authorised: - Gavin Christie (Village Warden) £682.50 & 375.50, David Troup (Tree supports) £82.22, Clerk (Xmas lights) £59.98, Village Hall (Hall Hire) £180.00, Ashridge Nurseries (Trees) £199.68, HCIData.Com (Website) £102.00

**10: Planning Applications, both current and new.**

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| **Application** | Resolution |
| 22/03226/COU Morpeth Archers | A minor change to the site layout has been submitted. The application may go to Strategic Planning Committee on 07/03 2023 |
| 22/03631/FUL Hemel, Morpeth | Application withdrawn. |
| 22/04690/FUL Gubeon Paddock, Gubeon Farm, Morpeth | Objection submitted 21/01/23 |
| 22/04702/FUL | “No concerns” submitted 21/1/23 |
| 23/00189/FELTPO Tall Trees, Gubeon Woods, Morpeth | Felled trees to be replaced with new trees, but agreed in principle. **ACTION D.M. 2/2023** |
| 23/00385/FUL | Overdevelopment of site and 2nd floor of garage forming boundary edge causes negative visual impact. **ACTION D.M. 3/2023** |

**11: Highways.**

Tranwell gateway – Cllrs A.Y. and M.S. met with Neil Snowdon on 6/2/23, when it was identified that the road verges were too narrow and provided insufficient space for “gateway” features on both sides of the road, additionally this would increase costs exponentially. A further onsite meeting is planned for A.M. 8/2/23 when a compromise might be sought. The hope is that some funding for the project will be forthcoming in this financial year, and extra costs could be rolled over into the 2023/24 budget with an additional Parish Council contribution. The Parish Council is willing to contribute up to £2000.00 in total towards the Tranwell Woods and Village part of the project.  
  
It was also agreed that any Highway issues be reported to the N.C.C. Portal via the Parish Clerk who would keep a record of the reports which could be forwarded to [Centralareahighways@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Centralareahighways@northumberland.gov.uk) on a regular basis.

**12: Village Hall.**

A bid was been submitted to Northern Powergrid for the warm hub project but unfortunately, was initially rejected due to a lack of overt costings with no competitive costings. Cllr Sharp will arrange to resubmit with additional competitor costings. **ACTION M.S. 4/2023.**

Cllr T.R. advised the council that an application to “Community Chest” had been made for A/V equipment, and that the Village Hall had been registered as a “Warm Hub”.

**13: The Village Warden and other Environmental Matters.**

Cllr M.S. advised that two trees for the seated area at Fontside had been ordered and delivery was awaited. He updated the council that all the Millenium trees had been planted as previously discussed, and that Willow Whips were to be planted on the Riverbank, hopefully by 9/2/23.  
  
It was agreed that Cllrs A.Y. and M.Sk. would liaise with the village warden to visit the parish and arrange a schedule of works for 2023/24. **ACTION A.Y. & M.Sk. 5/2023.**

Cllr T.R. would also seek sponsorship for annual plantings for the Parish. **ACTION T.R. 6/2023.**

**15: Recruitment of Councillor to Mitford parish Council.**

Cllr Eric Dodd has been welcomed as the representative for Tranwell Woods, however with the resignation of Cllr Sheena Hudson, a vacancy exists for a representative for Tranwell Village. To this end, a notice of the vacancy has been placed upon the Tranwell notice board, and Chair A.Y. wishes to conduct a letter drop in the area of the vacancy which was agreed. **ACTION A.Y. 7/2023.**

**15: Correspondence.**

The N.C.C. conference on Town and parish Councils was attended in January by Cllrs A.Y. and T.R, and it was agreed it was a worthwhile experience.  
  
A short discussion then took place on the merits of all Councillors and the clerk developing their professional knowledge and it was agreed that where possible, funding would be provided for approved training courses which would be of benefit to the Parish Council when discharging its duties.

The Parish.Uk website has been populated with details of Mitford and all councillors were encouraged to use it as it contains a large number of information streams appertaining to the parish. The Neighbourhood watch scheme was noted.

The siting of an E.V. charging point within the village was discussed and it was agreed that the project be explored further on the provisor there was no cost to the Parish Council. D.M. to find out what an application entails and its potential cost. **ACTION D.M. 8/2023**

**16.Future Projects and Ideas**

Cllr A.Y. introduced the idea of “Welcome Packs” to be given to new residents to the parish which could provide information on the Parish Council, the Village Hall, Church, parish amenities, etc, and will drive this with assistance from other councillors.

A brief discussion on how the Parish Council could measure, collect and disseminate performance information to others took place, with a “work-in-progress” flyer being shown to members by the clerk.**16: Any other Urgent Business.**

A discussion on potential activities concerning the Coronation of King Charles took place. The V.H.C are to discuss this at their next meeting and it was agreed the P.C. would liaise with them to pool ideas and resources.

Flags discussed previously, should be ordered. **ACTION DM 9/2023.**

Cllr E.D. stated he’d received a letter from a parishioner concerning Turnberry House, Tranwell Woods, which was now believed to have become a conference centre, marketed at large prices for weekend events and could it be enquired if this was subject to “change of use” restrictions? The clerk would forward an email to the enforcement team at N.C.C. **Action D.M. 10/2023.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.40 pm.

**17: Time and dates of next meetings.**

7.30pm, Mitford Village Hall, 6th March, 3rd April 2023. The May meeting is to be rescheduled due to the number of bank holiday Mondays that month.

Confirmed as a true record and signed by the chair

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