

Mitford Parish Council

Draft Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday 2nd September 2026

At 7.30pm in Mitford Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: M Sharp (Chairman)

Michael Jeans

Matt Skillen

Carole Burn

Ted Rodger

Dee Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Northumberland County Council (NCC) Councillor Glen Sanderson

36/26 **Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

37/26 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Skillen declared a personal interest - Mitford Estates employee

38/26 **Public Participation Time**

There were no public questions on this occasion.

39/26 **County Councillor Update**

The Clerk gave the following update from NCC Councillor Glen Sanderson:

- NCC are beginning the budget for 27/28.
- The Town/Parish Council Autumn conference takes place in October 2026.
- Cllr Sanderson is holding four special meetings with Parish Council clusters around the County in November.
- A new scheme of planning delegation will become enforced next month which means that all but the largest or most complex applications will be determined by officers. Local planning committees will probably close.

- Library review has been completed with the service remaining available with no forced closure, added modernisation and no compulsory redundancies.
- The old swimming pool in Morpeth is due to be demolished shortly with more car parking developed.
- Leisure Centre is doing great business with very pleasing customer feedback.

40/26 Police Update

There was no update on this occasion. Concerns were raised about the increase of illegal activity in the area. A discussion took place regarding automatic number plate recognition (ANPR).

RESOLVED

Information duly noted

41/26 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1st July 2026

Members were asked to approve the above minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of 1st July 2026, a copy of which has been circulated to each member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

42/26 Any matters Arising from Previous Council Meetings

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

43/26 Financial Matters

Members were asked to note the payments below. Members were also provided with a budget report up to 22nd August 2026.

DATE	SUPPLIER	AMOUNT
06.06.26	G Christie – May 26	£626.00
14.06.26	June 2026 Clerk Salary & HMRC	£225.00
04.07.26	G Christie – June 26	£196.00
04.07.26	Mitford Village Hall – room hire 24/25/26	£320.00

11.07.26	July 2026 Clerk Salary & HMRC	£225.00
02.08.26	G Christie – July 26	£202.00
09.08.26	Mitford Village Hall - funding	£3000.00
22.08.26	August 2026 Clerk Salary & HMRC	£225.00

RESOLVED

Members noted the above payments and budgetary report up to 22nd August 2026.

44/26

Parish Issues

(i) Land rear of Mitford allotment

Cllr Sharp advised members that a site visit with Eco North that was arranged, has been rescheduled to next week.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

(ii) Piramel Bus Shelter

The Clerk advised members that she had emailed Cllr Sanderson regarding the payment of the new bus shelter opposite Piramel once the work was completed, and the provision of three quotations.

RESOLVED

The Clerk to contact Cllr Sanderson again explaining the issues with the payment and quotations.

(iii) Mitford Village Noticeboard

Members were asked to consider the refurbishment of the village noticeboard.

RESOLVED

Cllr Sharp to carry out the refurbishment.

(iv) Defibrillator – The Plough Inn

Cllr Sharp advised members that the above defibrillator requires new pads and a new battery. The unit was discontinued year ago, and the manufacture of the consumables was stopped in April 2026. A replacement defibrillator has been identified which has excellent reliability and a longer life on the battery and pads. Funding to be sought.

RESOLVED

To replace the defibrillator at a cost of £650 from the unreserved funds.

(v) Memorial Bench

Members were advised that the Parish Council has been contacted by a local resident who would like to repair the memorial bench outside the church.

RESOLVED

The local resident has been given permission to carry out the repairs.

45/26 Town & Country Planning Act 1990

There were no planning applications to consider on this occasion.

46/26 Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Review

Cllr Sharp advised members that at the last meeting, a NCC planning officer attended which was useful, and made a commitment to keep involved. This would mean a consultant would only be needed for specific issues only, which should lower the costs involved. The information on what is happening with the greenbelt should be available for the next meeting.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

47/26 Highways

(i) Land Slippage B6343 (Abbey Mills)

Members were advised that Mitford is now repaired and open.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

(iii) Gateway Features

Members were advised that the work has not yet started on the new gateway features. Cllr Jeans is still awaiting a site meeting at Tranwell Woods regarding the proposed speed indicator device.

RESOLVED

- a. Information duly noted.
- b. To chase up Northumberland County Council regarding the gateway features and site meeting at Tranwell Woods.

48/26 Village Hall

Cllr Rodger advised members that it has been a quiet time over the last couple of months due to holidays. The village fayre takes place this weekend and there are lots of events planned up to Christmas.

The committee are in the early stages of looking at making the hall more accessible.

The generator has been connected and tested.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

49/26 The Village Warden & Other Environmental Matters

Cllr Skillen advised members that he will ask the village warden to trim down the left side of Spital Hill and go around all the entrances in the parish.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

50/26 The Parish Council Website

The Clerk advised members that Eric Dodd is still assisting with the website.

RESOLVED

The Clerk to request access to the website to upload documents.

51/26 Any Other Urgent Business

The Clerk advised members that the councillor vacancy has been advertised and the last day is 3rd September 2026. If less than ten residents have contacted NCC requesting an election, then co-option can take place at the November meeting.

52/26 Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th November 2026, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.26pm.