

Mitford Parish Council

Draft Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday 25th June 2025

At 7.30pm in Mitford Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: M Sharp (Chairman)
Eric Dodd
Michael Jeans

Clerk: Dee Smith

Apologies: Ted Rodger
Carole Burn
Matt Skillen

Revd Elaine Jones and one member of the public were also in attendance.

22/25 **Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

23/25 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Sharp declared an interest in agenda item 9 (iii) – Donations:
Committee member - Mitford Village Fair.

24/25 **Public Participation Time**

There were no public questions on this occasion.

25/25 **County Councillor Update**

The Clerk gave an update from Councillor Glen Sanderson.

RESOLVED

- a. Information duly noted.
- b. To report the potholes on the road through Tranwell Wood that were recently filled, have returned.

26/25 **Police Update**

There was no update on this occasion.

27/25 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 7th May 2025

Members were asked to approve the above minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of 7th May 2025, a copy of which has been circulated to each member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

28/25 Any matters Arising from Previous Council Meetings

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

29/25 Financial Matters

- (i) Members were asked to approve the payments below. Members were also provided with a budget report up to 14th June 2025.

DATE	SUPPLIER	AMOUNT
25.04.25	April 25 Salary & HMRC - Clerk	£225.00
25.05.25	May 25 Salary & HMRC - Clerk	£225.00
08.06.25	Zurich – Insurance renewal 25/26	£417.55
08.06.25	Gavin Christie May 25	£112.00
14.06.25	Tracey Bell Internal Audit 24/25	£70.00

RESOLVED

Members approved the above payments.

- (ii) Year End accounts for 2024/2025

Members were asked to scrutinise and approve the following documents in relation to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25. The Clerk advised members on the issues highlighted on the Internal Audit Report.

- a. Annual Internal Audit Report
- b. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement
- c. Draft Accounts for 2024/25
- d. Section 2 – Accounting Statement and Explanation off Variances
- e. Certificate of Exemption

RESOLVED

To approve all the above.

(iii) Donations

- a. Members were asked to approve a grant of £1000 to the village fair.
- b. Members are asked to approve a retrospective donation for the VE Day 80 events to Mitford and Hebron JPCC.

RESOLVED

- a. To approve a grant of £1000 to the village fair.
- b. To approve a donation of £200 for the VE Day 80 events to Mitford and Hebron JPCC.

30/25

Parish Issues

(i) Land rear of Mitford allotment

Councillor Sharp advised members that he has arranged a meeting with the Environment Agency. During this meeting, he will seek to determine the viability of willow spiling and gather guidance on suitable consultants for a preliminary survey and the design work. Additionally, he will inquire about the availability of grants or funding options to support this work.

(ii) Piramel Bus Shelter

The Clerk advised members that no response has been received from Northumberland County Council regarding the potential funding for a bus shelter outside Piramel.

(iii) Turnberry House

Members were advised that at this time, there is nothing to report.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

31/25 Town & Country Planning Act 1990

Members considered planning application 23/02188/FUL Covered riding arena, 20m x 40m for personal use, steel framed building with grey fibre cement roof, green metal box profile cladding above concrete panels: Blue Cedars Paddock, Tranwell Cottages, Tranwell NE61 6AE

RESOLVED

Mitford Parish Council expresses concern in relation to the potential visual impact of this development on neighbouring properties and from the road. The development also appears to contribute to sporadic growth within the Green Belt. Additionally, the Parish Council request that a condition be imposed to restrict the use of the development to private use only, not commercial use.

32/25 Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Review

Councillor Sharp advised members that the Government has taken the decision to cut funding and technical support for Neighbourhood Planning groups. Currently there is no further information, and it is a case of wait and see.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

33/25 Highways

(i) Mitford Speed Sign

Members were informed that no response has been received from Northumberland County Council regarding the siting of speed strips previous data on the western approach to Mitford

RESOLVED

The Clerk to chase up the speed strip again with Highways.

(ii) Tranwell Woods Traffic Speed Sign

No further update.

(iii) Tranwell Gateway

Members were advised that the Parish Council is now in possession of the location key and will look at the speed data in the next few months. The Mitford Gateway Scheme is still at the design stage.

(iv) Land Slippage B6343 (Abbey Mills)

Members were advised that a meeting is taking place on 27th June regarding the upcoming work. Councillor Sharp is attending this meeting. Work to repair the landslip is set to get underway mid-August for approximately 39 weeks. A diversion for cars will be put in place via St Leonard's Lane, while HGV's will divert via the B6524. Traffic lights will be placed on the south end of St Leonard's Lane and improvement works will be carried to St Leonard's Lane and the C149 road to Mitford Steads in readiness.

A pedestrian diversion will be put in place that runs parallel to the south of the road, although it will not be suitable for pushchairs or mobility scooters.

RESOLVED

- a. Information duly noted
- b. Councillor Sharp to ask the following questions at the meeting:

Where will the proposed traffic lights be positioned on Spittal Hill?

What will be the school bus route?

Can the traffic calming measures on Spittal Hill be reinstated as these are worn away?

Can additional passing points be put in on the Mitford Steads Road?

Can the verge opposite the church be properly paved as concerns have been raised about emergency vehicles passing through when the church is busy?

Will the diversions routes be made mandatory as concerns were raised that these will be ignored?

34/25

Village Hall

Members were advised that the funding is progressing for the resilience project. The allocation of the funding will be £14k to NCEL and £6k to the village hall for a generator and associated costs. The next stage will be for a lease agreement to be put in place between the village hall and NCEL. The work should be carried out in this financial year.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

35/25 The Village Warden & Other Environmental Matters

There was no update on this occasion.

36/25 The Parish Council Website

Members were shown a setup of the new website. Currently, the work carried out has come under budget. This work is ongoing.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

37/25 Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Sharp advised members that Greater Morpeth Development Trust are looking at the installation of information boards at Mitford Castle, the church and possibly Mitford Hall. This work will take place next year.

38/25 Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 3rd September 2025, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.05pm.