

Mitford Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

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

Present:

Councillors: Chair Mike Sharp (M.S.), Michael Jeans (M.J.), Carole Burn (C.B.) Eric Dodd (E.D.)

Damian McEnroe (D.M.) - Clerk

1: Chairs Opening Remarks.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2: Public Participation.

One member of the public was present, a parishioner from Abbey Mills who was invited by the chair to identify his interest.

He explained that, living in the vicinity of the temporary traffic lights currently situated on the B6343 for the past 3 months, he was looking for assistance from the Parish Council to expedite their removal. The chair explained that the river bank and footpath had suffered severe erosion during the recent heavy rain and what had once been a simple repair was now far more complicated and would possibly require piling. The chair stated he would enquire with N.C.C. as to a projected timescale for work completion. **ACTION 72/2023 M.S.**

The parishioner then left the meeting.

3: Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from C. Cllr Glen Sanderson (G.S.), Cllrs' Ted Rodger (T.R.) and Matt Skillen (M.Sk.)

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

No declarations were made.

5: Report from the County Councillor.

The previously circulated report from G.S. was considered and accepted.

6: Report from the Police.

There was no report from the police.

7: Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1st November 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.

A65 and A66 relating to the speed sign locations at both Mitford and Tranwell have been completed. Tree work will be required at the Mitford location which has been arranged in conjunction with Mitford Estate.

A67 has been passed onto our C. Cllr for assistance, due to a lack of response from NCC, E.D. reported that parishioners who submitted information to N.C.C. were not receiving responses.

A68 – the forecast has been prepared and circulated to members for information.

A69 – a meeting occurred earlier today with Open Reach and it has been agreed that the option to move the largest telegraph pole site further away from Mitford Bridge to make it less obtrusive.

A70 and A71 were deferred to the next meeting.

9: Financial matters.

The following payments were authorised:

Gavin Christie	Oct 2023 grounds maintenance	£336.00
Gavin Christie	Nov 2023 grounds maintenance	£327.00

Following the consideration of the previously circulated forecast which identified that given inflation currently running at 4.7% C.P.I. for the previous 12 months, and the National Living Wage increasing by 9.1% from April 2024, then based on current spending, the P.C. could expect an expenditure for 2024/5 of £9931.82.

In the circumstances, the P.C. unanimously agreed that the precept request for the forthcoming year should be increased by £460 to £9300, a 3.27% increase and that the P.C. will use its own funds to cover any shortfall.

Funding allocations for the forthcoming financial year were set as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1) Clerk: £3000, | 6) Hall Hire: £220, |
| 2) Misc: £600, | 7) Community: £5000 (inc. solar panel support), |
| 3) Insurance: £300, | 8) Contingency: 10% of 2024/5 budget, |
| 4) Legal: £300, | 9) Website: £500, |
| 5) Warden: £2900, | 10) Fayre: £750. |

10 Parish Round-up.

Turnberry House is the subject of A67, previously discussed.

11: Planning Applications, both current and new.

<u>Ref No.</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>
23/03856/RENE	Piramal Factory Solar Array	Application	Support comment submitted to NCC
23/03832/Misc	Mitford Village	Approved	Telegraph poles in village.
23/03464/FUL	3, Tranwell Court, Tranwell	Approved	Permitted
23/03423/FELTPO	Juniper, Gubeon Wood	Approved	Permitted
19/01362/REM	Land West of Lancaster Park	Appeal	NCC portal last updated 1/11/23 by Fire and Rescue.
23/01729/FUL	Khalsa Manor, Tranwell Woods	Appeal	Written representations previously submitted. Date to be determined.

Open Reach is currently introducing Broadband fibre optic cable into Mitford and continuing west along the B6343. It has "permitted development approval" to site Telegraph poles in the village itself, one of which, a 13m pole, is intended to be sited adjacent to Mitford Bridge.

The P.C. considers this will be unsightly due to both its height and location however after meeting with Open Reach today, it accepts that the height is required in order to allow cables to cross the B3634 (ducting within the bridge is not considered an option by Open Reach due to cost).

Open Reach have agreed to explore the possibility of moving the pole away from the bridge and siting it further up the river Font (perhaps 5m or so), thus reducing the visual impact of the pole. However, this will necessitate enquiries with the as yet unidentified land owner. **ACTION 73/2023 D.M.**

12: Highways.

The speed signs are to be installed. M.J. requests that the sign there be of the Elan City type which will match with those already installed in adjacent Parishes. The Mitford sign will be similar to that already installed on St Leonards Rd manufactured by Swarco. The types were agreed by all present. **ACTION 74/2023 D.M.**

M.S. has been trying to get confirmation for the new locations for the Gateway signage but has not been successful to date. He will continue in his endeavours.

13: Village Hall.

The clerk presented an update submitted by Cllr T.R. who stated that he awaits contact from C.A.N. to assist him to reapply for Grant Support, but as yet has heard nothing. He will be attending a C.A.N. meeting next week and will try to reach out again.

Most of the joinery work in the village hall has been completed, and improved signage will be installed by January end.

. It is intended to hold a Warm Hub slow cooker event soon.

The Historical Society will be formally replied to concerning the showcases and secure storage previously requested.

14: The Village Warden and other Environmental Matters.

The daffodil bulbs have been planted on Flag Hill.

The river bank at the rear of the allotment has suffered further recent erosion. This has exposed a layer of boulder clay which hopefully should slow further erosion of the river bed although flood conditions will impact the loose material lying over the boulder clay. Previous identified solutions have proven prohibitively expensive due to EA requirements.

It was agreed to continue the willow planting which is considered a valid method of bank protection.

Meanwhile the PC will continue to monitor the situation.

15: Correspondence.

A letter from the Great North Air Ambulance Service was considered and it was agreed that support of £100 be donated on the basis that our outlying parish is one which could expect to make use of their service. **ACTION 75/2023 D.M.**

A survey of parks and open spaces has been received. It was agreed that the clerk would complete and submit this. **ACTION 76/2023 D.M.**

16: Any other Urgent Business.

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

17: Time and dates of next meetings.

7.30pm, Wednesday, 7th February 2024, 6th March 2024 and 3rd April 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>	
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.	X
72	M.S.	Enq's with N.C.C. re B6343 roadworks completion date.	✓
73	D.M.	Enq's in village to establish ownership of land adjacent to Mitford Bridge.	✓
74	D.M.	Inform NCC of speed sign choices.	✓
75	D.M.	Pay donation to G.N.A.A.S.	✓
76	D.M.	Complete Park and Open Space survey.	✓