

Mitford Parish Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

The Parish Council met at 7.30pm, on Wednesday 5th March 2025 at the Village Hall, Mitford.

Present:

Councillors: Chair – Mike Sharp (M.S.), Eric Dodd (E.D.), Ted Rodger (T.R.). C. Cllr Sanderson also in attendance.

Damian McEnroe (D.M.) – Clerk. Deanna Cota D.C. – Clerk in waiting.

1: Chairs Opening Remarks.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2: Public Participation.

No members of the public were present.

3: Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr's Matt Skillen (M.Sk.), Michael Jeans (M.J.) and Carole Burn (C.B.), and Rev Elaine Jones (E.J.).

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

T.R. – Village Hall.

5: Welcome to the new Council Clerk

The chair welcomed and introduced Deanna Cota who will be taking over the role of Parish Clerk from 1st April 2025 on the retirement of the present clerk who should ensure banking access.
ACTION 1/2025 D.M.

6: Update from the County Councillor.

C. Councillor Sanderson gave an update on the forthcoming NCC budget which has been approved, which means there will be no cuts to services. Three new schools are being built in the county which is moving to a two-tiered education system, and the Maltings theatre at Berwick is to be upgraded.

N.C.C. have introduced an environmental policy which means more financial resources will become available for the maintenance of parks and open spaces, and the upkeep of roadside verges. Fly tipping is currently an issue with covert work being conducted in Blyth and Ashington areas.

Both the Dyke Neuk and Plough public houses have reported a downturn in business due to the road closure on the B6343 at Abbey Mills, and whilst the diversion appears to be working there is a need for further liaison between the highways dept and the P.C. to ensure "we've got it right".

N.C.C.'s planning department have recently approved the building of the new A.I. centre at Cambois.

The Northern rail line has now been opened since Christmas and so far there has been in excess of 100k journeys undertaken with the station at Newsham opening imminently.

The chair raised the issue of traffic speeding though Mitford village (as indicated by the speed sign) and C., Cllr Sanderson suggested contact with Robin McCartney at N.C.C. who may be able to assist, **ACTION 2/25 – D.M.**

Cllr E.D. raised the issue of the poor state of the road surface on the C152 at Tranwell and the clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the highways dept. **ACTION 3/25 – D.M.**

The chair raised the river bank erosion on the Font at the rear of the village hall and C. Cllr Sanderson suggested the Flood defence team be spoken to in the first instance. **ACTION 4/25 -D.M.** to arrange.

At 8.05pm C. Cllr Sanderson left the meeting.

7. Report from the Police.

The two previously circulated police reports were considered.

8: Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2024.

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

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

A46 – This is still under discussion.

A47 – Cllr C.B. has submitted a report.

A48 – Completed.

A49 – Completed.

10: Financial matters.

10.1 The accounts and current bank balance, previously circulated, were agreed upon as correct.

10.2 The following payments were approved:

G. Christie	Grounds Maintenance Jan 2025	£70.00
G. Christie	Grounds Maintenance Feb 2025	£208.00
Widescope	Website hosting	£228.00

10.3 It was agreed that the £6000 currently retained for Solar Panel installation at the Village Hall should continue to be earmarked for such purposes until the result of the installation feasibility study, which is occurring next Monday, 10th, is known.

11: Parish Round-up.

The chair raised the issue of the river bank erosion on the Font at the rear of the Village Hall which is eating into allotment land owned by the P.C. A number of photographs showing the erosion were considered. Previous attempts to make structural repairs have proven impossible with the E.A. requiring costly assessments and permits, and a willow planting programme also failed due to poor weather conditions. The chair will again speak to the E.A. and seek advice on the best way forward.

ACTION 5/2025 - M.S.

In the meantime, the chair suggested that 200 willow plants which are traditionally used to shore up river banks, be purchased and planted. They would cost £100.00 to purchase and the village warden would be asked to plant them., This was unanimously agreed.

The Rev E.J. has approached the P.C. asking if there was an intention to celebrate V.E. day and could a collaboration take place. Cllr T.R. said he would liaise with Rev E.J. **ACTION 7/25 – T.R.**

12: Planning Applications, both current and new.

<u>Ref No.</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>
None			

There were no new applications.

13: Morpeth Neighbourhood Planning Review.

The chair provided an update stating that the last meeting had been held virtually, and it was agreed that all “white land” (i.e. undeveloped land on the edges of greenbelt land) would be assessed with the assistance of consultants to decide on its future use. This was anticipated to take up the rest of the year.

14: Highways.

The Mitford speed sign data suggests the sign has not reduced speeding and the latest data shows recorded speeds of highs of 78 mph when entering the village and 98mph on leaving. This will hopefully be the subject of a further NCC site survey to corroborate the data with further action then being considered.

The location key for the Tranwell Speed sign is unknown, it does not appear to have been given to the P.C. when the Tranwell Village gateway was installed. D.M. to locate. **ACTION 7/25 D.M.**

Cllr E.D. states speeding is still occurring in Tranwell Woods despite the erection of 30mph signs, and that the sign placement might not be the best. The chair stated that we potentially have funding for an additional speed sign in Tranwell Woods but we need to have a site survey conducted by N.C.C. **ACTION 8/25 – D.M.**

15: Village Hall.

Cllr T.R. reported that there is a lot of activities occurring in the hall now. The store room is soon to be fitted with proper storage facilities.

There is a ceilidh occurring at the end of March.

16: The Village Warden and other Environmental Matters.

Cllr T.R. will ask M.Sk. to have the Xmas tree on the village green removed asap.

17: P.C. Website

Cllr E.D. stated that with Rev E.J. having been very busy of late, there was little to report though he is intending to meet Widescope in the very near future to discuss future development.

18: Correspondence.

None

19: Any other Urgent Business.

E.D. stated that a neighbour hood watch scheme was now running in Tranwell woods co-ordinated by one of the residents.

The Parish Council election will be taking place on 1st May 2025 and the new clerk has already liaised with N.C.C. and will obtain the nomination forms for completion by each councillor seeking re-election. If the seats are uncontested then re-election will be automatic. Each councillor has to submit their own nomination paper in accordance with the current published timelines – circulated.

20: Time and dates of next meetings.

7.30pm, Wednesday, 7th May 2025, 2nd July 2025, and 3rd September 2025.

The meeting concluded at 9.22pm.

Confirmed as a true record and signed by the chair.....

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Date.....

ACTION SHEET

<u>Number</u>	<u>Action By</u>	<u>Description</u>	
1	D.M.	Ensure new clerk has banking access.	✓
2	D.M.	Contact Robin McCartney at N.C.C. re speeding issues.	✓
3	D.M.	Liaise with highways re C152 road surface.	✓
4	D.M.	Liaise with flood defence team re the Font.	✓
5	M.S.	Liaise with Environment Agency re the Font.	✓
6	T.R.	Liaise with Rev E.J. re V.E. celebrations.	✓
7	D.M.	Locate Tranwell village speed sign key – N.C.C.	✓
8	D.M.	Arrange site survey with N.C.C. for Tranwell Woods.	✓