

MITFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met at 7.30 pm on Monday 7 February 2022 in The Village Hall, Mitford.

Present:

Parish Councillors Mrs Sheena Hudson, Mrs Esther Ridley, Ted Rodger, Mike Sharp (Chairman in the chair) and Matt Skillen

County Cllr Glen Sanderson, who left after item 8

Stephen Rickitt – Clerk – actions for the clerk are marked “SER”

1: Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to this face-to-face meeting as there were signs of the pandemic easing.

2: Public Participation

No parishioners were present nor had any questions been emailed to the clerk.

3: Apologies for Absence

Parish Councillor Mrs Alison Young

4: Declarations and Grant of Dispensations

Cllr Mrs Ridley declared her membership of the village hall committee.

Cllr Skillen declared that he was an employee of the landowner for planning application 21/20999/CLEXIS and withdrew from the meeting whilst that was discussed.

5: Coronavirus

Councillors were not aware of any new issues affecting parishioners.

6: Storm Arwen

Councillors confirmed their views as expressed at the previous meeting with the addition that funding was required to enable the Village Hall to have alternative sources of power if it were to be a successful emergency centre. The further power cuts, as a result of Storm Malik, had underlined the dangers of over-reliance on mains electricity. The clerk will express those views to the County Council's review into Storm Arwen. **Action SER**

7: Report from the Beat Manager

It was understood that the Neighbourhood Teams may be reorganized into larger units. Cllr Skillen will endeavour to seek clarification. **Action Cllr Skillen**

8: Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Sanderson had contributed to the discussion on Storm Arwen and reported on issues relating to the County Council including

- The forthcoming budget for 2022/2023 including a focus on not cutting frontline services but also assisting businesses, both established and new.
- He was proposing that no parking charges be introduced for town centres as one way of assisting local businesses
- The establishment of a £70,000 fund for community events celebrating HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- He offered his assistance in the Parish Council seeking to progress the road safety improvements for Tranwell Village and Tranwell Woods, together with the request for a site meeting to consider locations for gateway features in Mitford.
- He suggested that Highways England should be approached about the graffiti under the A1 bridge.

9: Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2021

These were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

10: Any Matters Arising from the Minutes

10.1 The clerk reported that the replacement battery and pads for the defibrillator had finally been delivered.

10.2 Cllr Mrs Hudson reported that the timber for the seat has been obtained and is now seasoning. The clerk was authorised to pay the balance once the seat has been delivered.

Action SER11: Planning

11.1 The Council considered the following applications and commented as shown

Application	Resolution or Action
21/03041/SCREEN - The Whitehouse Centre Ltd Whitehouse Farm - Request for a screening opinion	The clerk reported that the County Council had concluded that an Environmental Impact Assessment was not required. It

	seemed prudent to anticipate a formal planning application being submitted in the near future.
21/04987/FUL - Ashgrove House, Tranwell - Two storey rear extension, single storey front extension, internal reconfiguration, erection of new garage, new retaining wall and new boundary wall.	The Council confirmed the submission made by the clerk following consultation with Councillors stating “I have circulated this to the Parish Council who do not see material grounds to object, although the proposed changes are substantial, the setting is such that the extended house should not dominate the site. There is a concern regarding a possible change to the entrance which currently is on a bend, the drawings are not clear on this and the Parish Council would like clarification please.”
21/05019/FUL - Manor House, Mitford - Change flat roof garage into a guest annexe with a pitched roof	As with the discussion on the listed building application at the previous meeting, Councillors had no objections to this application, but they wished to flag up a concern that any further developments in the future could have a cumulative impact on a building of special historic significance for the parish.
22/00166/FUL - Lanercost House Tranwell - Application for a porch	The Council confirmed the submission made by the clerk following consultation with Councillor stating “There are no matters the Parish Council wish to draw to the attention of the LPA. Indeed, one comments was that, as the property cannot be seen from the road, adding a porch will enhance the area.”
22/00222/VARYCO - The Cottage Mitford - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 20/02207/FUL to accommodate change in design of extension	This is in Meldon Parish but in any event the Council had no comments to make.

21/04430/FUL - 2 Gubeon Cottages - Construction of a two-storey side extension	The Council had no issues they wished to draw to the attention of the local planning authority.
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11.2 The clerk informed the Council that the County Council were awaiting further evidence before deciding upon application 21/20999/CLEXIS – the hard standing and bund along the Molesden Road.

12: Erosion of the Riverbank at the foot of the Allotment

12.1 The Council resolved to exclude the press and public for this item under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as it involved the discussion of legal advice.

12.2 The Council considered legal advice from the national NALC's Legal Dept. and concluded that it will monitor the banking albeit with the planting of willow whips. **Action Cllrs Sharp and Skillen**

12.3 After discussion, the Council decided not to have a formal site visit to the embankment at this time.

13: Parking at Fontside

The Chairman will arrange for the delivery of the consultation letters. **Action Cllr Sharp**

14: Highways

14.1 Ongoing Issues

See item 8 above for action on

- Potential Safety Improvements at Tranwell Village and Tranwell Woods
- Installation of gateway features in Mitford
- The graffiti on the A1 flyover

14.2 Water on Spital Hill

Councillor Sharp will contact Martin King (NCC Highways Dept.) to seek him chasing up Openreach as water is continuing to bubble up from their manhole. Councillors were concerned that if this continues to occur, the forthcoming resurfacing of the B6343 will be damaged. **Action Cllr Sharp**

14.3 Missing Signs

The 30-mph sign on the western approach to Mitford on the B6343 has rusted through and needs replacing, as does the sign on the Whalton Road to Mitford Steads. The 30-mph sign could be incorporated into the a new gateway feature thus avoiding the cost of a new 30-mph sign, with perhaps a contribution from NCC. **Action SER**

15: Financial Matters

15.1 The Council noted and adopted the current accounts. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

15.2 The Council approved the following payments

- Gavin Christie – Village Warden (October & November) - £554.00 – retrospective
- HCI Data Ltd – Continuation of the .gov.uk domain - £102.00 – retrospective
- HMRC – PAYE Q4 - £112.50
- Stephen Rickitt (the clerk) – Admin Expenses for calendar year 2021 – 102.46
- Stephen Rickitt (the clerk) – Two replacement Northumberland Flags - £9.98

The Council specifically agreed that the latter two payments could be made via BACS rather than by cheque.

15.3 The Council gratefully acknowledged receipt of £30.00 as the allotment rent for 2022

16: The Website

Cllr Mrs Young had given her apologies but is continuing to seek information from residents for the website and Facebook page.

17: The Village Warden and other Environmental Matters

Cllr Skillen asked that his fellow Councillors contact him if there are items of work required.

Action All Cllrs

19: The Village Hall

19.1 Cllr Mrs Ridley reported that the Village Hall Committee have not yet made a decision on the purchase of monitors and other equipment to enhance the Hall's viability as a venue.

19.2 The Council confirmed its willingness to work with the Hall Committee on funding needed to enable the Hall to be an emergency centre. Cllr Mrs Ridley will convey this to the Hall Committee at its next meeting. **Action Cllr Mrs Ridley**

19.3 Councillors noted that the posts for the parking area need replacing and a flashing light on the pathway to the Hall needed repair. Cllr Mrs Ridley will report these to the Hall Committee. **Action Cllr Mrs Ridley**

20: Correspondence

20.1 The clerk drew attention to the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee. The Chairman is in contact with the organiser of the Village Fayre regarding a possible combined event. **Action Cllr Sharp**

20.2 All Councillors were asked to draw the County Council's £75,000 to the attention of any groups with which they were involved – see item 8 above. **All Cllrs**

21: Any other urgent business

Cllr Mrs Ridley drew attention to the state of a private access lane in Tranwell Woods and asked that the clerk investigate whether the County Councils had any powers to require remedial work. **Action SER**

None, not raised elsewhere

19: Time and date of next meeting

The Council agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 7 March 2022 unless there was a pressing need to meet. The next meeting is therefore likely to be Monday 4 April 2022, followed by the annual meetings on 9 May 2022. Meetings will commence at 7.30 pm.

Confirmed as a true record

and signed by the Chairman Date