

**Mitford Parish Council**

**Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**At 7.30pm in Mitford Village Hall**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** M Sharp (Chairman)

Michael Jeans

Matt Skillen

**Clerk:** Dee Smith

**Apologies:** Eric Dodd

Ted Rodger

Carole Burn

Northumberland County Councillor Glen Sanderson

58/25      **Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

59/25      **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Skillen declared a personal interest - employed by Mitford Estates

60/25      **Public Participation Time**

There were no public questions on this occasion.

61/25      **County Councillor Update**

There was no update on this occasion.

62/25      **Police Update**

There was no update on this occasion.

63/25      **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

Members were asked to approve the above minutes.

**RESOLVED**

Chairs Ints.....

That the minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025, a copy of which has been circulated to each member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

64/25 Any matters Arising from Previous Council Meetings

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

65/25 Financial Matters

a. Members were asked to approve the payments below. Members were also provided with a budget report up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

DATE	SUPPLIER	AMOUNT
16.08.25	August 25 Salary & HMRC - Clerk	£225.00
16.08.25	G Christie July 25	161.00
14.09.25	G Christie August 25	£174.00
17.09.25	September 25 Salary & HMRC - Clerk	£225.00
04.10.25	G Christie September 25	£301.00
10.10.25	Widescope – Emails/website	£562.56 (vat £93.76)
20.10.25	October 25 Salary & HMRC - Clerk	£225.00

**Receipts**

DATE	SUPPLIER	AMOUNT
08.09.25	2 <sup>nd</sup> half of precept	£4836.00

**RESOLVED**

Members approved the above payments.

b. Precept 2026/2027

Members considered the precept for 2026/2027.

**RESOLVED**

To defer to the next meeting in January 2026.

66/25 Parish Issues

(i) Land rear of Mitford allotment

Councillor Sharp advised members that he is still awaiting a response from the Environment Agency regarding permits and also advice from the geomorphologist.

Tree hinging work is to be carried out shortly. Also, reconsideration will be given to replanting willow. The approximate cost for the willow is £200.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

(ii) Piramel Bus Shelter

Members were advised that a quotation and specification have been submitted to Northumberland County Council. This will be funded by the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Piramel have confirmed that they will maintain the bus shelter.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

67/25 Town & Country Planning Act 1990

There were no planning applications on this occasion.

68/25 Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Review

Members were advised that Morpeth Town Council will be discussing the Neighbourhood Plan at their Planning & Transport committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A Steering Group meeting will be arranged after this date.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

69/25 Highways

(i) Speed Strips – Mitford Village

Members were advised that a response has been received from Northumberland County Council detailing a speed survey carried out in June 2024.

**RESOLVED**

Councillor Sharp to speak to Northumberland County Council about the request for another speed survey.

(ii) Land Slippage B6343 (Abbey Mills)

Members were advised that the work on the road is on schedule. Comments have been received from residents that the traffic lights at St Leonards Lane are working well. Concerns were raised that the road is slippery at the lights due to leaves and requires cleaning. Additionally, the verges on the Mitford Steads to Tranwell road and Spital Hill are becoming soft due to increased traffic and require maintenance to ensure safety.

**RESOLVED**

- a. To contact Northumberland County Council to request that Spital Hill is put back on the gritting list and a grit box be placed next to the traffic lights. Also, request verge maintenance on the Mitford Steads to Tranwell road and Spital Hill.
- b. To request regular updates on the road closure that can be put on the Parish Council website.

(iii) Gateway Features

Councillor Sharp advised members that he is meeting with Northumberland County Council to discuss the gateway features that will be installed on the east side and west side of the village.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

70/25 Village Hall

Members were advised that the solar project is proceeding and a quotation has been received for constructing a building to house the generator. Further quotations are to be sought.



The second attempt at lottery funding was successful for £3760. This will be used to support the village fair and subsidise events in the village hall such as theatre groups and ceilidhs.

Usage of the hall is increasing, and the hall hosted a successful live theatre evening last week, with more than 70 people attending.

Buskers evenings continue to be well attended, and the Christmas Market is already well supported. There may be a repeat of last year's Christmas Film Evening on the 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Rev. Elaine Jones is also driving a wellness café initiative in the new year.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

71/25

The Village Warden & Other Environmental Matters

Councillor Skillen advised members that he has a meeting next week with the warden and will be looking to do a final cut and general tidy up for the year.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

72/25

The Parish Council Website

Members were advised that the website is up to date with the latest information. New photographs are still required for the website.

New gov.uk email addresses have been sent to all members and are ready to use.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

73/25

Northumberland County Council Governance Review

Members were asked to consider a Governance Review on Northumberland Town and Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED**

The questionnaire was completed at the meeting with no changes to the current arrangements requested.

74/25      Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other business on this occasion.

75/25      Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026,  
7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm.

