Mitford Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

The Parish Council met at 7.30pm, on Monday, 8th April 2024 at the Village Hall, Mitford.

**Present:**

Councillors: Chair – Mike Sharp (M.S.), Carole Burn (C.B.), Matt Skillen (M.Sk.), Michael Jeans (M.J.)

Damian McEnroe (D.M.) - Clerk

**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 C. Cllr Glen Sanderson (G.S.), Cllrs Eric Dodd (E.D.) and Ted Rodger (T.R.) and Vicar Elaine Jones. At this point the chair notified the council that Cllr Dodd had resigned his position with immediate effect.

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

M.Sk. declared an interest in the Lancaster Park development.

**5: Report from the County Councillor.**

No report from the C. Cllr had been received.

**6: Report from the Police.**

There was no report received from the police.

**7: Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 6th March 2024.**

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.**

A71/2023 – Mr Towns cannot act for us as this would give rise to a conflict of interest as his company also works for Karbon Homes. It is still the view of the council that the land is suitable as a village car park and a place to install EV charging. It was agreed that the council writes to Karbon Homes giving them notice of our continued interest in ownership subject to a formal survey. **ACTION 9/2024 (T.R.)**

A1,2,3,4,5,7 and 8 have been completed.  
  
A6 is on the agenda.

**9: Financial matters.**

The accounts and current bank balance, previously circulated, were agreed upon as correct.   
  
The clerk announced he was now engaged in preparing the councils final accounts for the 2023/4 audit and AGAR process.  
  
It was agreed that Ian Fraser who completed the 2022/23 internal audit be rehired for the current audit for a fee of £45.00.

The Mitford speed sign requires adding to the asset register and it will be paid for from the 2023/24 budget.  
  
It was agreed that the contingency fund for 2024/25 be set at £1500.

The following payment was authorised:

Gavin Christie Grounds Maintenance March £506.

Tree Surgeon Work for Mitford Speed Sign £480.

**10 Parish Round-up.**

Turnberry House - The chair recently held a meeting with C. Cllr Sanderson and Rob Murfin, N.C.C. Planning and provided an overview of the conversation. As a result, Tranwell residents continue to be encouraged to report inappropriate or disorderly behaviour at the premises to Planning Enforcement, Air B’n’B and/or the police. Reports will be consolidated and logged by a Tranwell Woods resident.  
  
Tranwell Woods broadband - The chair has learnt that the current telephone cabling at Tranwell is below ground and not in ducts so replacing it will prove costly. It is not currently included in Morpeth area “Gigabyte roll out”.

There is a new voucher scheme available, similar to the scheme used to cable Mitford, and each premises would have access of up to £4,500 with a potential NCC top up though this will require a high sign-up rate for the community project to work. Interest is being explored by the Tranwell parishioner contact.

**11: Planning Applications, both current and new.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No.** | **Address** | **Status** | **Comments** |
| **24/00528/FUL** | Ashgrove House | Pending |  |
| **24/00465/FDN** | Bramblings, Tranwell Woods | Finalised | Duplicate of 23/03229/FDN |
| **19/01362/REM** | Land West of Lancaster Park | Appeal | Decision awaited |

Information has been received to suggest that a static caravan has been sited on a hard standing at NE1 Golf which may contravene planning rules. Further enquiries need to be made. **ACTION 10/2024. (M.S.)**

**Morpeth Neighbourhood Planning Review.**

The chair referred to previously circulated papers and gave an overview on the work of the Steering Group. The draft terms of reference was approved. He went on to outline the plan objectives, and considered that there should be an objective of carbon footprint reduction through such schemes as increased public transport, and cycle lanes between villages, which was agreed by all. It was also agreed that there was a need to retain the characteristics of individual villages such as Hebron and Mitford, and that they not be subsumed into Morpeth. It was agreed that the draft plan objectives adequately address these requirements.  
  
A survey into local heritage assets which are not already listed is to be undertaken and Mitford Historical Society have agreed to perform this work in conjunction with the Parish Council.  
  
Cllr C.B. has already posted this onto Mitfords’ Facebook Page seeking information from the public.

**12: Highways.**

The speed warning sign on the B6434 to the west of Mitford has been installed and appears to working as intended.  
  
The Tranwell sign is still awaiting installation at the same time as the amended Tranwell Gateway features. The clerk was asked to obtain an update for commencement of these works. **ACTION 11/2024 D.M.**

The repair of the landslip on the B6434 at Abbey Mill has been held up due to the E.A. requiring permits before work can commence. The C. Cllr has sought to speed up this process through liaison with the E.A. and by highlighting the issue via local media.

**13: Digital conversion of Parish telephony System.**

The chair explained that he had recently attended a meeting where the replacement of copper telephone cabling with fibre had been discussed. It has been identified that when a power outage occurs, digital systems will not work, and in areas of poor or no mobile phone reception, this may have significant implications for those residents who rely on health monitoring systems. Openreach should only be prioritising switching those households where there is no reliance on fibre for health monitoring or where mobile signals are adequate, however this is not always being done.

The clerk stated he’d read a recent report in the Daily Telegraph to the effect that Open Reach and Virgin media had suspended this change over for the very reasons identified.

The chair asked that this be put onto the next agenda and meanwhile he would make further enquiries with John Cooper, Head of iNorthumberland, N.C.C. **ACTION 12/2024 (M.S.)**

**14: Village Hall.**

Cllr T.R. has submitted to the clerk that there are no current issues regarding the P.C. with the exception of members of the committee which currently is under review.

**15: The Village Warden and other Environmental Matters.**

Cllr M.Sk. gave an update to say the Ivy at Church Bank/ B6434 had been cut back, the Church Bank path cleared, and the posts have been replaced in the park. The warden has been asked to price up planters.

**16: P.C. Website**

With the resignation of Eric Dodd, this will need reallocation. Cllr M.J. agree to make further enquiries. **ACTION 13/2024 (M.J.)**

**17: Correspondence.**

The Mitford Historical Society extended an invitation to their 25th Anniversary meeting on 15th May 2024 to all councillors. All agreed they would like to attend.

**18: Any other Urgent Business.**

A replacement councillor for Eric Dodd is required and this needs to be advertised with N.C.C. **ACTION 14/2024 (D.M.)**

The clerk to check availability of the main hall for the A.G.M. meeting. **ACTION 15/2024 (D.M.)**

**18: Time and dates of next meetings.**

7.30pm, Wednesday 1st May 2024 following the A.G.M. (starting at 7pm), Wednesday, 5th June and 3rd July at Mitford Village Hall.

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

……………………………………………………………… Date…………………………….

ACTION SHEET

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| Number | Action By | Description |
| 9/2024 | T.R. | Inform Karbon Homes of our intention to acquire the land at Fontside, subject to a satisfactory survey |
| 10 | M.S. | Enquiries re static caravans planning status NE1 Golf. |
| 11 | D.M | Obtain update on Tranwell gateway status from Neil Snowden, NCC |
| 12 | M.S. | Enq’s with John Cooper, iNorthumberland re delay in switch from copper cabling to fibre. |
| 13 | M.J. | Make enquiries regarding website update. |
| 14 | D.M. | Notify Councillor vacancy to NCC |
| 15 | D.M. | Ensure large hall available for May meeting. |