

Cromford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Cromford Parish held in the School Hall, Cromford Primary School on Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs: J Beckett (Chair); B Bowman (Vice Chair); A Fraser; K Wakefield;
M Birch; M Nutting.
Clerk: Mrs S Bacon

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr March and Cllr G Purdy (DDDC)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 5th May 2021, as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr Bowman.

3. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

The first paragraph of my report last year started with a reference to how difficult that year had been. Looking back further Barbara Bowman's last report also mentioned the difficulties of the year. Fortunately, the search for a new Clerk resulted in the appointment of a very competent clerk / RFO in Sian Bacon, and I am confident that the Chair's report next year will not need to start with a similar sentiment. Thanks, are also due to Brenda Kirkham for her sterling role as Locum Clerk.

We have recently said goodbye to Sue Mosely as a Parish Councillor, after thirteen years representing us on several internal committees and external bodies. As a keen walker she has been particularly instrumental in liaising with the Footpaths Officer about our large network of local footpaths. Thanks are due to Sue for all her work over those years, and best wishes for her 'retirement'. We now have two vacancies but currently no apparent interest from residents in filling those slots.

Another perennial item on the reports has been the problems that we have with our roads. I would estimate that these have taken up more than 50% of the representations made to councillors. These problems range from the dust and dirt deposited by vehicles from the many quarries that feed onto the junction of The Hill, Via Gellia, Market Place and A6 Derby Road, to constantly blocked gullies and inconsiderately parked cars. Despite many representations some of those issues do not appear to be a priority for the Police, parking enforcement and the clean teams.

Fortunately, the management of Dene Quarry have begun to step up to the mark and have implemented a number of improvements, with at least one additional major improvement in the pipeline with the installation of a new high pressure lorry wash system before the weighbridge to complement the work done at the wheel wash and on the exit road. They have also contributed to the sweeping of the pavements on The Hill and the cleaning of the 'Bear Pit' including removal of silt and gravel which washes down from the roads as well as from the mines under Black Rock. Peak District Mines Historical Society were also persuaded to take an interest in the 'Bear Pit' and helped with a major weeding session.

Sadly, some vehicle drivers still need to get the message so we will need to keep up the pressure for improvement and monitoring of the vehicles that are an almost constant presence in the village, and make a nuisance of ourselves to the higher authorities that should be taking our concerns more seriously.

Community Speedwatch has been a major asset now that we are able to be out on the roads again after the lockdowns. Recent outings have resulted in far fewer instances of excessive speed although the problem of speed, and vehicles modified so that they make excessive noise, remains an issue. Perhaps the high cost of fuel will contribute to further improvement – I've certainly noticed most vehicles travelling at lower speeds on main roads and motorways. Thanks to Councillor Bowman for her organisation of Speedwatch.

Station volunteers continue to do a sterling job under the organisation of Councillor Boyack and Al Morley. Lack of work during the lockdowns has resulted in a large backlog of weeds, which seem to flourish far better than the plants we put into the beds, so we continue to battle with nature. The current move toward 're-wilding' is not part of the station adopters plan, so more volunteers continue to be needed to help us defeat the weeds.

Finally, we need to mention the venue that we are able to use for the regular meetings of the Parish Council and its sub-committees. The trustees on Cromford Institute management committee have decided that there is insufficient income through use of the building for necessary improvements to meet modern accessibility and health and safety standards. Recently, the Parish Council were the only group still using the venue. As a result, there is currently a proposal being discussed for the sale of the property, and dispersal of any revenue to local organisations. It may be next year before we know the full outcome of this proposal. It just remains to thank all those who have served this year, and wish you "all the best" for the coming year.

Jeremy Beckett
Chair 2020 – 2022

4. The Accounts of Cromford Institute

These were partially presented at a meeting held regarding the sale of the institute but not forwarded to the Clerk.

5. Any other Business

It was agreed that the Clerk will send invites to the Parish Meeting next year in April to local organisations **Action: Clerk**

The next annual parish council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 7pm** and followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting and an Ordinary Meeting.

Signed.....Dated.....