

Cromford Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Cromford Parish Council held in the
Cromford Institute, Cromford.

Wednesday 14 February 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Matt Birch (Chair); Ian Page; Pam Ashley; and Richard Walsh
Sian Bacon (Clerk), Mr D Toone (Matlock Rugby Club) and 1 resident

24/2.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D Murphy (DCC) and Cllr P Curzon.

24/2.2 Co-option of new councillors

No candidates have approached the Clerk. Cllr Birch is aware of a resident that is interested and he will speak to the resident and invite them to a meeting.

24/2.3 Variation to the order of business

None

24/2.4 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Birch declared an interest in the Community Centre as a trustee.

Cllr Boyack declared an interest in the rugby club.

Cllr Walsh declared an interest in planning applications 24/00058/FUL and 24/00059/LBALT
- Removal of cement render and consolidation repairs - Building 1 Cromford Mill, Mill Road,
Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3RQ

24/2.5 Public Speaking

Matlock Rugby Club Chairman

Mr Toone the Matlock Rugby Club Chairman reported that they are looking to raise funding to build a new clubhouse as the old clubhouse is in a poor state. The committee has nearly completed lease discussions with Key Estates. They have come up with a design and once the lease is done the club will go for planning. The club has been in existence since 1928. There are two men's senior teams, one lady's team and a veteran's team. There are also 250 junior members aged from 6 to 18 who are the lifeblood of club. The club is a part of community and are very active in the community and the club wants to build a clubhouse that enhances the community. Sketches were issued by Mr Toone to the Councillors. The existing clubhouse is built in stone. The plans are for a 2 story clubhouse on stilts and this will look smaller than the current one. DDC Planners want a cladded type structure with aluminium cladding. The funding required to build is going to be £1.25 million to £1.5 million. It is hoped to start work at the end of this year or beginning of next year. The club brings people into the village through tournaments and caravan hire in summer. The plans may have issues with the World

Heritage site and they will be meeting in a few weeks. The club met with planners who have recommended discussions with the World Heritage site first. The clubhouse won't be an evening entertainment venue and so won't be noisy. Everything else will run as it runs now. It will be open during the day for use by residents. The club has had discussions with Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) who supports the project and they are waiting for a response from Dermot. The work is a year away from starting and the club can't access from landfill funds until planning and everything is in place. The quarries hopefully will help and the club will use as much local labour as possible. The new lease will be a 75-year lease and Matlock Rugby Club will become the prime leaseholder and sublet to the football club and others.

A resident reported that there are still issues with the Limeyard and Memorial Gardens not having lighting. The resident noted that though the council had done their best it was poor around Christmas in regards to illuminations in particular the memorial gardens. The Community has been without light there for 15 months. The community centre shouldn't be required to supply the power for the Memorial Garden and the Limeyard and it is dangerous down there. Cllr Birch noted that this has been raised with Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) but it hasn't been sorted. It was noted that the Remembrance Day even had to be run by a generator. The DDDC have responsibility for the memorial garden and the Limeyard. The Cliff lights were raised and they are still on but it isn't clear who is responsible for those. Cllr Boyack noted that without the Community Centre transfer documents for the toilet it's never going to be clear who is responsible and paying for what. If it is the community centres responsibility then they will need to sort it out when they can. The village needs to sort out these issues as they keep coming back. Cllr Walsh suggested a meeting with DDDC officers to avoid the delays from email. It was noted that there must be a copy of the agreements at DDDC but Cllr Birch will look for the Community Centre's copy as well. Cllrs Birch and Walsh will do the meeting with the DDDC officers when the documents are found. Cllr Page suggested contacting Eon to talk about their energy funding for community and charitable funds.

24/2.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 20th December 2023, as true record of those meetings, with a small adjustment to page 1503 item 2312.8d to note that the £200 grant is for village planting not the Station, proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Ashley.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 24th January 2024, as true record of those meetings, proposed by Cllr Walsh and seconded by Cllr Birch.

24/2.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

Cllr Walsh reported that Cllr Murphy (DDC) has confirmed that the threepenny bit is owned by Platform Housing.

24/2.8 Reports

a. Footpaths

The Footpath warden has ordered his yearly supplies.

b. Speedwatch

The report from Mrs B Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

c. Station Volunteers

The report from Mrs B Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

Cllr Boyack clarified that a the path can't be done by the volunteers as they can't lift the sleepers. They will have to wait for a network rail working day. It was noted that Cllrs Fraser and Boyack have looked at this before and found it not a goer. The sleepers would be required to get funding. RB has asked Alistair to apply for funding for the Amberol barrels and they are waiting for community rail to come back about the grant.

d. Planting

The report from Mrs B Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

e. Tourist Map

Cllr Birch that the map stand still needs to be moved down to the Parish Council's storage in the toilets

f. Village Walk Around with DDDC Officers – Cllr Birch

The lamp and broken posts have been raised with Cllr Whitehead and the Clerk will write Cllr whitehead

24/2.9 Village Matters

- a. Public Toilets** – this was discussed in the public participation. Bills are being paid as they come in there is less than £5000 left in the accounts and the bar is making money which is being used to pay debts.
- b. Hedges** – St Mark's hedges are Platform Housing and need raising with them.
- c. Work on 3d bit** – needs raising with platform housing. Cllr Boyack will email Cllr Birch and the Clerk with information on the previous discussions.
- d. Grit bins and Snow Wardens** – it was reported that the bins have been refilled and Cllr Birch will clarify if they need another filling.

24/2.10 Outside bodies:

- a. Cromford Institute** – there are a couple more regular hires and a wellbeing clinic was held the previous day which is the second session with more to come. Local builders are being approached for tender to bring the toilet inside. An open day was held and one builder came forward.
- b. Cromford Community Centre** – thjis was covered in the public toilet item
- c. Cromford Meadows Sports Club** – There is no further update.
- d. Celebrating Cromford** – There is a meeting on Thursday 15th February at Oakhill from 6pm is the next meeting. Any interested parties are welcome to attend. Some events need looking at if they involve the Bell.
- e. Cromford CIC** – No update.
- f. Quarry Liaison** - Cllr Birch reported that at the meeting this evening Slinter mining had held a blast and due to cloud cover the blasting in the bottom of the quarry it had been

very loud. Slinter have stated there will be no more blasting in the base of the quarry when there is cloud cover.

Collins at Ball Eye Quarry will be removing stone and ash die back and Dene have had wheel wash repairs which has combatted the muck build up on the road. The Slinter planning application was raised and it was noted that Slinter have said that without the planning permission being granted soon the company could be in trouble within six months. The Council noted that the hugely extended planning delay for Slinter is poor and it should be resolved by the County Council as soon as possible.

- g. **DVMWHS** – Cllr Walsh reported that he had attended a meeting and will send a copy of the management plan 2020-25 to the Councillors. There will be some members coming to talk to the Parish Council about the activity done and the new plan is being put in place. The central coordination team has had their funding cut by 47%. Cllr Walsh queried how they are going to function without nearly half their funding and the committee is looking to get funding from the new Mayoral funds.

24/2.11 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – The Clerk has had a meeting with the contractor and has begun receiving content from contributors. Mr Beckett has requested all previous contributors contact the Clerk. The newsletter will be colour and glossy and will be produced for around the Easter period. Delivery will be raised with Celebrating Cromford. The Clerk will advertise for volunteers to be involved in the magazine.

24/2.12 Planning Decisions:

Cllr Walsh left the room at this point

- a. 24/00058/FUL - Removal of cement render and consolidation repairs - Building 1 Cromford Mill Mill Road Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RQ
- b. 24/00059/LBALT - Removal of cement render and consolidation repairs to Building 1, Cromford Mills - Building 1 Cromford Mill Mill Road Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RQ

Cllr Walsh returned to the room at this point

- c. 24/00063/LBALT - Installation of roof lights (retrospective) - 80 The Hill Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QU`
- d. T/24/00037/TCA - T1 Ash - Dismantle tree to ground level T2 Sycamore - Dismantle tree to ground level - Bow Wood Farm Bow Wood Lea Bridge Derbyshire DE4 5AB
- e. Tree Works Application T/24/00039/TCA, Fell 2x Conifer trees at 9 Bedehouse Lane Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QZ

The Council had no objections for applications a), b), c) d) and e). The Clerk will forward these comments to the planning department. **Action: Clerk**

24/2.13 Items for Decision

- a. **To consider s137 grant applications** – It was **RESOLVED** to grant the Friends of Cromford Canal £500 towards the cost of canal clearance over 2024.

24/2.14 Finance & Administration

- a. **Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed by Cllr Page and, seconded by Cllr Birch.

- b. Items for approval and payment at this meeting** - It was **RESOLVED** to pay all items listed below proposed by Cllr Page and, seconded by Cllr Birch.

Invoices for payment in February 2024	
Footpath Warden Wages	133.52
Clerk's Wages	573.65
HMRC	40.80
Spotless - Bus Shelter cleaning (Dec & Jan)	100.00
DALC - Subs 2024/25	663.92
DD Payroll - payroll administration	72.00
Footpath Warden - Equipment expenses	151.95
Total Payments	£1,735.84

24/2.15 Items for information

None

24/2.16 Correspondence

1. Z3394 - The Derbyshire County Council (Lea Road, Lea Bridge) (No Waiting At Any Time) Traffic Regulation Order 2024 – Cllr Walsh will formulate a response for circulation.
2. Sarah Dines MP – Natwest Bakewell branch closure campaign – it was agreed to support the campaign. It was agreed to delegate Cllr Walsh to sign the petition for Cromford Parish Council.

24/2.17 Parish Council Calendar

Parish Council Meetings

- Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 6.00pm in the Cromford Institute – Staffing Committee Meeting
- Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute – Annual Parish Meeting
- Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 6pm in the Cromford institute – Quarry Liaison Meeting

24/2.18 Date of next meeting

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

CPC Meeting 14th February 2024 Reports

Speedwatch – Mrs B Bowman

Nothing to report.

A session had been arranged for Thursday 8th February, but obviously got cancelled due to the weather.

Hopefully, more to report in March!

Planting – Mrs B Bowman

Nothing to report of any note. Bulbs are starting to come through.

May need to restock for 1 or 2 failures in polyanthus, but I think I have some I can transplant from my allotment to make up.

Station adopters report – Mrs B Bowman

Work has continued on clearing and planting after a winter break.

The station is featured on the BBC Bite Size as one of the 5 best in the world! BBC Radio Derby did an interview and film with Al Morley - the DCC based co-ordinator for the adoption scheme, and Alexa Stott from East Midlands Railway. After editing by the BBC, most of the interest was on the waiting room on the opposite side to the "live" platform. This is not in the station adopters' area.

Unfortunately, the film clip & interview broadcast did not make plain that the ownership of this building was in private hands (the station house owners) who had saved it from its formerly derelict state with their money (and a Historic Buildings Grant) - nothing to do with the Arkwright Society or East Midlands Railway. This appears to have been a problem with BBC editing, not Al Morley or EMR.

We decided at our last gardening session that the wooden barrels at the very top of the parking / turning area need replacing - preferably with several large 1/2 barrels similar to the Amberol ones on the platform as they have irrigation etc and are non rot.

We also agreed that we would try to have a path installed at the back of the beds, alongside the wall with access near the Rhus tree at the bottom of the approach, so that we could get to the top of the banks safely. Path would need some revetment for a length of about 12 - 15 metres until the top of the bank flattens out.

Finance for the above – from money held by the Parish Council? Or applying for more grants?