

# **Cromford Parish Council**

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

Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 7.30pm

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**Present:** Councillors: Barbara Bowman (Chair); Jenny March; Kate Wakefield; Iain Wakefield; Marie Szegota; Alister Fraser; Cllr Birch; Jeremy Beckett and Mike Nutting; Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk); Cllr G Purdy (DDDC).

## **23/2.1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr R Boyack (illness) and Cllr Murphy (DCC)

Best wishes were sent to Cllr Boyack.

## **23/2.2 Variation to the order of business**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive a report on the Quarry Liaison Group meeting at agenda item 7.G.

## **23/2.3 Declaration of Members Interests**

None

## **23/2.4 Public Speaking**

### **Cllr Purdy (DDDC)**

Cllr Purdy reported on the Bear Pit and it was noted that the DDDC officers will pick it up in the spring. The Arkwright's society permissions for the Bear pit haven't been done yet.

Cllr Purdy noted that the roads are very dirty at the moment with a lot of mud. Cllr Bowman reported that there had been a problem with the quarry sweeper but this was resolved by the quarry manager as soon as she reported it to them. It was noted that water is still being discharged at the top of the hill from the sweeper which is finding its way into the Bear Pitt and dirtying the water.

Cllr Purdy reported that the Green and Clean team DDDC review report is due on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. He noted that hopes it will be recommending raised schedules of cleaning.

Cllr Purdy reported that Local Councils are currently in dire financial straits and the full government authorised 3% budget increase is required with DDDC recommending 2.99% for their budget. Large estimates are coming in for DDDC projects and so these projects are affecting the other parts of the budgets. The cinema project at the old Matlock bus station / market site is coming in with quotes over budget but this is still moving forward and should make money once complete.

He noted that the bins are all being emptied but the District Council still has ongoing legal issues with Serco. Cllr Bowman reported that she had received complaints that litter is being dropped by the bin collectors during bin emptying and not picked up.

DCC have said “no” to the proposed Clean Air Zone in Ashbourne, although the Pollution level especially on Buxton Road is well above H & S safe levels. The DCC argument is that the clean air zone will push heavy traffic out of Ashbourne, but make problems worse in areas such as Wirksworth and Cromford and that a bypass is the answer. So far, DCC has not consulted with HGV haulage companies in the area about the clean air zone. He has spoken to a haulage company owner who is liaising with other companies about this. His worry is that although the government have given DCC some money for investigative work on a bypass, because of Ashbourne’s relatively small size Dept of Transport will not give a scheme priority and it could be many years before it begins to be a feasible proposition. In the meantime, the air pollution problems in Ashbourne will continue

Cllr K Wakefield noted that the caravan has been moved off the top of The Hill. Cllr Purdy reported that it took some time to have it removed. He further noted that one of the biggest issues at present is with the traveller sites. Many travellers are thought to be coming to the area for a funeral at Matlock Bath.

Cllr Bowman raised the Marketplace Lamp Post and Cllr Purdy reported that the DDDC officers are dealing with it.

### **22/1.5 Minutes of the previous meetings**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 18 January 2023, as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Beckett and seconded by Cllr Nutting.

### **23/2.5 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)**

1. The train service between Nottingham and Matlock is being reinstated with trains at once an hour again.

### **23/2.6 Reports**

#### **a. Footpaths**

Cllr Beckett reported that the Clerk had received a foot path report from the Footpath Warden. It was also reported that the Dene Hollow work has been completed with the hand rail and kissing gates put in and the temporary footpath is being removed with the temporary access being blocked at both ends. There is a broken stile on Intake Lane and Barnwell Lane on the lower footpath. This has been reported to the Footpath Warden who is looking at it and discussing its repair with the landowner.

#### **b. Speedwatch**

The report from Cllr Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

#### **c. Station Volunteers**

The report from Cllr Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

#### **d. Landslip Update**

Cllr Nutting attended the landslip site meeting and sent out a report (Appendix A)

He noted that the land is still moving quite quickly so it is currently not safe to take surveys so it will be some time before the issue is established.

**e. Tourist Map Working Party Update**

Cllr I Wakefield reported that there has not been another meeting yet as Cllr Boyack is in hospital. He reported that he has drawn up plans for quotations and the Clerk has sent funding information. Cllrs I Wakefield and March will hold a meeting to look at the funding information and plans.

**f. Bear Pit**

The Arkwright society and DDDC are starting work on this in spring.

**g. Quarry Liaison**

Cllr Beckett reported on the Quarry Liaison meeting and that there had been a complaint regarding water discharge from the sweeper but this has been sorted by the quarry manager and no other complaints have been received. He reported that at Dene during the cold weather the pipes to the first wheel wash froze and cracked but this has also been repaired. It was noted that the extra hose on a post was a further measure to clean after two-wheel washes.

The EHO is inspecting Slinter Quarry next month. Dene's section by section pavement cleaning is ongoing. Dene are also in the process of a planning review. Dene's initial planning consent runs to 2026 and Tarmac are requesting an extension for 10 further years. The extension submission was due in March but Tarmac have requested an extra 6 months to resolve some archaeological, restoration and environmental issues.

The Slinter Planning Permission decision is due soon. Slinter are currently doing work on stabilising a land slip and some work on this is being done on the surface to restore the top so there will be noise up there.

The Mineral's Officer has received one complaint about Dene blasting vibrations. He attended the property to monitor but the monitoring equipment didn't trigger from the small blast. In liaison with the quarry manager the next time there is a larger blast this will be monitored.

The Mineral's Officer Slinter inspection was last month with the previous inspection held in June 2022 and the only issue is stabilisation of slip.

Ball Eye was raised and it was reported that a sale is going through subject to contract but the new owner is not confirmed and no approach has been made to DCC planning but it is uncertain if the quarry is statutorily dormant. It was noted that it is considered extremely unlikely that work could start immediately.

The Clerk will query Cllr Murphy (DCC) on what is happening with the planned road improvements on the Via Gellia road.

**23/2.7 Village Enhancement**

**Planting** – Cllr Bowman reported that things are growing and been weeded. The plants seem to have mostly survived the cold.

**Market Place Lamp Post** – this was discussed with Cllr Purdy (DDDC) in the public section.

**North Street Rubbish** – Cllr March reported that the North Street residents have received a letter from the DDDC regarding rubbish collection but the DDDC haven't specified not to put rubbish out on a non collection day so this has not improved the issue. This problem is thought to relate to the use of properties as holiday lets with "changeover" not being on DDDC collection day and the owners using the domestic not trade waste service. Cllr Beckett reported that someone had dumped rubbish bags near his house again. The Clerk will ask Cllr Purdy (DDDC) to request the DDDC send a letter to remind holiday lets to use trade waste not normal bins. **Action: Clerk**

### **23/2.8 Parish Council Quality Scheme**

It was **RESOLVED** to work towards the Foundation Level proposed by Cllr Bowman and seconded by Cllr Beckett.

### **23/2.9 Code of Transparency for Smaller Councils**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the code of transparency for smaller councils proposed by Cllr Bowman and seconded by Cllr K Wakefield.

#### **23/2.10 Outside bodies:**

- a. **Cromford Institute** – Cllr Szegota reported that there is no update as the meeting is next week.
- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – The Clerk reported that she had received an email from the manager and he will attend the Parish Council meeting on the 15 March. There is no further information regarding the date of the AGM so the Clerk will query this. The manager also noted that in regards to the Parish Council leasing the storage space at the toilet the CC cannot insure third party items and it was noted that the Parish Council insurance will insure these. There has been no lease produced so far.
- c. **Cromford Meadows Sports Club** – There is no further update on the AGM so the Clerk will email the chair asking what happened. **Action: Clerk**
- d. **Celebrating Cromford** – meeting to be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 7.30pm in Community Centre. This will be advertised on the Cromford Matters facebook page. The committee need more volunteers for events as not enough at the moment and working parties needed.

#### **23/2.11 Communications**

- a. **Newsletter** – Cllr Beckett noted that he had circulated suggested deadlines some time ago. Cllr Beckett reported that he is not standing at next elections but is happy to continue to produce newsletters until there is someone to take over. The new council will need to ask Cllr Beckett to continue to do it if they wish for him to continue.
- b. **Parish Council website** – Cllr Beckett reported that he and the Clerk had met with Wish and he has been sent a link to a beta site. It will come with an email address for each councillor, a better document archive and a calendar which should link people to the documents. The Clerk is working to get the old website domain off the old provider.

#### **23/2.12 Planning Decisions:**

- a. Tree Works Application T/23/00020/TCA, Re-Coppice group of Willow and Hazel trees (G5), Stump grind to 250mm below ground level of 1no. Willow (T6). Remove Basal and

Epicormic growth of 2no. Sycamore trees (T7 and T8), Pollard to 4m and remove back limb tagged 108 of 1no. Willow tree (T10). Fell 1no. Willow tree (T16) to 1m stump and 2no. Sycamore trees (T17 and T18) to ground level at Severn Trent Water Plc Sewage Treatment Works Lea Road Lea Bridge Derbyshire

- b. 23/00049/LBALT - External repairs to stonework - 54 - 56 The Hill Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3QU
- c. Tree Works Application T/23/00022/TCA, Crown reduction by 20% of 3no. Yew trees (T1, T2, T3) at The Lodge Willersley Castle Mill Road Cromford Matlock
- d. 23/00102/FUL - Extension and renovation of existing property - Hideaway Cottage Willersley Lane Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 5JG

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

**23/2.13 Items for Decision**

- a. **To approve road grit purchase** - It was **RESOLVED** to purchase up to £250 of road grit proposed by Cllr Beckett and, seconded by Cllr K Wakefield.

**23/2.14 Finance & Administration**

- a. **Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed by Cllr Fraser and, seconded by Cllr March.
- b. **Items for approval and payment at this meeting** - It was **RESOLVED** to pay all items listed below proposed by Cllr March and, seconded by Cllr K Wakefield.

<b>Invoices for payments in February 2023</b>	
Grass Monkey - Strimmer repair/ service	94.00
Clerk's Wages	529.45
Footpath Warden Wages	123.12
Spotless	100.00
Cromford Institute - Hire	125.00
Community Rail Network - Membership	30.00
DALC Subscription 23/24	599.90
Footpath Warden equipment	149.50
Cromford Institute - s137 grant	492.63
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£2,243.60</b>

**23/2.15 Items for information**

None

**23/2.16 Correspondence**

1. Electoral Commission – reminder of the new requirement that all voters must present photo id before voting.
2. Road Closure - B5035 Godfrey Hole Hopton 13th March to 17th March for Night works for realigning and studding works between 18:00 and 06:00

**23/2.17 Parish Council Calendar**

**Parish Council Meetings**

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute – Staffing Committee Meeting

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Full Council Meeting
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Full Council Meeting
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm in the Cromford Institute – Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council Meeting and an Ordinary Meeting

**23/2.18      Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....

## **Appendix A**

### **CPC Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Reports**

#### **Speedwatch – Cllr Bowman**

A session was held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at the top of The Hill (Dene Quarry / Bakers Lane).

This was the 1<sup>st</sup> session for some time (one in November was cancelled at the last minute due to unexpected roadworks near the site and after that weather uncertainty meant nothing was organised in December / January).

The session only lasted 45 minutes – it got very cold! – but eight vehicles were reported. The police have confirmed that none of these was a local resident, but that one was a repeat offender (3<sup>rd</sup> time) so action will be taken. Of the eight, three were going at 40mph or more in a 30mph zone.

Another session will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> March

I have managed to arrange a site meeting with the CREST Police/CSW team on 24<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the locations they have so far disallowed

#### **Station volunteers – Cllr Bowman**

As you all know, Russ is currently in hospital, and so I was asked to run the session we had at the beginning of February. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> session in some time because of bad weather so there was plenty of weeding work to be done. Thankfully, most of the spring planting seems to have survived being frozen solid. I am away for the next session in February so Jeremy Becket has agreed to lead this. After that, we hope to welcome Russ back.