

Cromford Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Cromford Parish Council held in the
Hall at Cromford Church of England School, Cromford.

Wednesday 15 June 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Barbara Bowman; Matt Birch; Russ Boyack; Alistair Fraser; Jenny March; Kate Wakefield; Jeremy Beckett; Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk), Cllr D Murphy (DCC), Ann Taylor-Wilde (Cromford Institute Chair) & 1 parishioners.

22/06.1 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs M Nutting and G Purdy (DDDC).

22/06.2 Variation to the order of business

None

22/06.3 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Fraser & Bowman also declared an interest in agenda item 16.b Finance.

Cllr Boyack declared an interest in agenda item 9 as a relative of a holiday home owner.

22/06.4 Public Speaking

Intake Lane Parking

A Parishioner raised the continuing parking problems on Intake Lane. The Parishioner reported that the garage that had taken on the site was doing well and had a good reputation for work. However, the car parking by the garage continued to give the Lane residents problems and had done so since 2020 and despite the garage changing hands the issue had not gone away not gone away and if anything, over the two years it has got worse. It was reported that some vehicles belonged to employees and customers but some have been dumped for months. The parishioner noted that 9 had been dumped by the garage with 5 being illegal as the held no MOT, insurance and had been registered as SORN with the tax office. Four of these had been dumped for a considerable time from the 11th January, the 4th March, 21st April, and 21st May being the dates they were dumped on the road. Cllrs Bowman and Nutting have already had some involvement with the situation and had been told by the local PCSO that if the vehicles were taxed and insured they can park on the road. Cllr Bowman also noted that at one time the District Council used to tow abandoned vehicles. The parishioner noted that they had reported the vehicles on the DVLA website but nothing had been done. They had reported another four to the DDDC as abandoned vehicles but again nothing had been done. Cllr Murphy (DDDC & DCC) will chase up with DDDC regarding these reports. **Action; Cllr Murphy.** It was reported that Kirsty the local PCSO was coming to have a look. The parishioner reported that the residents were very disappointed in DDDC and the police for their lack of action. It was also reported that the nature of the parking was causing safety issues and the Ridgewood Road turning has become an accident waiting to happen with lack of visibility for those turning caused by the cars. It was reported that the Police had attended and declared there was no problem despite some vehicles being left unlocked on the steep hill and an incident on the 21st September 2021 where one of the dumped and unlocked vehicles had rolled and hit the vehicle in front. It was noted that the vehicles could roll down to the junction at some speed and into the main road if nothing

was in front of them due to being parked on the steep hill. Cllr Walker reported that the PCSO can go to their supervising Police officer and get them to view and deal with the situation of the illegal vehicles and it should be a priority. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the PCSO, safer neighbourhood team and the local inspector to request a meeting to get the situation resolved.

Action: Clerk

It was also noted that this could be raised at a meeting on the 5th July being held for Parish Councillors with the Police and Crime Commissioner at the Whitworth Centre in Darley Dale.

District and County Councillor Reports and Issues:

Report from Cllr Murphy

Cllr Murphy reported that the Boat inn road work had been completed and looks neat. It was noted by Cllr Bowman that it was a shame the original granite curb stones have been taken away but the job was better than the original.

Cllr Murphy reported that he had reported the fly -tipping of domestic waste that Cllr Beckett had raised with him.

The Speed Indicator Device trial was raised and Cllr Murphy (DCC) noted that an email had been sent clarifying aspects of the scheme. It was noted that the scheme was costly and difficult for smaller parish councils to implement due to the requirements to have professionals moving the devices every six weeks and regular battery changes. Added to the requirement to test lighting columns and the cost of the devices it does not seem feasible for the council to take advantage of the scheme.

Cllr Murphy reported on the Acoustic camera scheme. Sarah Dines has put forward Matlock Bath and Cromford to take part in the scheme. However, there is only £50,000 for all councils across the country at present so there is a lot of competition for the funding. Cllr Bowman noted that Derbyshire police had been trailing cameras but it was noted that these were only hand guns with this trial looking at static units. Matlock Bath and Cromford Parish Councils have had lots of complaints about noise and the surveys that Matlock Bath Parish Council put out have been coming in.

No through road signs on still on the schedule but don't have a date yet

The request that the Water Lane parking bays be reduced due to the fact that the hatching doesn't consider parked cars in the turning area was raised. It was noted that if there are no cars there is no problem with turning but when cars are parked there the turning area is too small. The Council requested that the hatching be changed instead of installing double yellow lines to prevent cars from parking. It was noted that the hatching needs come further down as stationary vehicles waiting. Cllrs Boyack and Murphy agreed to meet the following day to take photos.

John Mee raised that the A6 trees have still not been done. Cllr Murphy will look at them tomorrow.

Cllr Birch reported that he, Cllr Purdy (DDDC) and the Manager of Dene Quarry had held a meeting and it looks like the dust situation is improving and a lot of work has been done and this has been seen as an improvement in village. It was noted that the pressure washing of pavements and sweeping are being done in sections.

22/06.5 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 18 May 2022, as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Boyack and seconded by Cllr March.

22/06.6 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

There were no matters arising.

22/06.7 Reports noted – Circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix A)

a. Almshouses

The report from Cllr Wakeman and her resignation from the committee was noted (Appendix A)

b. Dene quarry meeting

Cllr Purdy (DDDC) sent the Clerk the following report:

Cllr Birch and Cllr Purdy met with Aaron Laycock, Manager at Dene Quarry as arranged on the 8th June together with Matt and Ash Watts. It should be recognised the vast improvement that Aaron has brought to the state of the roads and pavements on The Hill and down towards the village with extra schedules of cleaning. He has had to argue with his Directors for the need to invest in extra cleaning equipment and he in fact showed us a new Bowser that he is trialling and if successful he hopes to be able to purchase one at circa £80,000.

I could tell that the strong criticism over the past two years had been taken personally by him but that he wanted to get things right and for Dene Quarry to be a good neighbour.

We all agreed to leave things as they are, to monitor the situation, especially during the winter months and if necessary, Ash and Aaron will liaise with each other and put extra cleaning in.

Cllr Boyack noted that there was dust still coming across. Longcliffe and Bennets should be spoken to at quarry liaison make sure all lorries sheeted. Mighty Mix and people like that with just netting a problem.

A report from Cllr Birch was noted (Appendix A)

c. Footpaths –

The report from Cllr Boyack was noted (Appendix A)

The Footpath Warden reported that Tarmac had completed the new flight of steps from the wheel wash and they had done a good job but had not yet strimmed or cut branches up there. Behind the wheel wash is a designated walk way marked out in yellow which cannot be seen so needs sorting. The Clerk will contact the quarry manager. **Action: Clerk.** The strimmer been repaired by Mr Mee and the Pennyford application has gone in but there has been no acknowledgement of its receipt yet. Thanks were given to Mr Mee for doing the litter picking.

d. Jubilee feedback

The report from Cllr Fraser was noted (Appendix A)

Cllr Fraser also reported that:

Publicity:- it was reported that some residents didn't know was going on but it was advertised in the newsletter and Facebook. Usually there is a programme for Celebrating Cromford but the Jubilee

was very quick in coming together at short notice. The Council will put posters in notice board in future.

North Street Bunting:- it was noted that the bunting looked a bit sad and the 5 meter height required by Highways regulations was not achievable without a cherry picker. There appeared to be a lack of interest from North Street but it was noted that half the homes are holiday lets.

It was noted that everyone was pleased with the beacon.

The Council formally tendered their thanks to Cllr Fraser and Birch for their work on the Jubilee.

e. Planting

The report from Cllr Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

Cllr Fraser noted that it needs a weed around the threepenny bit to remove shepherds bush and this will help other things grow.

f. Speedwatch

The report from Cllr Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

g. Station Volunteers

The report from Cllr Boyack was noted (Appendix A)

h. Intake Lane parking

The reports from Cllr Bowman and Cllr Nutting were noted (Appendix A)

This item was covered in public participation.

22/06.8 Lea Road closure update

No update currently.

22/06.9 Village Enhancement

Holiday Homes – The Clerk reported that she had not heard from Sarah Dines MP on the issue as yet. It was noted that planning laws from are produced by Government not by Local Councils so required Government lobbying. It was noted that the Jubilee celebrations in some village areas had shown there was a problem with lack of participation due to so many homes not having permanent residents. It was reported that there are 8 holiday homes on North Street and approximately 50 in Cromford's centre out of 600 homes.

22/06.10 Outside bodies:

- a. Selection of a trustee to Cromford Almshouses** – it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr March will replace Cllr Wakefield on the Almshouses.
- b. Cromford Institute** – Mrs Taylor-Wilde reported that 2 meetings have been held and a new committee has been put in place that have looked at what needs doing legally and generally. Quotes are coming in for work that needs doing. The committee are looking at

painting and decorating which is thought to come to about £1000 with the electrics and fire provision another £1000 and the current standing orders. The committee are hopeful that they will soon be back up and running as viable proposition. Cllr Wakefield queried whether the original trustees have resigned. It was reported that it is a complicated system to work out as there are both holding trustees and management trustees. Cllr Bowman noted that she thought the charity commission is the holding trustee. Mrs Taylor-Wilde stated that the committee were looking at it. Information from Rural Action Derbyshire has been passed on by Cllr Bowman to Mrs Taylor-Wilde to see if they can assist. It was agreed to give the Clerk the committee contact details so she can pass grant information along. Cllr Fraser queried how the committee was going to meet the fixed costs over the next couple of months. Mrs Taylor-Wilde reported that she is chasing up grants and local businesses for assistance. At present the committee has sufficient money in the bank account for fixed costs but will be looking for funding for repair work. The Clerk will pass on all grant information. **Action: Clerk**

- c. **Cromford Community Centre** – The Clerk reported that she had received complaints regarding the state of the toilets. Cllr Fraser reported that the flags and beacon were already stored in the toilet building and suggested that the Council should offer to rent the storage space in the building as the Council has several assets that require permanent storage. It was agreed to approach the Community Centre with a rent suggestion of £25 per month. Cllr Bowman noted that the water for the flower towers that comes from the Community Centre should also be looked at for reimbursement. Cllr Fraser will discuss these suggestions with the community centre and report back on their response. **Action: Cllr Fraser**
- d. **Selection of new Footpath Coordinator** – It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Beckett will take over the role of Footpath Coordinator from Cllr Boyack

22/06.11 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – Cllr Beckett reported that the newsletter had been issued and the next deadline is Friday 12th August to be issued in September.
- b. **Parish Council website** – The Clerk reported that she had access to the website and had put documents on there.

22/06.12 Training offered by DALC

It was requested that all councillors report all the training they have received in the past 2 years so the Clerk can organise sessions for all councillors where required. **Action: All**

22/06.13 Planning Decisions:

- a. 22/00496/FUL, Proposed Extension to existing workshop building Steeple Grange Light Railway Steeple Grange Light Railway Engine House Old Porter Lane Wirksworth Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4GE
- b. SCOM/3/80, Scoping Opinion, Slinter Top Quarry, Cromford – No comment
- c. 22/00527/FUL, Conversion of and extension to existing barn to form 1no. dwellinghouse and relevant demolition of attached outbuilding in a conservation area, Land and Buildings To Rear Of 140 The Hill Cromford Derbyshire – permitted development rights be removed.

- d. Tree Works Application T/22/00079/TCA, Fell 1No. Birch tree at 18 Alabaster Lane Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3QJ

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

The Council had no objection to application c) however it was requested that the permitted development rights be removed to prevent over development of a small site and the Clerk will forward these comments to the planning department. **Action: Clerk.**

22/06.14 Items for Decision

- a. **To approve three new bank signatories** – It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Birch, March and Fraser will become new account signatories, proposed by Cllr Bowman and seconded by Cllr Boyack. The Clerk will set this up and bring the forms for signing. **Action: Clerk**
- b. **Co-option of new councillor** – The Clerk reported that she had received an application from a Matlock resident within the acceptable boundary to become a Councillor. The resident was currently on holiday but the Clerk will organise a meeting with Cllr Bowman and the resident to discuss the position and had forwarded information to them. The Clerk will invite them to attend the next meeting in July.

22/06.15 Finance & Administration

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

Invoices for payment in June 2022	
Spotless (Bus Shelter Cleaning)	50.00
Woolley Moor Nurseries - begonias (Reimbursement BB)	36.50
Tansley Barn Garden Centre - plants (Reimbursement BB)	45.85
Tansley Barn Garden Centre - compost (Reimbursement BB)	25.20
Sue Mosley - Scarthin war memorial plants	15.00
Wilko (wildflower seeds) (Reimbursment BB)	2.00
Speedwatch Radar Gun batteries (Reimbursment BB)	6.00
Amberol - Station Planters	3171.90
Clerk's Wages	409.05
Footpath Warden's wages	111.48
HMRC - PAYE	124.00
Jubilee Printing (Reimbursement AF)	10.00
Tennis Balls Jubilee (Reimbursement AF)	2.97
Cromford Play Group - Jubilee Costs	383.33
Lester Lowe Ltd - compost for station	264.00
Hire of Jubilee Gazebos - (Reimbursement AF)	70.00
Bus Shelter Maintenance Ltd - A6 Bus Shelter repair	232.80
Total Payments	£4,960.08

22/06.16 Items for information

There were no items for information

22/06.17 Correspondence

1. Derbyshire County Council – A Road Closure Notice - Via Gellia A5012 for a HRA patch Night Closure 20th July 18:00 to 21st July 06:00.

22/06.18 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 7.30pm in the School Hall at Cromford Primary School.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

CPC Meeting 15th June 2022 Reports

a. Almshouses – Cllr K Wakefield

I attended the above AGM on 27 May. On the Agenda was a request by one of the two tenants who live in the Almshouses for extra storage.

The discussion that followed was based on personal details and hearsay as opposed to fact. No site meeting or discussion with the tenants had taken place. To have a full 'picture' this would have been useful for the Trustees to make an informed decision.

Sadly, my objection to how the decision was being decided was not greeted well and after expressing my view, decided I must resign as a Trustee.

As a representative of The Parish Council, it was rather hasty but my decision was mainly based on the lack of democracy being actioned on that occasion.

I sent my resignation to the Almshouses Chair Angela Read and informed Barbara Bowman also. I had a reply from Angela Read accepting my resignation

c. Footpaths – Cllr R Boyack

Still waiting for DCC to register footpath alteration application. I amended the application as requested by DCC and this has been submitted.

e. Planting – Cllr B Bowman

Summer planting was in place for the Jubilee. I planted the 2 flower towers. Thanks to Sue Mosley, Kate & Jenny for planting at Scarthin war memorial and the Hawthorn Drive junction.

f. Speedwatch – Cllr B Bowman

We have had an evening session (on 30th May) at the top of The Hill by the quarry entrance.

Although we only had about ½ as much traffic as previous daytime sessions, about the same number of vehicles were speeding – so a much greater proportion.

Unfortunately, at the last minute only 3 of us could attend, so recording was made much more difficult (we have to record the total number of vehicles, the speed, registration, make, model and colour of any vehicle at 36mph or more and the time at which the vehicle passes us.)

PCSO Kirsty Hunt joined us for part of the session and put up a report on their website.

I am hoping to organise another evening session in June and July

g. Station Volunteers – Cllr R Boyack

Order for new planters has been placed with Amberol. East Midlands Railways volunteer day is to be the 21st June when they will paint the station fencing. Volunteers will plant up new planters on the same day.

h. Intake Lane parking – Cllrs M Nutting & B Bowman

Cllr Nutting

There is once again an issue with the cars which continue to be parked on Intake - some of which have been there, it seems, for at least a couple of months now

Numbers had dropped nicely after the PCSO involvement, but have increased again, such that there are typically between 5 and 10 or so now - with 4 or 5 'long-stay' residents

I have checked the long-stayers, and 3 are showing as untaxed, 1 as on a Sorn and 1 as being taxed, although only until next month

All have a valid MoT

My understanding is that it is not legal to park untaxed vehicles on a public highway - and a vehicle on a Sorn I think should not be parked on the highway also

Not sure where this leaves us, other than asking the PCSO to revisit things, although I did read on My Google-feed the other day of a recent incident where police and local authority staff (I think it was) were clamping un-taxed vehicles they found on a public highway

Anyway, I have received complaints from a couple of parishioners about this matter, and said I'd bring it to the attention of the Council

Cllr Bowman

Cllr Nutting, who cannot attend tonight, informed me about further problems with parking at the bottom of Intake Lane, believed to be due to vehicles parked up before having work carried out at the Garage on the A6. Some cars untaxed / uninsured. I passed this onto PCSO Kirsty Hunt who has promised to go and assess the situation. However, she confirmed that taxed & insured vehicles parked there are not committing any offence – unless abandoned. She also informed me that from previous meetings with the garage owner, he has insurance to drive any car, so the insurance status is not relevant unless someone else is seen driving an uninsured vehicle. She seemed to think untaxed vehicles could park up also. I am going to query this with her because of the SORN form.