

# **Cromford Parish Council**

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

Wednesday 16 November 2022 at 7.30pm

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**Present:** Councillors: Barbara Bowman (Chair); Jeremy Beckett; Matt Birch; Russ Boyack; Alistair Fraser; Kate Wakefield; Iain Wakefield; Marie Szegota; Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk); 1 representative from the Arkwright Society and 2 Parishioners.

## **22/11.1 Apologies for Absence**

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

## **22/11.2 Variation to the order of business**

It was **RESOLVED** to allow the representative from the Arkwright Society to start his report later in the meeting after, agenda item 12 planning, as he was not able to be present for the beginning of the meeting.

## **22/11.3 Declaration of Members Interests**

Cllr Bowman declared an interest in agenda item 14 payments to be authorised as a Payee.

Cllr Boyack declared an interest in agenda item 12 the 22/01239/FUL planning application as a resident.

## **22/11.4 Public Speaking**

None

## **22/10.5 Minutes of the previous meetings**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 19 October 2022, as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr I Wakefield and seconded by Cllr Fraser.

## **22/11.5 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)**

The Clerk reported that she had received a covid signs update from Cllr Purdy (DDDC) and the issue has been raised with the County Council by the District Council as this is their area of responsibility.

## **22/11.6 Reports**

### **a. Alms Houses**

The Clerk reported that at the most recent Alms Houses meeting it had been agreed to update the radiators in the properties and the baths be changed to showers if the tenants wish to fund it. The bank accounts will also be moved to unity trust to allow for secure online banking.

### **b. Sport Club Meeting**

The report from Cllr Boyack was noted (Appendix A)

Cllr Boyack will continue as the Council representative.

**c. Footpaths**

The report from Cllr Beckett was noted (Appendix A)

It was reported by Cllr Beckett that he had been quoted £550 from Mr Sturt to reinstate the footpath to avoid fallen tree to Wood End and do revetment work.

It was reported that the children's playing field path at oak hill is covered in leaves and is very slippery. The Clerk will contact Cllr G Purdy (DDDC) to clean up. **Action: Clerk**

**d. Speedwatch**

Cllr Bowman reported that the 22<sup>nd</sup> November will be the date of the next watch.

**e. Station Volunteers**

Cllr Boyack reported that he had carried a wreath on the EMR Route to Remembrance.

Cllr Boyack is going to collect another hundred plants supplied by the County Council next week on Friday ready to put them in at the Station.

Cllr Boyack also reported that volunteers had attended the station volunteers conference at the Derby Museum of Making.

**f. Lea Road Closure**

The most recent update was received and circulated by Cllr Boyack

**g. DALC AGM**

The report from Cllr Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

It was agreed to look at what the Council needs to achieve to become part of the council assurance scheme at the basic level. Cllr Bowman will do a report. **Action: Cllr Bowman**

**h. Remembrance Day**

The Clerk will organise a meeting with the current Royal British Legion chair to discuss the council's role and the assistance required from them in organising the 2023 Remembrance Day. **Action: Clerk**

**i. Bear Pit**

The report from Cllr Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

Cllr Birch noted the Bear Pit path ash trees are only small but the tree roots will get into everything and make it worse. It was also noted that the area at the rear of Bear Pit belongs to number 5 which is up for sale.

**j. Dene Hollow**

Cllr Beckett reported that he, the Quarry manager, Cllr Slack (Middleton PC), Cllr Greatorex (Middleton PC), and Cllr Purdy (DDDC) had attended a meeting at Dene Hollow to see the completed path work. The quarry is putting in hand rails down the steps and the path going up the other side. A kissing gate is to go in each end. The quarry will not remove the temporary path until all work is completed then the temporary path will be sealed and removed.

## **22/11.7 Village Enhancement**

**Planting** – Cllr Bowman reported that the planting has been done and Cllr K Wakefield has done the Three penny bit.

**Lamp post** – it was noted that the council is looking in to adopting the lamp post for next year.

## **22/11.8 Outside bodies:**

- a. **Cromford Institute** – it was noted that there was nothing to report from the committee. Cllr Fraser noted that the frontage of the building was looking far better and there is more painting to be done.
- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – Cllr Fraser has the rental agreement for the hire of the storage space in the toilet block now and has raised it with the Manager of the Community Centre and emailed it to him but had no word from him as of yet. It was reported that the manger was not happy with the length of lease agreement. Cllr Birch and Fraser will also raise it with the bar manager. Cllr Fraser has a key and is getting another one cut and he will do a floor plan to see exactly what is being rented.

## **22/11.9 Communications**

- a. **Newsletter** – Cllr Beckett reported that an edition is currently being distributed. The next edition is normally distributed at the beginning of March. Cllr Beckett will report a deadline date for articles by the end of January.
- b. **Parish Council website** – It was agreed to put the new website provider on the next agenda. The Clerk reported that having looked at a few different websites and providers that the quotes she had received were all over £1000 in comparison to £550 from Wish. Wish also have the advantage of being local. The Clerk and Cllr Beckett will meet with Wish to discuss the council requirements further. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Beckett**

## **22/11.10 Planning Decisions:**

- a. DERBYSHIRE DALES LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION ON GROWTH OPTIONS – it was agreed to put this on the next agenda so that Cllrs Boyack, I Wakefield, Birch and Bowman can formulate a response. **Action: Cllrs Boyack, I Wakefield, Birch and Bowman.**
- b. 22/01239/FUL | Two storey side extension (revision to permission 21/00288/FUL) | 14 Beech Walk Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3RB

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

## **22/11.11 Arkwright Society Representative – Hydro Project**

The Arkwright committee representative reported that the joint community-based project had 2 elements firstly, to refurbish the generator at the Mill which will put energy into the grid providing profit which will go into a community interest company with a board of a minimum of 3 people. The Bear pit project has been discussed as something the company could take on with other projects to be done.

The second element is the Mill itself the water course has been de-silted as they couldn't use the middle sluice which is important to operation. The management can't start any more work on the Mills turbine at present as they are currently doing a dig behind the wheel pit as it is an area of historical importance. The plans for the work are currently with the planners with a programme of work due to start from February and aimed to be completed in July.

It was noted that the residents support the project but there is concern around the noise levels until July. It was noted that the noise levels have been high recently. It was reported that a letter is usually sent out regarding the noise. And the Hydro works will be quiet. The de-silting was done between 10am and 3pm over two days. It was suggested that there be an 8am to 6pm limit on works. The representative noted that the work was only being done between the Mill's usual 9am to 5pm opening hours so this should not be an issue. It was reported that the recent music festival was very loud over and took place over 3 days with noise between 11am and 11pm. The representative stated that the project was not huge so he was certain they would not be working outside the 8am to 6pm hours.

Cllr Boyack queried how the community interest board will be selected. It was reported that the Manager has people in mind and will be discussing it with Cllr Bowman but the company was in the early stages with the company established but the rest of the format will be addressed in 6 months.

#### **22/11.12 Items for Decision**

- a. Christmas Arrangements** – Report from Cllr K Wakefield noted (Appendix A) noted.

It was agreed to obtain a gift for Mr Sturt and request he switch lights on. Cllr K Wakefield will contact him with a letter to thank him. The Cromford Band is not available for the event but Cllr Bowman will continue to look for someone. **Actions: Cllrs K Wakefield & Bowman.**

- b. s137 Grant Requests** – Cromford playgroup - £100 for Christmas Community Lunch it was **RESOLVED** to pay the grant upon receiving receipts. Proposed by Cllr Boyack, seconded by Cllr Fraser.

#### **22/11.13 Finance & Administration**

- a. Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed by Cllr Fraser and, seconded by Cllr Beckett.
- b. Pay Scales 2022/23** – it was **RESOLVED** to accept the pay scales proposed by Cllr K Wakefield, seconded by Cllr Beckett.
- c. Budget 2023/24 Update** – it was reported that the budget was still a work in progress and will go to the finance committee or the full council in December.
- d. Items for approval and payment at this meeting** - It was **RESOLVED** to pay all items listed below proposed Cllr Beckett and, seconded Cllr Wakefield.

<b>Invoices for payments in November 2022</b>	
Spotless	25.00
Community Heartbeat Trust - Defib Pads	122.40
Highland Print Services	509.00
Barbara Bowman - Winter plants	39.00
Sue Mosely - Winter plants	12.00
K Wakefield - Xmas Lights	53.98
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£ 761.38</b>

- e. **Delegation of salary payments** - It was **RESOLVED** to delegate approval of November salary payments to the Chair and Vice Chair. Proposed by Cllr Beckett, seconded by Cllr K Wakefield.

**22/11.14 Items for information**

It was noted that the new Public Space Protection Orders had removed dog restrictions from all churchyards. Dogs are still excluded from children’s play areas. This is a blanket removal across the area.

**22/11.15 Correspondence**

1. Gigaclear are holding an information stand at Matlock Market on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10am – 2pm

**22/11.16 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....

## Confidential Section

### 22/11.17 Staffing Committee

- a. **Report from Staffing Committee** – Cllr Bowman reported that the committee had looked at pay scales, the footpath wardens job description and contract. It was noted that Mr mee was not currently on a related pay scale. It was agreed that to keep track of hours the clerk will add an hours worked column to the footpath officers report. **Action: Clerk.**
- b. **Approval of contract and salary changes** – it was **RESOLVED** to move Mr Mee to scale point 8 of the NALC pay scales capped at 12 with increases up to this point if the council deems it appropriate after appraisals.
- c. **Approval of staff appraisal dates** – It was **RESOLVED** to hold appraisals early in March each year to report to the March Meeting.

## **CPC Meeting 16 November 2022 Reports – Appendix A**

### **Sport Club meeting – Cllr Boyack**

On 1st November I attended a meeting - as a representative of the Parish Council - with a number of members of sports clubs who use Cromford Meadows. The clubs were Matlock and Cromford Meadows Cricket club and representatives of various football teams.

The objective of the meeting was to investigate the providence of Cromford Sports club, determine if it was still viable and what steps needed to resurrect it. The meeting decided that the existing sports club was struggling to function as its original aims intended although it was still viable and able to meet its obligations. Many of the former officials of the club no longer had any involvement in the running of the club.

After much discussion it was decided to call an annual general meeting on 7th February 2023 with the objective of formally closing the existing sports club and forming a new sports club with a new committee and officials. Funds from the existing sports club being transferred to the new organisation.

One of the objectives to the new sports club is to promote more community use of The Meadows. To this end I have agreed that they can put an article in the next Parish Newsletter publicising their existence and ambitions and have asked Jeremy to give them the deadlines for the next newsletter

### **Footpaths – Cllr J Beckett**

I have been to Woodend and spoken to one of the family members about the fallen tree blocking the footpath through the woods at Woodend. Mrs. Nieper senior had discussed this with them so they were aware of the problem. It was confirmed that they are happy for the Parish Council to go ahead and install the small proposed diversion, thus providing continued invertebrate / birdlife habitat and avoid risk of disturbing other trees.

John Mee has spoken to Ollie Sturt and he will do the work as discussed with John for the sum of £550.

There has been no further information about the two RoW claims outstanding, or for the correction of the signing for Pennyford

### **DALC AGM – Cllr Bowman**

Report on DALC AGM, held on Thursday 20th October 2022, at Pride Park Stadium

This was attended by myself, Kate Wakefield and Sian Bacon, our clerk.

The 1st part of the day was taken up by the usual AGM business of elections to office and reports.

There were three decisions taken by vote

1) To change the status of DALC from an Unincorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee. The main reason for this was that the original set-up meant that the officers (& executive?) were personally responsible. For instance: as time has gone on the size and remit of contracts has increased – these are signed by the Chief Executive who could be personally liable for the financing! Becoming a company limited by guarantee means a limit on personal liability and directors instead of an Executive.

2) At the National AGM to support a motion (from Northamptonshire) that the national body employ a consultant to benchmark clerk's terms & conditions (as we know this would have been very useful in the recent past!)

3) At the national AGM to support the use of an online voting platform to be provided by the Electoral Reform Society or similar and to use an alternative vote system for election to single posts and a single transferable vote system where there are multiple seats to be filled.

This was followed by a talk before lunch on Equality and Diversity and how to think about it in a new way

At lunch we all socialised (Networked? And looked at the trade stands.

After lunch were more awards for councillor of the year, clerk of the year and council of the year.

This was followed by a talk by the chief executive of NALC about its work. Of interest was that the NALC website has links to Climate change policies & practices for parish councils and also that they run a "Local Council Award Scheme" which PCs can apply for. Elderly members of this council may remember the "Quality Council" award (which we never achieved as it required contested elections as one of its conditions). This award system looks more achievable and would I think give a benchmark of what we should be doing and also what more (for higher levels – there are 3) we might be able to do. Something to look at in the New Year?

### **Bear Pit Meeting – Cllr Bowman**

Present:

Barbara Bowman, Jeremy Beckett (Cromford Parish Councillors)

Garry Purdy (DDDC Cllr), Ash Watts (DDDC officer)

Eilis Scott (CEO), Simon Gill & Mathew Martin (volunteer)

The "Bear pit" is both listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument

Purpose of the meeting:

- 1) To discuss the current repairs needed to the structure
- 2) To discuss ongoing maintenance
- 3) In view of the above to discuss responsibility / ownership for the structure.
- 4) Wider implications of the underground water system

On going repairs needed

Stone slabs on the apron below the upper entry displaced by force of water from the upper entry need rebedding. This work to include making the apron stable (filling voids). The slabs have been displaced for some years and as a result the water has removed fines from the body of the platform, leading to voids in the structure. Note this high-level sough entry is believed to take water from soughs running from under / in the vicinity of Dene Quarry, but at some point in the past some (all??) of the highway drainage on The Hill has also been connected to it. This means that at times of heavy rainfall a lot of water enters the structure (which is also often polluted by limedust, grit salt, mud etc.)

### **Christmas Events Report – Cllr K Wakefield**

After a brief meeting with all concerned it was decided that we would utilise the tree already in place at the Memorial Gardens for decorating.

Ian and Dave Kay will be actually placing the decorations and sorting the electrical part of the operation and I will be bleating instructions as per at a safe distance! I have ordered new hedge lighting nets to cover the front area of the gardens...(invoice to follow).



Tonight Dave Kay emailed me from Athens where he is working at the moment to sort out date to decorate the tree. This will be Sunday 20 November.

Don Sturt has been contacted and thanked for his generous donation of trees over many years. I feel a gift would be in order?