

Cromford Parish Council

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

Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Matt Birch (Chair); Marie Szegota; Pam Ashley; Alistair Fraser; Russ Boyack; and Richard Walsh.

Sian Bacon (Clerk), Cllr N Whitehead (DDDC) and 2 members of the public

23/10.1 Apologies for Absence

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

23/10.2 Co-option of new councillors

The Clerk reported that at this time there had been no new applicants for the open Councillor positions. She also reported that Cllr Iain Wakefield has moved out of the area and so has handed in his resignation. This once again leaves 3 spots open on the Council.

23/10.3 Variation to the order of business

None

23/10.4 Declaration of Members Interests

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

23/10.5 Public Speaking

A resident raised the state of the Limeyard and it was noted that the chair had been on a walk around with the District Council officers and Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) to look at this and other village issues.

N Whitehead (DDDC)

Cllr Whitehead raised the walk around with DDDC officers, Mrs Bowman and Cllr Birch.

The road resurfacing was noted as a large disruption.

Cllr Whitehead reported on the business grants which have been passed, by the Clerk, to the Community venues.

Cllr Fraser raised Celebrating Cromford's apple day and the cost of the license on the promenade. Cllr Whitehead will look into that.

Holiday lets were raised in relation to the changed bin days as holiday let rubbish is being left from Monday, when holiday makers leave, until the collection day on Friday which is causing issues with

rats and mess. The holiday lets are not all paying business rates which they should do. Cllr Whitehead will look into this.

Cllr Fraser raised the dust and mess left by lime dust from the quarry's which has solidified under the pavements in the service ducting causing opensource more difficulty running the lines through which means the work takes longer. The dirty water when it rains is washing lime dust into the gullies and round the corner of the traffic lights loads are being regularly dropped. Cllr Birch suggested a camera to discover who is dropping loads off lorries as it is happening regularly. Things have improved but there are still some issues.

There is a cast iron inspection panel loose outside the Arkwright's Store and outside Taylor-Wilde's Chocolatiers. The Clerk will report this to Cllr Murphy (DCC). **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Boyack raised grants for organisations. The Clerk will look into these and report back to Cllr Boyack. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Walsh noted that he had seen the same issues with lorry loads falling with fist sized lumps of stone falling off one which is very dangerous if they were hit someone or something.

The issue with missed bin collections was raised and it was observed there are 3 bin lorries collecting the waste but loads are being missed regularly since the bin day change. So, either food waste or recycling is not being collected in some parts of the village. Cllr Whitehead noted that Matlock Bath has had the same problems and one of the small lorries has stopped working so Serco should have rectified the situation shortly. The rounds are hit and miss and the 48-hour missed bin policy has not been adhered to when rounds have been reported as missed. Cllr Whitehead noted that logging missed rounds on the website went into how Serco is performance reviewed and encouraged everyone to log the missed bins. The schedule change meant some rounds were on Saturdays which means those rounds cost more in wages. The missed collections are also causing a greater backlog so there are more missed collections.

A DDDC recycling centre survey is taking place. The Councillors were encouraged to complete this as the survey is suggesting that recycling should be something that is charged for which would only lead to an increase in fly tipping, in particular of dangerous things such as asbestos.

The Woodyard at Holmesford Gypsy site was raised. Outline planning permission has been passed so now a feasibility study has begun to see whether the plans are achievable and the site suitable for use as a Traveller site. Cllr Boyack noted that previously obtained planning had run out at a site in Ashbourne. It was noted that there is no water on the Holmesford site and it would be a very large effort to place water on the site. Currently the traveller working group is looking at the criteria for sites.

23/10.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 20th September 2023, as true record of those meetings, proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Szegota.

23/10.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

For Remembrance Sunday Cllr Fraser will do the reading at the Church and lay the Scarthin wreath.

The Snow Wardens were raised and Cllr Birch will get in touch with Mrs Bowman to take over.

23/10.8 Reports

a. Footpaths

The Clerk reported that a project has been put forward by the Footpath Warden to repair the steps on footpath 60. The quote from Mr Sturt is £350.00 for the footpath works.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the quote of £350.00 and move forward with the work.

b. Speedwatch

No report at this time.

c. Station Volunteers

Cllr Boyack reported that the old bee friendly plants have been removed and replanted with different ones that will stand up to the weather better and it has all been rebarked. The County Council have put an embargo on grant funding for the time being. Most of the station's grant money comes from EMR and it is hoped that this will be accessible but there is more enough money for this year. The Clerk will ask Cllr Murphy (DCC) if there are any funds in his pot for the station.

d. Planting

Mrs Bowman and other residents will do the winter planting.

e. Tourist Map

Cllr Wakefield has resigned but will continue to assist whichever councillors take over the project. Cllr Fraser suggested a consultation on the siting of the map through the magazine. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting to look at who will take over the project.

f. Village Walk Around with DDDC Officers – Cllr Birch

Cllr Birch reported that he had been on a walk around with Cllr Whitehead and Mrs Bowman. The DDDC have removed the bench that was damaged. The lights down Limeyard were raised and the toilets and the Community Centre are trying to pay off the bills to get the electricity back on and the utilities paid off. The posts sited outside the shops that are broken were raised and the lamppost in the Market Place and Cllr Whitehead will raise all of these issues with the officers. The Millpond was also discussed as it needs cleaning again and this will be looked at by the DDDC. The state of the Limeyard was also brought up with Cllr Whitehead. It was noted the surface is damaged and pot holed which makes walking through there dangerous with no lights.

The Christmas tree was raised and a plan has been put forward to put up a tree by the Community Centre if the electricity isn't back on.

It was noted that the lights at the Limeyard are a DDDC responsibility and they need to find a different source of electricity.

The gullies in front of the shops need reporting as they need cleaning out. **Action: Clerk.**

It was discussed and agreed to lowering the hedges in the memorial garden to make it easier to see in to prevent anti-social behaviour and regulate the hedges all through the garden to the same height.

23/10.9 Village Matters

- a. **Public Toilets** – The Community Centre trustees have spoken to DDDC who are undertaking a review into the future of the toilet. It was agreed to clarify whether it was the Community Centre or the DDDC who own them. The disabled toilet is currently being used as Parish Council storage and if the disabled toilet is to be put in place again the Council will need to find a new storage site.
- b. **Hedges** – the hedges still need doing on Hawthorn Drive and Cllr Szegota will discover the number of the one on Bedehouse lane.
- c. **Xmas tree** – this was discussed in the walkaround report.

23/10.10 Outside bodies:

- a. **Cromford Institute** – the report from Cllr Szegota (Appendix A) was noted. It was reported that also there was to be a Derbyshire Wellbeing clinic is being held and can be booked. Volunteer CPR training course is being looked at and siting a defibrillator is being looked into.
- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – Cllr Birch reported that the trustees are still awaiting some paperwork so a letter has been sent to the previous chair. The rest of the issues were covered in the walk around.
- c. **Cromford Meadows Sports Club** – There is no further update.
- d. **Celebrating Cromford** – the report from Cllr Fraser (Appendix A) was noted. Cllr Fraser noted that it would be nice to see the Councillors at the events as a lot of work goes into them. The Committee is currently fundraising and looking for active volunteers. Cllrs Birch and Fraser have volunteered their services for clearing the promenade and the war memorial.

Mrs Taylor-Wilde offered her shop as a source of electricity for the PA system on Remembrance Day and for the school children's service. Someone will need to assist with covering it to make it safe.

23/10.11 Communications

- a. **Newsletter New Councillor** – It was reported that Mr Beckett after over 30 years of doing the newsletter is ready to hand it over to someone else. The Clerk reported that she had received a quote from a freelance magazine editor for £750 per issue. The other option is to look for a volunteer to take over the magazine within the village.

It was **RESOLVED** at this point to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to spend £750 to have the first issue in February done by the freelance editor and in the magazine the Council will advertise for a permanent volunteer. Posters will also be put in the noticeboards.

- b. **Parish Council website** – the Clerk reported the new website is up and running and she is currently populating it with documents.

23/10.12 Planning Decisions:

- a. 23/00966/FUL - Change of use from workshop to holiday let accomodation (Use class C3) - Workshop Rear Of 21 The Hill Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RF
- b. 23/01041/FUL - Erection of single storey extension - Clifton Cricket Club Chapel Lane Clifton Derbyshire
- c. T/23/00165/TCA - T1 Dismantle conifer in back garden as close to ground level as reasonably practicable. T2 Dismantle conifer in back garden to near ground level - 3 Water Lane Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QH
- d. T/23/00166/TCA - T1- Lawson Cypress - Dismantle to ground level T4- Wild Cherry - Crown reduction by approx. 3m and remove selected lateral branches towards property - 154 Derby Road Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RN

The Council object to application a) as the parish council feels there is insufficient parking provision and the proposal would have a deleterious effect on the world heritage site.

The Council had no objections for applications c) and d) and no comment for application b).

The Clerk will forward these comments to the planning department. **Action: Clerk**

23/10.13 Items for Decision

- a. **To consider the Cromford Institute Grant Application** – it was agreed to bring this to the next meeting once all the information is available to the Clerk.

23/10.14 Finance & Administration

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

Invoices for payment in October 2023	
Cromford Institute - Hall Hire	50.00
Footpath Warden Wages	123.12
Clerk's Wages	544.05
J Beckett - Station Bulbs & Bark	71.98
DDDC - Election Fee	275.00
HMRC	30.80
Total Payments	£1,094.95

23/10.15 Items for information

- a. The Derbyshire County Council (Footpath from Alabaster Lane to Public Footpath No. 70 – Parish of Cromford) Modification Order 2023 was granted on the 7 September 2023.

23/10.16 Correspondence

1. Funding request from the Air Ambulance Service

2. Road Closure - Willersley Lane Cromford for street light repair 3rd November at 15:00 to 4th November at 16:00
3. Road Closure - B5023 New Road Middleton by Wirksworth for Carriageway Patching 1st November to 3rd November 2023

The Clerk will continue to chase the road closure times on the marketplace road resurfacing closure.

23/10.17 Parish Council Calendar

Parish Council Meetings

- Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute - Finance committee – Cllr Walsh will attend as reserve.
- Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting

23/10.18 Date of next meeting

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

Meeting of Cromford Institute 20th September 2023 – Cllr Szegota

£3045 in bank with an outstanding bill of approx £500 to be paid to the Electrician. Parish Council grant claimed.

Quite a few events planned, including, in October a fashion show, chocolate making activity and ghost walk and then in November, jewellery making, craft fair and a health screening session. The produce and seed share, and book swap are also proving popular. Whilst the Committee are keen to encourage the use by non profit organisations, for which they make no charge, it will be regular paying users, of which there is still a shortage and the bigger events which will be needed, if they are to meet the aim of providing the indoor toilets which are so desperately needed to give it more appeal.

Celebrating Cromford Report – Cllr Fraser

Cromford Apple Day (Part of the Celebrating Cromford Stable)

After several planning meetings apple day took place on Saturday 14th October 2023 from 12pm.

Publicity went out prior to the event with the banner and lamp post signage.

For most of the day the weather was on our side with the flags fluttering. The event was well supported by residents and visitors. Three apple presses were available and plenty of space for chopping up the fruits with knives provided. Many gallons of fantastic juice were produced.

The play group was in attendance with children's crafts and hot dogs. Other activities included music, Morris dancing, snail racing, apple related demonstrations including a fantastic display of apple cultivars, and an apple quiz. There was an apple pie competition which was a delight together with numerous craft stalls.