

Cromford Parish Council

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

Wednesday 20 December 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Matt Birch (Chair); Phil Curzon; Alistair Fraser; Russ Boyack; and Richard Walsh

2 Parishioners

23/12.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr P Ashley and Mrs S Bacon (Clerk).

23/12.2 Co-option of new councillors

It was reported that there have been 2 interested residents who will be considered for co-option at the next meeting.

It was reported that Cllr M Szegota has resigned from the Parish Council. It was noted that this was a great loss to the village and the Parish Council. It was agreed to send Cllr Szegota a letter of thanks.

23/12.3 Variation to the order of business

None

23/12.4 Declaration of Members Interests

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

23/12.5 Public Speaking

A resident reported that there was a large sound blast today which the Derbyshire Police have stated was a sonic boom from a jet at approximately 14.10 and it was not from the quarry.

It was noted that there was a cleaning needed for debris on the road and that lorries with no covers had been reported as coming from Dene quarry which had left debris on the A6 at Tor Café.

It was noted that the Quarry Liaison Committee need new Quarry Liaison Council member with Cllr Birch to raise the issues at the next Quarry Liaison meeting.

Pedestrian crossing request for adjacent to the Bell Pub for a school crossing but been received but the Parish Council has been told we cannot have one at that location as it does not reach the criteria at this stage.

A resident requested that the state of the roads be raised with DCC as they require cleaning.

It was requested that the Parish Council ask how long the extension licence is for the quarry and how long will it be until they stop quarrying at Dene.

23/12.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council will approve the November minutes at the next meeting.

23/12.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

Councillor Mr Richard Walsh reported that in regards to the ownership of land and Trees in Matlock Bath, he is looking into maps to ownership, and will circulate to members when he locates this information.

23/12.8 Reports

a. Footpaths

Mr Mee (Footpath Warden) reported that the Rose End Meadow tree been removed and cut up. There are no other problems with the footpaths. The cutting of the hedges at St Mark's Close at numbers 17 and 7 is still in need of doing. Cllr Birch will discuss this with the Clerk on her return.

b. Speedwatch

A speed watch took place on Monday 18th December and there was some speeding witnessed.

c. Station Volunteers

The volunteers have now planted the station boxes and had a tidy of the station. The next session will be on the 2nd Tuesday in January 2024.

£200 had been granted from the Local projects fund at DDDC for the Station Planting.

d. Planting

No update at this time.

The funding for planting will be raised in the next meeting to discuss grants.

e. Tourist Map

No update at this time.

f. Village Walk Around with DDDC Officers – Cllr Birch

The Parish Council will liaise with Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) as it was agreed on the walk round, to allow painting and cleaning of the lamp post in the Market Square and not to have to take on the responsibility of the cost of electric in doing so as we DDDC and Parish Council should be working together. This will be raised with the Clerk on her return to work.

A village caretaker was proposed and this will be raised at the next meeting.

23/12.9 Village Matters

- a. **Public Toilets** – the toilets are now Closed and have no electric and no water with outstanding bills to pay. The CCCA Bar Ltd are working through the debts, from previous management and are paying them off one by one however this will take time, however there is great enthusiasm from the committee towards the running of the building. Debtors are being contacted explaining the situation and that efforts are being made to pay debts off. The renting of the middle room in the toilets to store Celebrating Cromford items and Parish Council items as this will help the running and debts of the CCCA Bar Members Ltd.
It was **RESOLVED** to pay £30 a month for storage with a contract to be created.
- b. **Hedges** – this was discussed in the footpath report.
- c. **Work on 3D bit** – the Parish Council agreed to write to Platform Housing to discuss repairs to the Thruppenny Bit by Beech Walk in 24/25 year up to the sum of £2000.00. This will be raised at the next meeting. Parish Council propose to fund planting of flower beds at the Thruppenny Bit, the area is in a very dangerous predicament as it is under foot.
- d. **Snow Wardens and Grit Bins** - Several grit boxes are in need of refilling. Cllr Birch is not willing to use his van to collect salt and grit and fill the salt and grit bins as he is not trained, insured, and will not use his personal van for this activity for fear that the salt will rot his vehicle. It was agreed to contact O Sturt and request a quote as has been done in previous years.

23/12.10 Outside bodies:

- a. **Cromford Institute** – No update at this time.
- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – Cllr Birch reported that Christmas Tree has been put up adjacent to the Cromford Community Centre supplied by Don Sturt and sons. The Council gave their thanks to Don and his sons for supplying, the tree has been erected by his sons and volunteers, with Ian Page and Cllr Birch helping to put the decoration, made by the school children, up. The grand opening of the light switch on with the school children, went splendidly, Santa attended, handed out sweets, got the crowds excited and happy over the PA, Santa was introduced by the Cllr Birch and a great night was had by all.
- c. **Cromford Meadows Sports Club** – There is no further update.
- d. **Celebrating Cromford** – There was no update.
- e. **Quarry Liaison** – It was agreed that as now Mr Beckett has left the Parish Council he can no longer be a council representative on the Quarry Liaison Committee and will no longer be editing the newsletter. The Clerk will confirm this with Mr Beckett on her return to work. A new liaison member will be nominated to join Cllr Birch on the committee.

23/12.11 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – it was agreed for the newsletter to go digital on the parish council website and to improve the layout and format of the Newsletter.
The Council would like the newsletter to be printed in colour instead of black and white, and making it more aesthetically pleasing.
The dates to be confirmed for the 2024 issues with the Clerk and further investigation into the new publisher on the Clerks return.

23/12.12 Planning Decisions:

- a. Dene Quarry - Review of Mineral Planning Permission (ROMP)

23/12.13 Items for Decision

- a. **To consider the Cromford Institute Grant Application** – The Clerk has not yet received an updated project proposal from the Institute.

23/12.14 Finance & Administration

- a. **Balance in the Bank** –this will be approved at the January meeting
- b. **Items for approval and payment at this meeting** - It was agreed to discuss the payments at the next meeting due to the absence of the Clerk.

23/12.15 Items for information

None

23/12.16 Correspondence

None

23/12.17 Parish Council Calendar

Parish Council Meetings

- Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Finance Meeting
- Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting

23/12.18 Date of next meeting

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....