

# 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 20 July 2022 at 7.30pm

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**Present:** Councillors: Barbara Bowman; Matt Birch; Russ Boyack; Alistair Fraser; Kate Wakefield; Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk), Ann Taylor-Wilde (Cromford Institute Chair) & 2 parishioners.

## **22/07.1 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs J March (Holiday), J Beckett (Holiday), Cllr D Murphy (DCC), G Purdy (DDDC).

## **22/07.2 Variation to the order of business**

None

## **22/07.3 Declaration of Members Interests**

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

## **22/07.4 Public Speaking**

### **Intake Lane Parking**

A resident came to raise the ongoing issues with Intake Lane's parking and reported that the residents of the area would like a meeting with the Parish Council, Police, Highways and the garage so concerns that can be raised and discussed. The resident noted that parking measures would perhaps be best the option such as a "residents only" sign such as those in Matlock Bath on Holme Road, Clifton Road and Wellington Road. Cllr Bowman reported that the police were having a Street Meet at Hawthorn Drive and that this issue should be raised there first. She noted that Sorn, non-taxed and non-MOT'd cars should be removed from the road. It was reported that some notes had been put on the parked cars by PSCO and the District Council did remove a vehicle that had been abandoned however more vehicles had been parked. A blue vehicle that was untaxed and not MOT'd or insured was supposed to be removed but it had been blocked in so wasn't removable as it had been parked in too close to other cars. Cllr Bowman noted that the Parish Council have no powers at all in this area. It was noted that 15 to 16 vehicles being regularly parked on the road is excessive. Residents of Ridgewood have also complained about hours and sounds late at night. Parishioners have spoken to the garage owners who noted they can park where and when they want. It was noted that a resident's parking scheme is difficult to get on the criteria set for granting it and getting signs put up has taken a long time and some signage is still not done. It was noted that on Dimple Road ticketing has been done successfully. Cllr Bowman reported that there was an event with the police on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 6-7pm and it was agreed that Cllrs Wakefield and Nutting will attend and raise the issue there. **Action: Cllrs Wakefield and Nutting.** It was also reported that bin lorries are not able to get up the road due to parking and some parking is too close to junctions and the ability to get ambulances up there if necessary is a concern.

## **District and County Councillor Reports and Issues:**

### **Report from Cllr Murphy (DCC)**

Cllr Murphy reported via the Clerk that all issues raised at the last meeting have been reported to the DCC.

The Clerk will raise the market place lamp post with Cllr Purdy (DDDC). **Action: Clerk**

**22/07.5 Minutes of the previous meetings**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15 June 2022, as a true record of that meeting with two small adjustments to correct names, proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Wakefield.

**22/07.6 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)**

There were no matters arising.

**22/07.7 Reports noted – Circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix A)**

**a. Almshouses**

The report from Cllr March was noted (Appendix A)

**b. Wirksworth and District Trust Fund**

A report from Cllr Fraser was noted (Appendix A)

**c. DALC Chair's Meeting**

A report from Cllr Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

**d. Footpaths**

The report from Cllr Boyack was noted (Appendix A)

Cllr Boyack reported that he had spoken to Cllr Murphy about the fact that no acknowledgement had been received for the submitted Pennyford files as they had been sent as a zipped file there should have been no size problem with the County Council's email restrictions. Cllr Murphy raised the issue with officers and it was established that the files had not been received so Cllr Boyack put in a paper submission on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022. It was also noted that a fingerpost has recently been erected where a path doesn't exist.

**e. Speedwatch**

The report from Cllr Bowman was noted (Appendix A)

**f. Station Volunteers**

The report from Cllr Boyack was noted (Appendix A)

**g. Intake Lane parking**

This was discussed in public participation

**h. Lea Road closure**

No update currently.

## 22/07.8 Village Enhancement

**Village Caretaker** – Cllrs Nutting, Fraser and Boyack held a meeting to discuss employment of a village caretaker and came to the conclusion that employing an individual may be an issue with the requirements to purchase equipment, manage holidays and other issues that come with a single employee. Therefore, an outside contractor is suggested as a solution. The work would initially focus on the most visited areas of the village and it was noted that it will be an estimated £5000 cost per year.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Nutting, Fraser and Boyack will move forward and create specs and a report for the September meeting. **Action: Cllrs Nutting, Fraser and Boyack.**

Cllr Fraser noted that the planters were looking great.

## 22/07.9 Outside bodies:

At this point it was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to permit Mrs Taylor-Wilde to report on the Cromford institute as per standing order 3x

- a. **Cromford Institute** – Mrs Taylor-Wilde reported that the committee has spoken to contractors O’Heaps regarding the fire extinguishers and fire alarm and were waiting for a bill. The committee has now got prices in for decorating and Cllr Bowman reported that they could get paint free from Wilkos. The Committee should have had meeting but ill health had prevented one taking place so the committee currently have nothing further to report. Cllr Bowman suggested a 200 club though one being done by playgroup at the moment. Cllr Fraser noted that Celebrating Cromford don’t currently have available funds for a donation. The committee have started tidying up the institute and the second-hand spare kitchen has been sold and money put into kitty. The work is currently on making the building habitable and then they just need gas and electric sorting to be able to open. There is a yoga group interested in hiring the hall and the Parish Council may be interested in using it again. Other enquiries being received by treasurer. Garden centres are being approached to see if a plant donation is possible for outside. It was reported that the plan is for the institute to be used as community space for parties and other community uses.
- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – Cllr Fraser reported that he had spoken to the Community Centre and made the agreed offer of £25 per month for rental of the space in the toilet block. Cllr Fraser requested a rental agreement on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June which the manager is sorting. Cllr Fraser will continue to chase the agreement. Cllr Bowman has been keeping tab on water usage and 180L a week is being used for planters. Cllr Birch will speak to the Centre manager about the rental agreement as well. **Action: Cllrs Fraser, Bowman and Birch.**

## 22/07.10 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – Cllr Bowman reported that the newsletter had been issued and the next deadline is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August to be issued in September. Cllr Fraser will be submitting an article on the Jubilee. **Action: Cllr Fraser**

- b. **Parish Council website** – The Clerk reported that she had access to the website and had put documents on there.

#### **22/07.11 Policies for Approval**

- a. **Grant Policy & Procedure** - it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Grant Policy & procedure proposed by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr Nutting. It was noted that all applications over £1000 will be considered even if submitted past the 1<sup>st</sup> November deadline in cases of emergency.
- b. **Co-option Policy & Procedure** – it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Grant Policy & procedure proposed by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr Nutting. The Clerk will add the desirable areas in the village to the desirability criteria. **Action: Clerk**

#### **22/07.12 Training**

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Birch, Boyack and Nutting will attend the Understanding planning training on the 4<sup>th</sup> October.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Birch will attend the Law and practise training on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

The Clerk will book places with DALC. **Action: Clerk**

#### **22/07.13 Planning Decisions:**

- a. Tree Works Application T/22/00081/TCA, Crown reduction of 1No. T1 Oak by approx. 6-8m, pollard 1No. Ash tree (P), and remove 1No. limb of 1No. Alder tree. Removal of approximately No.40 trees (including Sycamore, Ash, Hawthorn and Elm trees) marked with a pink dot/cross along road length indicated on map at Land Adjacent To Lea Road Cromford Bridge Derbyshire
- b. 22/00633/LBALT | Replace front door | 79 The Hill Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3QU
- c. 22/00706/FUL | Demolition of existing path and rebuilding of accessible stepped access for ambulant disabled access. | 19 Hawthorn Drive Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3QN
- d. 22/00704/FUL | First floor extension over existing garage to side and single storey rear extension. | 28 Barnwell Lane Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3QY
- e. 22/00710/FUL | Erection of a conservatory | 184 The Hill Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3QU
- f. 22/00678/FUL | Installation of 8no. solar panels to south facing roof | Scarthin Books Of Cromford Scarthin Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3QF
- g. Tree Works Application T/22/00082/TCA, Remove to ground level 1No. T1 Scots Pine tree and 1No. T2 Willow tree at Lyntree House Intake Lane Cromford Matlock Derbyshire
- h. 22/00764/FUL | Erection of 1 no. dwellinghouse | Land Off Alabaster Lane Cromford Derbyshire
- i. AMBER VALLEY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN – PREFERRED SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR HOUSING AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DRAFT POLICIES (REGULATION 18 CONSULTATION)
- j. Tree Works Application T/22/00096/TCA, Remove G1 multiple Ash trees, G2 multiple Elm trees and G3 Mixed species - Ash, Elm, Willow and Sycamore trees all marked with a pink dot at STREET RECORD Water Lane Cromford Derbyshire

The Council had no objection to applications b), c), d), e), f), h), i) and j) and the Clerk will forward this to the planning department. **Action: Clerk**

**22/07.14 Items for Decision**

- a. **To discuss a grant request of £2500 from the Cromford Institute for initial start-up costs and repairs** – It was **RESOLVED** to grant up to £2500 to the Cromford Institute for initial start-up costs. The grant conditions will be that the institute will produce invoices which the council will reimburse up to £2500 and should the institute be sold, the council will recoup the grant funds from the sale, proposed Cllr Birch and, seconded Cllr Fraser.
- b. **Co-option of new councillor** – Cllrs Bowman and Wakefield reported that they both knew residents that might be interested in applying for the two vacant councillor positions. The new application form will be passed to the interested parties.

**22/07.15 Finance & Administration**

- a) **Finance Committee Update** – The minutes of the last Finance Committee meeting that had been circulated prior to the meeting were noted.
- b) **Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed by Cllr Fraser and, seconded by Cllr Birch
- c) **Items for approval and payment at this meeting** - It was **RESOLVED** to pay all items listed below proposed Cllr Boyack and, seconded Cllr Wakefield.

<b>Invoices for payment in July 2022</b>	
Footpath Warden's Wages	111.84
Clerk's Wages (inc tax return)	766.45
DD Payroll Services	102.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£ 980.29</b>

- d) **Delegated payments for August** - it was **RESOLVED** to delegate the august payments to Cllr Bowman and Cllr Birch proposed Cllr Boyack and, seconded Cllr Wakefield.

**22/07.16 Items for information**

There were no items for information

**22/07.17 Correspondence**

- 1. Derbyshire Dales District Council Parish Council Liaison Forum – Cllr Bowman to attend.
- 2. Advertising events request from the Grand Pavilion – it was agreed to advertise the events on the website.

**22/07.18 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm with the location to be confirmed.

Signed.....

Dated.....

## **Appendix A**

### **CPC Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 Reports**

#### **a. Almshouses – Cllr J March**

I joined the Almshouses Trust whilst the other members were in the process of replying to a request to erect a shed. I attended a site visit where the Trustees looked at possible positioning. After a meeting the following week which the Chair could attend a letter was sent detailing the Trustees reactions. Subsequently the person concerned replied that she had reconsidered the cost involved and had decided not to go ahead.

While at the site it was decided to investigate the ownership/ responsibility for maintaining the hedge on the right-hand side of the plot looking uphill. This is underway.

#### **b. Wirksworth and District Trust Fund – Cllr A Fraser**

I attended the meeting of the Wirksworth and District Trust Fund meeting held in the Rectory on Thursday June 9th at 7 pm in the company of Sue Mosely. There are funds available. I feel there is a problem regarding publicity of the fund and I am working on it.

The next meeting would be held on December 1st 2022, at 7 pm at 70 Yokecliffe Drive, Wirksworth

#### **c. DALC Chair's Meeting – Cllr B Bowman**

Meeting with DALC (held by Zoom, 13th July), hosted by Wendy Amis.

Not many of us on the call, and I had to apologise for being late logging on.

Points covered:

- 1) Budgets and precepts – We were warned that budgets were more than likely to be stretched over the current financial year due to cost of living increases (the current pay negotiations for staff have not yet been finalised) and rises in services costs such as insurance (glad we took out the multi-year option!) and materials / labour generally. Plus there is talk of council re-organisation
- 2) DCC are holding a meeting on 26th July for parish cllrs, and will be talking about “possible changes in council structures in Derbyshire”. I assume this means unitary or something like it. But also, about the possible “devolution of service provision”, which I took to mean if you don’t run this service it won’t happen. Of course, this could lead to increases in precept. At the moment there is no % cap on what parish & town councils can increase their precept by – but there is some talk of government bringing in the “referendum principles” as applied to higher level councils, whereby if a council wants to levy a % increase above that set down by government they have to hold a referendum – which in itself for a council like us would cost a significant amount of our precept.
- 3) The Shared Prosperity Fund. None of the cllrs present had heard of this. It is a new part of the levelling up agenda, but in Wendy’s words “more top down” than the other part of the fund (which Ashbourne is part of). It will be administered by the District ie DDDC. Below is the website address if you want to know more - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>. I will try & have a proper look before the meeting to see if it is relevant to us.
- 4) A Review of RAD / ACRE Village Hall service is taking place.
- 5) New NALC model employment contract for clerks. Wendy is expecting to get a draft version of this in the next 2 weeks. Long overdue as we know.

- 6) Remote / hybrid meetings Despite chaos in government apparently an MP is battling on, on behalf of NALC to try and get this type of working agreed again as being legal. This could help us if we needed intermediate meetings for urgent planning or some committee meetings.
- 7) AGM etc 20th October (daytime event); the venue is likely to be Derby County FC ground. Do we want to send anyone? Can anyone attend? Cost £55 per delegate to include lunch. There will also be the giving of the Excellence Awards for clerks and councils. Obviously not had many entries as yet – Wendy said – what about Cromford!

**d. Footpaths – Cllr R Boyack & Clerk**

Still no acknowledgement from DCC on receipt of the application in respect of Cromford footpaths no 30 and 31 in the Pennyford area. However,, DCC have erected a footpath sign at the junction of water lane and footpath 30. One finger points to a footpath running through Walkers garage and a finger pointing up Pennyford which is the footpath we requested by placed on the definitive map.. I have written to DCC asking for clarification on what is the current position on our application.

The Clerk and Mr Mee have liaised and submitted a project to the Minor Maintenance Grant 2022/23 Scheme

**e. Speedwatch – Cllr B Bowman**

We carried out an evening session on 29<sup>th</sup> June at our usual location at the top of The Hill, but in the early evening.

Traffic was lighter than during working hours - only about 200 vehicles in the hour – but 15 were recorded and reported to the police for doing over 36mph with 2 of these going at over 50mph. Once again, I have e-mailed the police about a possible location on Water Lane. I am trying to get to see the SNT team, who are having a street meet on the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> July (6-7pm) at the junction of Hawthorn Drive and The Hill to see if I can get them actually to come with me to Water Lane after the meeting and assess the situation. In the meantime, I have asked if the police have carried out speed checks on this stretch as they promised when they originally turned down the request for this location.

However, compared to a year ago feedback from the Speedwatch police team has become very slow and erratic – I have not had any feedback from our May session.

I am trying to organise a session at the beginning of next week, but we are getting into the holiday period.

**f. Station Volunteers – Cllr R Boyack**

Big turn out to install new planters and fill them with flowers. The volunteers also planted additional plants in the BEE friendly planters. Thanks to EM Trains for the grant to purchase the planters. Also, thanks to Lester Lowe for the timely delivery and off-loading. of the 50+ bags of peat free compost. In addition to this volunteer's day, EM Trains and Network Rail staff had a community day where their staff aided station volunteers painted the station boundary fence