

Cromford Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Cromford Parish Council held in the
Beaufort Suite at the New Bath Hotel, Matlock Bath
Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Jeremy Beckett (Chair); Matt Birch; Russ Boyack; Alistair Fraser; Jenny March; Sue Mosley; Kate Wakefield; Mike Nutting; Barbara Bowman; Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk); Cllr D Murphy (DCC) & 1 Parishioner.

22/03.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Cllrs G Purdy (DDDC) due to illness.

22/03.2 Variation to the order of business

It was **RESOLVED** that the Jubilee (item 17), Cromford Institute (item 22), the Community Centre (item 13) and the be taken after item 7 (Minutes).

22/03.3 Declaration of Members Interests

No declarations of members interests were made.

22/03.4 Public Speaking

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June was raised and a representative came from a group in the village looking to do a street party on the promenade for the Queen's Jubilee.

Cllr Murphy thought that the DDDC may be lenient on the licence for the Promenade and will enquire on behalf of the residents.

Cllr Bowman noted that a commemorative mug had been made on previous Jubilees and given to the school children but previously concerns had been raised that not all the school children were from Cromford and not all Cromford children were at the school therefore some children could be left out or mugs going to children who don't live in the village.

The toilets issue was raised and it was thought not to be a problem with the toilets that would be available.

The date of the celebration was discussed and it was noted that the Sunday 5th June would be the most likely. Cllr Fraser noted that the flags and bunting would be up around the village for the full four days of the Jubilee.

The resident was encouraged to begin the planning and it was felt that the Promenade would be the simplest location. Cllr Fraser will coordinate on the planning of events.

Cllr Fraser gave the following update on Jubilee Events:

- The Beacon will be lit on Thursday 2nd of June
- A team has been assembled to erect the Bunting and Flags. And they will be put up on Saturday 28th May and taken down Saturday 11th of June. It was noted that more volunteers to assist would be very welcome. The Flags need to be sorted and checked over concentrating on the commonwealth countries and volunteers are needed for this.
- Cllr Fraser reported that he had contacted the public houses and hotels and received the following updates:
 - Oakhill are having an event on Thursday with two singers.

- The Greyhound – Cllr Fraser has spoken to the new licence holder regarding putting on an event. It was noted that it was their first week running the pub so they had a lot of things to think about but will be giving an event some consideration.
- The Bell are currently unsure if they are doing anything.
- The Community Centre and the Boat will be doing something on Thursday and/ or Friday but at present have nothing organised. The marquees at the Community Centre are already in situ, alongside the Boat at the front of the Community Centre.
- A resident is organising some runs for residents and will be checking in with the school.
- The school is to get back to Cllr Fraser shortly with their activities.
- Street parties - One is being looked at on the Promenade
- A Treasure Hunt will be looked at and volunteers are welcome to assist putting it together.

Cllr Fraser will organise a meeting to be held at the start of April to see where plans are at.

Action: Cllr Fraser

Publicity was raised and it was agreed a flier will be put in the parish newsletter and the noticeboards. The playgroup will be asked to put out information and the local Facebook pages will be utilised for advertising events.

Cllr Murphy noted that there were grants available for Jubilee events including one from the District Council.

Cllr Beckett noted that the guides do a badge around flags so he will speak to the guide leader about them assisting with the flags. **Action: Cllr Beckett**

District and County Councillor Reports and Issues:

1. Boat Inn Road Works – Cllr Murphy reported that he had queried the closure and noted that the system hadn't been utilised with works being done without the formal steps. The concrete was removed, the dividers were placed and the tarmac was then put down. It was reported that the reflectors were thought to be placed the wrong way. The dividers, it was noted, are not located properly to warn motorists of the step to the pub which sticks out. Cllr Murphy reported that the dividers will be staying. A curb will be put in that encroaches into the road a few inches. There should be no need for a bollard as the pavement should be well defined. Cllr Bowman noted that the area had been coned further up unnecessarily and the attitude of the workers was poor when she raised this with them. Cllr Murphy reported that they should be back to fix everything. A complaint will be put in to Mr Hemmings from Cllr Murphy and the Council.
2. Repainted Hatchings – Cllr Murphy reported that it was supposed to be extended 4 metres when it was repainted. The work will be repainted and the extension done.
3. Via Gelia – £2-3 million was secured for the work and currently a scheme is out for design. In May the Council should be able to see the plans. Average speed cameras

will be put in and the trees will be sorted. It was noted that there had been a notice put in regarding some trees by the Clatterway.

4. Cllr Bowman noted that the signs were obscured and required cleaning coming into Cromford and Bonsall.
5. A6 junction cleaning – Cllr Murphy has raised this with the DDDC officer who reported that it was on a schedule. It was noted that the carriageway hasn't been cleaned but the paths have been done. Cllr Murphy will request the schedule.
6. Cllr Beckett reported that he gullies along the A6 were cleaned but they haven't been done in Cromford. 1-3 the Hill, Memorial gardens and by the car wash are blocked. A new project is being done and Cllr Murphy recommended a drain survey. He will request a schedule. The Clerk will report the blocked gullies. **Action: Clerk**
7. Green waste collection for those on the hill who only have bags - Cllr Murphy reported that residents should place the green waste in the black bags. It was noted that if there are too many bags they will be left and not taken. There are several reports of bin bags being dumped in various locations. Cllr Bowman reported that the little lorry went down Scarthin for the first time today very successfully. It was noted that it was difficult for some residents to get the bags over the barrier on the Hill and sometimes the bags break and rubbish is strewn everywhere. It was noted that residents with difficulties can request collection from homes.
8. Cllr Bowman noted that Matlock Bath were investigating noise pollution. Cllr Murphy reported that the police had guns for measuring car noise but that the static cameras would be best. Ms Foster the Police and Crime Commissioner is looking into it and considering trials of the static ones. The modifications to make the engines louder are being offered in the village. The issue was raised with the local PCSO who requested evidence of the noise. It is a combination of cars and motorbikes with little trace of identification. The police have informed the speed watch they were not allowed to take a picture of the cars.
9. Cllr Murphy has had an email regarding Intake Lane no through road sign saying it is on the schedule.
10. The DCC is going to speak to the GPS companies regarding the cars being taken incorrect routes through Oakhill grounds, on North Street and Intake Lane.
11. Marketplace lamppost – It was noted that the post requires a painting. Cllr Purdy is investigating the proposal of adoption for the Parish Council but so far, no information has been relayed from Cllr Purdy (DDDC) who was not present at the meeting due to illness.

22/03.5 Footpath's report:

The Footpath warden has circulated a report. Cllr Boyack has evidence forms for the correction of mapping on Pennyford. This has been advertised in the Newsletter. It was noted that the footpath warden requires his appraisal

22/03.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 16 February 2022, as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Mosley and seconded by Cllr March.

22/03.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

Further to the letter from Chair of governors at Cromford School, Cllr. Purdy raised the issue of street furniture licence with DDDC. Landlord of The Bell Inn is to apply for a street licence for the furniture. Comments can be made by individuals for seven days after the posting of the notice at The Bell.

22/03.8 Jubilee Celebrations

Some of this item was covered in **Public Participation**.

It was reported that Cllr Bowman and the Clerk had made a visit to the proposed beacon site on Tuesday 15 March to complete the risk assessment.

It was noted that there do seem to be grants available from DDDC for street parties and other activities. Oakhill is planning an event but want to coordinate with anything that council is doing. Cllr. Bowman and Beckett it was noted are likely to be away at time of actual event.

22/03.9 Cromford Institute

Cllr Beckett reported that trustees are proposing the sale of the Institute and the proceeds will be shared between various institutions such as the playgroup and school. There is to be a public meeting on Monday 28th March at 7.30pm in the Cromford Community Centre. The Parish Council have requested advice on possibility of the Institute's adoption as a community asset in a Community Interest Company. Cllr Purdy has passed on this request.

Cllr Beckett has enquired about helping with insurance and it was turned down as it was not needed due to an energy bill rebate.

The Parish Council now needs new venue for regular PC meetings. The following have been approached:

- Cromford school – Cllr Beckett is still awaiting a reply
- Arkwright Society – The Mill Yard will be difficult to access and the cost was thought to be £60 -£70. The Gothic Wharf was thought to be £40 – £60 pounds but the manager will be getting back to Cllr Beckett.
- The Methodist Church – is only available after about 8.00pm on a Wednesday as it is used by Cromford Brownies until 7.45 plus packing away.
- Oakhill have offered their lounge providing the Council give further details. It was agreed that this probably would not be suitable.
- The Greyhound was suggested for the separate room. This will be looked in to.
- The Community Centre sports hall it was agreed was another option though not ideal due to the size and issues with heating costs.

Cllr Bowman noted that she wasn't sure if the Institute's committee had investigated the value of the institute and its potential use. It was agreed to attend the meeting and query what investigations had been made around closing and ask the sale to be put on hold until investigations have taken place.

22/03.10 Community Centre

Cllr Beckett reported that the toilets have been vandalised and contents of the entry mechanism stolen. The Community Centre have no funds to replace or repair the mechanism so are currently

relying on an honesty box. Cllr Beckett has requested account information twice in order to establish if the Council can assist, but the accounts will not be ready until the end of the month.

It was reported that Cllr Mosley had seen an application for a grant to the Wirksworth Trust. The grant was not given.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate payment of a s137 grant of £200 to Cllrs Beckett and Bowman subject to the Clerk being sent the accounts to date and her reviewing of them. The Clerk will contact the committee. **Action: Clerk**

It was noted that the email making the offer should be circulated to the landlady as well as the Committee Chair.

22/03.11 Community Speedwatch update

Cllr Bowman circulated a report.

Cllr Beckett reported that a session was held morning of 18th March. The session was active for about 65 minutes. Going uphill a total of 175 vehicles of which 9 were going at 36mph or more. Going downhill a total of 141 vehicles of which 4 were going at 36mph or more (1 at 36, the others 40 or above) One newly trained volunteer joined, and another person has made contact following the newsletter report. They have done it before (a few years ago in another village), but police say they need training again. Hopefully this will happen at the end of this month.

22/03.12 Station volunteers

Cllr Beckett reported that there is a new tarmac footpath laid at foot of station steps so that land at either side is now more accessible. As this is on the Parish Council's licence, the Station Volunteers can now start to plan for gardening this area.

22/03.13 Dust on the roads around Cromford

Cllr Beckett reported that there had been no response to letter sent after last meeting from either CEO of parent company or CEO of Tarmac. The Tarmac Dene Quarry manager had responded to a courtesy copy sent to him. Cllr Murphy is attempting to arrange a walk around village with a member of DDDC staff to show them the problems.

The Clerk will contact Sarah Dines MP to see if she will agree to meet the Councillors to discuss the issue. **Action: Clerk**

22/03.14 Parking problems

No further updates were available.

22/03.15 Lea Road closure update

A report was circulated by Cllr Boyack.

Cllr Beckett reported that the road may now be opening now potentially in November as the Environment Agency have approved the scheme for gabions at the edge of the river to prevent further slippage.

Cllr Boyack noted that that he had requested email updates continue.

22/03.16 Market Place Lamp Post

This was discussed in **Public Participation**

The Council is awaiting response from Cllr. Purdy who has passed the enquiry on to DDDC.

22/03.17 Newsletter

Cllr Beckett reported that the March edition has been distributed

22/03.18 Noise Pollution

Due to time this was deferred and will be discussed at the next meeting.

22/03.19 Village Caretaker

Due to time this was deferred and will be discussed at the next meeting.

22/03.20 Holiday Homes in Cromford

Due to time this was deferred and will be discussed at the next meeting.

22/03.21 Great British Spring Clean 2022

Cllr Bowman has booked litter pickers and collection of rubbish bags for Saturday 2nd April from DDDC. Posters and Facebook posters are up with the following details:

All to meet at 10am Market Place, outside the Community Centre.

The plan is to do the centre of the village, how much depends on the number of volunteers. The probable finish will be 12.30pm.

22/03.22 Cromford School Playground

Cllr Beckett reported that a request for funding support to resurface school playgrounds had been received. Unfortunately, this cannot be paid due to legislation preventing Parish Council's funding Church owned property repairs.

22/03.23 Planning Decisions:

- a) Tree Works Application T/22/00033/TCA, Fell 2no. Ash trees and fell 1no. unknown species with die back at Trees Along the A6 Derby Road High Peak Junction, Cromford, Derbyshire
- b) 22/00217/FUL - Installation of solar panels (photovoltaics) to Boiler House roof - John Smedley Limited Boiler House, Lea Mills, Lea Road, Lea Bridge, Derbyshire
- c) Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan - Proposed Draft Plan – This was deferred to the next meeting and Cllr Nutting will look at the plan to formulate a response. **Action: Cllr Nutting**
- d) Critch Quarry Amber Rock Resort Development - Traffic concerns – Cllr Bowman will formulate a response to this. **Action: Cllr Bowman**
- e) 22/00303/LBALT, Installation of water wheel and hydro turbine within existing wheel pit, Mill Yard Cromford Mill, Mill Road, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire
- f) 22/00244/FUL Installation of water wheel and hydro turbine within existing wheel pit, Mill Yard Cromford Mill, Mill Road, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire

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

The Hydro plans for the upper dam in Cromford was raised. Cllr Fraser reported that he believed the feasibility study had found the plans to be infeasible. Cllr Fraser will investigate. **Action: Cllr Fraser**

22/03.24 Items for Decision

- a) **Expenditure of up to £50 for replies to the Pennyford Footpath** – It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Beckett will scan the replies to save expenditure. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Beckett**

22/03.25 Finance & Administration

- a) **Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed Cllr Bowman and, seconded Cllr Mosley
- b) **Updated Staff pay scales from April 2021** – Noted
- c) **Items for approval and payment at this meeting** - It was **RESOLVED** to pay all items proposed Cllr March and, seconded Cllr Bowman

Invoices for payment in March 2022	
Mr J Johnson - Locum Clerk Duties	86.00
Cromford Institute - Sept -Dec 21	112.50
Mr D Sturt - Footpath Repairs	946.00
New Bath Hotel - Room Hire	20.00
Mrs B Kirkham - Back pay from 2021	44.30
Mrs S Bacon - Clerk's wages	488.73
Footpath Warden Wages	123.58
HMRC PAYE	89.60
Dalc subscription with enhanced training	538.08
Total Payments	£2,448.79

22/03.26 Items for information

There were no items for information.

22/03.27 Correspondence

- a) NALC - Letter to Smaller Councils with under 6,000 electorate – requesting agenda items for the small council's committee.
- b) Stock Signs – Interactive Speed Signs information
- c) DALC Spring seminar – to be held on the 5th April 2022

22/03.28 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20 April 2022 at 07.30pm with the location to be confirmed.

Signed.....

Dated.....