

Cromford Parish Council

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

Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Barbara Bowman (Chair); Jeremy Beckett; Matt Birch; Russ Boyack; Jenny March; Alistair Fraser; Kate Wakefield; Iain Wakefield; Marie Szegota; Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk); Ann Taylor-Wilde (Cromford Institute Chair); Cllr G Purdy (DDDC); and John Mee (Footpath Warden)

22/09.1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr D Murphy (DCC)

22/09.2 Variation to the order of business

None

22/09.3 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Wakefield declared an interest in agenda item 14.a) as a relative of one of the candidates standing for co-option to the council.

Cllr Boyack declared an interest in the planning application 22/01064/FUL and planning appeal for Willersley Castle as a member of the fishing club.

22/09.4 Public Speaking

District and County Councillor Reports and Issues:

Report from Cllr Purdy (DCC)

Cllr Purdy reported that Mr Galsworthy is waiting a quote from the electrician so that the council can receive an accurate guide as to the cost of taking over maintenance of the Marketplace lamp-post.

Cllr Purdy raised the ongoing plans with devolution. Initially the Council's has felt that a mayor was not the most suitable option and had worked towards a different solution with the Vision Derbyshire work. However, when the government funding published their white paper in February it narrowed the options to stay as the councils are now with the same funding (level 1), a county deal amalgamation with a governance body above it (level 2) or extra money and extra powers if a mayor is put in place (level 3). It was decided that given these options a mayor was the best one to gain more money for the area. The launch of the new mayor and cabinet will be at Rolls Royce in 2024 and voting will occur. The new mayor powers will be on the lines of the West Midlands mayor with limited powers rather than Manchester's mayor who holds all of the power as it is felt that this is more democratic. Cllr Purdy noted that this means more money coming in to the area compared to the past 12 years. There will be a public consultation and £18 million has been given already.

Cllr Purdy reported that the DDDC have insisted that Serco carry out the programme of reorganisation of rounds that should have done at the beginning of the contract. A further review has shown this is required with an optimisation of rounds needed. The council and Serco are just looking for the best time to launch this. It will affect about 75% of households and some collection days may change. It was noted that with the closure of the vital earth plant Serco is still charging far

more than audited and that they had not properly implemented the missed bin software which had caused so many problems with bin collections.

Cllr Bowman raised that the no through road signs had still not gone up at the end of North Street and Intake Lane. Cllr Purdy and the Clerk will raise this with Cllr Murphy (DCC). **Action: Cllr Purdy and Clerk**

The issue with the A6 overhanging trees was raised and Cllr Purdy reported that the County Council will not do anything to the trees unless they are unsafe. He noted that if it is road safety issue then it will get dealt with but the footpath is clear. It was noted that the road signs and street lights are covered with branches. The Clerk will raise this with Cllr Murphy (DCC). **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Purdy reported that the Arkwright Society had held a meeting and were planning to the Mill named as a national treasure museum centre. The Mill has been in touch with the owners of Belper Mill and are intending to move the museum artifacts from Belper down to the Mill's in Cromford. It was noted that Masson Mill has now been sold. The Museum in the building was going to be retained by the new owners. It was reported that the hydro project is also going through.

John Mee – Footpath Warden

Mr Mee reported that he had attended the Quarry Liaison meeting and given his observations to the quarry managers. He reported that the strimmer needs a service and it was agreed that he will take it to Ashford and get it serviced. The invoice will then be sent to the Clerk. It was agreed that on Footpath 41 due to the large tree that has fallen across the path will be diverted around it. Mr Mee will get quotes and report back. **Action: Footpath Warden**

Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20 July 2022, as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr Birch.

22/09.5 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

There were no matters arising.

22/09.6 Reports

a. Almshouses

The report from Cllr March was noted

b. Wirksworth and District Trust Fund

No report was given.

c. DALC Chair's Meeting

No report was given.

d. Footpaths

Cllr Beckett reported there has been no forward movement as of yet on the footpaths.

It was also reported that the Dene Hollow work is to start on the 3rd October.

e. Speedwatch

Cllr Bowman reported that no watch was held during summer but next one will be on the 10th October at 3pm

f. Station Volunteers

Cllr Boyack reported that the next session would be held on Friday 7th October plants and bulbs are to be bought for a big planting session.

g. Intake Lane parking

Cllr Bowman reported that the parking situation had continued unchanged through the summer. It was noted that the Police are doing nothing to alleviate the situation and unless the police do something nothing else will happen. Cllr Nutting noted that the untaxed sorn car was still there. The Police had tried to move a car but had been unable to as the car was wedged too close to another two cars and could not be removed without damaging the other vehicles. It was noted that there were never less than half a dozen cars there. The Council noted that without police assistance the situation cannot be properly handled.

h. Lea Road closure

No update currently but think it will still be a November completion.

i. Quarry liaison

Cllr Beckett reported that the Quarry Liaison meeting had been held and that the complaints made in May had been followed up by EHO and planning and dealt with. The complaints about mess in August had come about as Dene quarry had turned off the first wheel wash due to the drought and this had caused the problems. It was noted that the wheel wash was now on permanently. The hired in cleaning company have been persuaded by the Dene quarry manager to upgrade their cleaning equipment which had shown improvement. The EHO inspection noted that there have been no complaints recently about dust on the road. Dene quarry have reported that they have also reduced the number of blasts from one a week to one a month and though they are larger they are within the monitored limits.

Cllr Beckett reported that Slinger quarry has been waiting 8 years for their planning application to be past and yet it is still in abeyance. In anticipation of the new Carbon offset rules, which state that for every one field dug there must be a new field created to offset the loss, Slinger have ensured that additional land has been put in place. They have now had to include the bund in the planning application. It was also noted that due to Bonsall residents noise complains it has been reported that there is another pecker in the area which has nothing to do with Slinger which has been contributing to the noise. Tony Gregory has found the first documents from the first Quarry liaison committee.

It was reported that there was no new information on the Ball Eye quarry which is up for sale.

22/09.7 Village Enhancement

Planting – Cllr Bowman reported that she was going to plant the flower towers and will buy some bulbs. Cllr Wakefield will plant in her area and Mrs Mosley will do the war memorial on Scarthin. Cllr

Bowman noted that the piece of land on the corner of St Mark's that had been planted unfortunately got mowed by DDDC.

Holiday homes – Unfortunately only Cllr March had been available to do the consultation over August so it had not been completed.

Cllr Fraser noted that he had passed the consultation details on to residents in North Street. It was noted that the Council isn't against all holiday homes but would like planning for them to avoid streets with only holiday homes and large areas of empty space.

Parking – it was noted that nothing had been heard regarding the Water Lane parking problems. The Clerk will raise this with Cllr Murphy (DCC). Cllrs Birch and Beckett will address issues caused by a car left outside Cllr Beckett's home. It was raised by Cllr Wakefield that the North Street parking has become really bad, particularly on the corner outside the Bell. The Clerk will contact the police regarding this. **Actions: Clerk, Cllr Beckett and Cllr Birch.**

Cllr Wakefield reported that someone has crashed into the wooden bollards in the Market Place and are all rotten but they are on private land so need the landowner to repair them.

Village Caretaker – Cllr Fraser reported that given the current issues with increasing living costs the village caretaker should be placed on the back burner as it will require a large rise in precept which will be passed on to households. It was agreed to leave the decision to the newly elected council in May. It was suggested the idea goes in the newsletter to query if residents would be willing to raise the precept. Cllr Fraser is to look at community payback crews instead and will report back. **Action: Cllr Fraser**

Bear Pit – Cllr Beckett reported that a loose slab was now in the water and the hole is getting deeper and deeper. The representatives of Cromford Mill have reported that the new community interest company could include the maintenance of the bear pit. Cllr Beckett will liaise with them over taking over the bear pit and send photos to historic England. **Action: Cllr Beckett.**

22/09.8 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 institute is functional again and it's been painted. There are currently quite a lot of lettings with fitness classes and talks being run. Things are progressing slowly and it was noted that the memorial plaques will go back up soon. Cllr Beckett queried the whereabouts of the portable PA system and it was confirmed that it is still available for the Remembrance service. Mrs Taylor-Wilde raised the issue of placing banners on the outside railings. Cllr Bowman noted that the rules on advertising by banner were on the government planning website with the permitted sizes. Mrs Taylor-Wilde noted that they were considering interchangeable banners for events. Cllr Fraser gave his congratulations on rescuing the building and thanks for putting the work in to repair it. Mrs Taylor-Wilde raised the rotted and damaged wooden bollard just lying outside the Community Centre. It was noted that this was the Community Centre's responsibility to repair.

- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – Cllr Bowman and Clerk are to meet to continue putting together the lease and will bring it to the council when it is completed. A complaint about the toilets will be passed to the centre. **Action: Cllr Bowman and Clerk.**

22/09.9 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – Cllr Beckett reported that the next deadline is Friday 28th October 2022
- b. **Parish Council website** – Cllr Beckett reported that there have been some problems with email addresses and problems with the website appearing as not secure. Cllr Beckett and the Clerk had encountered some issues using the Parish Council website email address. The Council need to update the website to make it more secure but Cllr Beckett had not had a response to his query's regarding the upgrade costs. It was agreed that the Clerk will look for quotes and Cllr Bowman will advertise for local website developers. Cllr Beckett and the Clerk will meet to list what is required. **Actions: Cllrs Beckett, Bowman and the Clerk.**

22/09.10 Policies for Approval

- a. **Internal Control Policy** – it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Internal Control Policy proposed by Cllr Beckett and, seconded by Cllr Boyack
- b. **Cromford Community Centre Rental Agreement** – it was agreed that this will be brought to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

22/09.11 Training

It was noted that the Councillors for the planning training had not received any links to the training yet. The Clerk will get the links from DALC and send to councillors. **Action: Clerk**

22/09.12 Planning Decisions:

- a. Appeal by Globebrow Ltd - Willersley Castle Hotel, Mill Road, Cromford - ENF/22/00045 - 22/00021/WREP - APP/3303820
- b. 22/01041/FUL | Formation of a riding arena | Bow Wood Farm Bow Wood Lea Bridge Matlock Derbyshire DE4 5AB – illumination, mirrors, business use not.
- c. 22/01064/FUL | Installation of zip wire apparatus | Willersley Castle Hotel Mill Road Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 5JH
- d. 22/01063/LBALT | Replacement of front door and door frame | 102 The Hill Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3QU

It was agreed that Cllr Bowman and the Clerk will put together an objection to the appeal. **Action: Cllr Bowman & Clerk**

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

For application C) the Clerk will query the environmental impact of the zip wire on the surrounding trees and whether will be visible to residents. A tree officer site inspection will also be requested.

Action: Clerk

22/09.13 Items for Decision

- a. **Co-option of new councillors** – it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mrs M Szegota and Mr I Wakefield to the Council Cllr Boyack and, seconded Cllr Beckett.
- b. **To approve expenditure for winter flowering plants** – it was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of up to £200 for winter flowering plants Cllr Bowman and, seconded Cllr Boyack
- c. **To nominate a parish council representative for the Cromford Institute Committee** – it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Szegota would stand as the council representative for the Cromford Institute committee proposed by Cllr Bowman and, seconded Cllr March.

22/09.14 Finance & Administration

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

Invoices for payments in August & September 2022	
Footpath Warden's Wages	111.84
Clerk's Wages	498.26
Highland print services (newsletter)	494.00
HMRC - PAYE	34.80
Cromford Institute - s137 Grant	926.25
Cromford CofE School	110.00
Spotless - Bus shelter cleaning July & August	100.00
Station Plants	150.00
DALC - Planning training	165.00
Total Payments	£2,590.15

- c) **Delegated salary payments for September** - it was **RESOLVED** to delegate the September salary payments to Cllr Bowman and Cllr Birch proposed Cllr Nutting and, seconded Cllr Fraser.

22/09.15 Items for information

There were no items for information

22/09.16 Correspondence

1. Derbyshire Dales District Council Parish Council Liaison Forum on Monday 17th October 2022 – Councillor Bowman to attend.
2. DALC AGM - Thursday 20th October – The Clerk to attend
3. Briefing Note for the Town and Parish Council Liaison Forum – Devolution & County Deals
4. Road Closure Order - Church Street Matlock for Electricity Fault repairs 25th Oct to 28th Oct 2022
5. Road Closure Order - Main Street Winster B5057 for STW repair 24th October to 26th October 2022
6. Road Closure Order - B5056 to replace High Peak Trail Bridge 3rd October to 28th October 2022

22/09.17 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 19th October 2022 at 7.30pm with the location to be confirmed.

Signed.....

Dated.....