

Cromford Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Cromford Parish Council held at the
Cromford Institute, Cromford

Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Jeremy Beckett (Chair); Matt Birch; Russ Boyack; Alistair Fraser; Jenny March; Sue Mosley; Kate Wakefield;

23/02.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk) due to illness

Cllr Mike Nutting; Cllr Barbara Bowman; Cllrs G Purdy (DDDC) & Cllr D Murphy (DDDC & DCC).

23/02.2 Variation to the order of business

There were no variations to the order of business

23/02.3 Declaration of Members Interests

No declarations of members interests were made.

23/02.4 Public Speaking

Cllr Beckett welcomed Kirsty Hunt (KH) from Derbyshire Police. KH is a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and has undertaken that role in the Cromford/Matlock Bath/Wirksworth/Middleton area for two years. She informed the meeting that PCSO Foster will be leaving in July. She was informed that there had been 'night time' activity at Black Rocks which she said would be monitored. She listened to a discussion raised by councillors who had received many complaints from residents regarding noisy vehicles with 'popping exhausts' and modified engines. She was aware that this was a problem in Matlock Bath as well where many of these vehicle owners congregate and then ride up to Cromford. The Community Safety Partnership has noise measuring equipment and KH is looking into this. Sarah Dines the local MP has also been contacted and she is hoping for a coordinated response to try and deal with the problem. The Chair confirmed that they had run a speedwatch exercise but most drivers immediately slowed down when they saw the signs. There was also a discussion about the problem of dust in the village including a recent incident where the electronic tailgate had failed on a lorry which had deposited its contents through the village and beyond. Cllr Mosley raised the question of communication and KH said she could inform her by email as to when the PCSO team were having meetings with residents. They are flagged up on the Facebook page but are often not well attended in the winter as they are held outside, things are better in the summer. KH also asked the meeting to let her know if Cromford PC needs any police presence for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Cllr Beckett thanked KH for attending and at this point she left the meeting.

In the absence of both County and District councillors a number of issues were briefly discussed:

- Market Place lamp – **see item 16**
- Traffic lights at junction with A6 – the need for sweeping
- The state of the A6 southbound due to dust the kerb can't be seen
- Lea Road closure need for better signage, disappointing that no response from DCC and with another 10 months there is a need for a permanent sign – **see item 14**

- Gulleys on The Hill not being emptied, the one by the car wash is blocked and outside The Kitchen Shop at No 1 it is full with silt. Councillors were asked to check gulleys in their vicinity.

23/02/5 Footpaths report:

No reports due, Cllr Boyack has circulated a report on Pennyford which was **noted**.

23/02.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15 December 2021,
Proposed Cllr Boyack Seconded Cllr Mosley

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2022 with the following addition to item 22/01.10 Dust on the roads around Cromford:

‘Cromford Parish Council submitted comments to Derbyshire Dales District Council regarding the Quarry licence application but it appears this missed the deadline and that Cllr Nutting was going to resubmit to Karen Carpenter at DDDC.’

Proposed Cllr Wakefield, seconded Cllr Boyack.

23/02.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

All matters covered by agenda items

23/02.8 Community Speedwatch update

Cllr Bowman has circulated a report to councillors - **noted**

23/02.9 Station volunteers

Cllr Russ Boyack circulated a report to councillors – **noted**.

23/02.10 Dust on the roads around Cromford

Following on from last month, a lengthy discussion took place some of which had been included in item 2 above. Councillors are very concerned with the state of the village as a result of the failure of the contractors to clear the roads of dust and debris coming from commercial quarry trucks. This includes strips not being cleaned by kerbs and possibly contaminated water being used for cleaning purposes. A recent incident as referred to at item 2 above was reported to DCC but the view of councillors present was that the quarry management were not doing sufficient to ensure roads were kept clear of dust.

Cllr Birch presented a letter he had received from Arkwright General Stores who were very concerned at the effect this is having on its business and were formally raising the matter as to what Cromford PC plans to do about it.

A second letter was presented to the meeting from Mr. Skipp, a local taxi, driver who was complaining about the amount of dust in the air and the effect this was having on the environment. He had approached Karen Carpenter at DDDC.

Cllr Beckett reminded the meeting that the parish council has no powers to deal with the matter. However, councillors understood that a letter was to have been written to the parent company of Tarmac regarding the general state of the village caused by dust and debris from trucks. Resolved Cllr Beckett agreed that he would try and establish the situation as to whether a letter was sent.

23/02.11 Parking problems

Discussion of this item was limited without Cllr Murphy being present but the meeting briefly discussed the signage problems regarding 'no through road' signs at the end of North Street and Intake Lane. The Chair mentioned that he had tried online to address the sat nav issues but without success.

23/02.12 Village enhancement – wildlife planting

Cllr Bowman had circulated a report - **noted**

23/02.13 Grit bin checks & refill provision

Cllr Bowman had reported that she had costs for 6 x aluminium signs to be screwed to grit bins at £64 plus VAT and delivery costs with an estimate of £100 to fix the signs. The meeting resolved to accept these quotes: proposed Cllr Boyack seconded Cllr Fraser.

23/02.14 Lea Road closure update

There will be a meeting on 22 February and Cllr Boyack will attend – **noted**

23/02.15 Community Centre

There had been no further communication from the Community Centre re support for running the toilets as per last month. Cllr Fraser will chase up – **noted**.

23/02.16 Market Place lamp post

Following on from last month Cllr Purdy was to chase up with DDDC but no further information.

23/02.17 Newsletter

Cllr Beckett will collect the newsletters next week for distribution in early March

23/02/18 Noise Pollution

Cllr Bowman had mentioned a meeting in Belper, Item carried forward to next meeting

23/02/19 Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr Birch said the Millenium Beacon had been inspected but it hadn't been used since the Millenium and needed new gas cylinders. Cllr Fraser will find out what the plans are for the lighting of the beacons nationally. Oak Hill wish to have an event but they don't want to clash with any the village has planned. The matter will be addressed again at next month's meeting.

23/02.20 Planning Decisions:

- a) Tree Works Application T/22/00020/TCA,
Crown reduction to Silver Birch (T1) by approx. 2m retaining natural shape at 39 Barnwell Lane Cromford Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3QY
- b) Tree Works Application T/22/00017/TCA,
Fell 8no. ash trees (T1-T8), fell 1no. oak tree (T9), fell 3no. sycamore trees (T10-T12), crown reduce 1no. oak tree by 50% (T13) from a height of 10m to approx 5m, reduce lower limb by 25% of 1no. beech tree (T14) current length of 8m to a length of approx. 6m, fell 1no. pine tree (T15), fell 1no. ash tree (T16) and reduce by 60% sweet chestnut tree (T17) from current height of 15m to approx 6m at Willersley Castle Mill Road Cromford Matlock Derbyshire

- c) Tree Works Application T/22/00023/TCA,
Crown reduce 1no. weeping willow (T2) by approx 2m on overall canopy and reduce overall size by approx 50% of 1no. cherry laurel (T1) at The Coach House 89 Derby Road Cromford Matlock Derbyshire
- d) Tree Works Application T/22/00024/TCA,
Fell 1no. Sycamore Tree - T1 and remove one low branch of 1no. Sycamore - T2 as identified in attached photo at Raynor Willersley Lane Cromford Matlock Derbyshire
- e) 21/01426/FUL Change of use and extension to barn to form a live/work dwelling, erection of associated outbuildings, a domestic wind turbine and formation of a wildlife pond

The items were discussed but no objections were voiced. The full address for item e) was missing but this was found online.

23/02.21 Finance & Administration

a) Balance in the Bank – report

Resolved to accept the financial report – proposed Cllr Mosley, seconded Cllr Birch

b) Items for approval and payment at this meeting

Invoices for payment in February 2022	
Rainbows (s137 Grant)	100.00
Spotless (Bus Shelters)	50.00
Mr O Sturt (grit bins)	313.60
Footpath Warden Wages (Jan & Feb)	221.60
Clerk Wages (Jan & Feb)	736.24
HMRC PAYE tax	289.52
Community Rail Network Membership	30.00
DD Payroll Services	36.00
Total Payments	£1,776.96

In addition a payment for £114.47 was approved for road signs/public footpath/cycling and for a payment to the Footpaths officer for £126.06, proposed Cllr Boyack, seconded, Cllr Fraser.

c) Delegate approval of February salary payments (when available) to the Chair & Vice Chair

Approval had been given in January 2022 meeting to delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair.

23/02.22 Items for information

Cllr Beckett informed the meeting of a number of road closures

- Mill Road, 23/24 February 09.30 – 15.30 – bridge repairs
- The Scarthin, 1 – 3 March, electrical connections
- The Hill, 20 March, 09.30 – 15.30 manhole cover

Cllr Becket had an invitation from Matlock Civic Service for the installation of the new mayor but he is unable to attend.

Bonsall PC had asked for details of a clerk vacancy to be circulated and Cllr Beckett will put it on the notice board.

The Great British Spring Clean will take place on 25 March – 10 April. Cllr Bowman usually leads on this and Cllr Beckett will liaise with her.

23/02.23 Correspondence

The two letters received as per item 31/02.10 were formally noted and Cllr Beckett will respond.

A letter from the Chair of Governors at Cromford Primary School and crossing warden regarding picnic benches on the pavement was discussed. The complaint had been followed up with The Bell public house and Cllr. Beckett will respond.

23/02.24 Date of next meeting

Cllr Fraser asked that the feasibility for a village caretaker be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Fraser also proposed thanks to James Johnson for taking minutes at short notice and the meeting agreed.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15 March at 07.30pm at the Cromford Institute

Signed..... **Dated**.....