

## Cromford Parish Council

### Minutes of a meeting of Cromford Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 7.30pm

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**Present:** Councillors: Beckett (Chair); Bowman (Vice-Chair); Birch; Boyack; March; Mosley, Nutting and Wakefield. Cllr I Ratcliffe (DCC) and Cllr G Purdy (DDDC). 1 Member of the Public. Mrs B Kirkham (Locum Clerk)

#### **21/2.1 Welcome and Apologies**

Cllr Beckett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr J Pawley (DDDC).

#### **21/2.2 Variation to the order of business**

Cllr Bowman proposed that the setting up of a staffing sub-committee be raised under item 5.

#### **21/2.3 Declaration of Members Interests**

Cllrs Bowman and Boyack declared an interest in item 21/2.24 b).

#### **21/2.4 Public Speaking**

- a) A resident of Ridgewood Drive explained that vehicles belonging to non-residents parked on Intake Lane/Ridgewood Drive were causing considerable problems, some vehicles had no tax or MOT. The road can become dangerous and difficult to negotiate in snow and is often single file due to parked vehicles. Some vehicles were leaking fuel and litter was often left after vehicles had been removed. There was also the issue of noise from a nearby garage.
- b) **Cllr Ratcliffe** - regarding the garage on the A6 the Environmental Health Department were monitoring the noise issue and the police had also visited. More complaints need to be logged, perhaps an item in the newsletter regarding inconsiderate parking may help.  
The County Council was dealing with lots of incidents of Ash Die Back in the area. Details of the County Council Capital Funding Programme will be available soon.
- c) **Cllr Purdy** – regarding Intake Lane/Ridgewood Drive - incidents of ‘unnecessary obstruction’ should be reported to the police. Issues of noise need to be evidence based.  
Covid numbers in Derbyshire Dales were dropping.  
The Council and emergency services had responded well to recent flooding issues. District Council Climate Change Officer will be appointed shortly.  
Cllr Purdy agreed to chase up the issue of parking on the School Playing Fields.
- d) There was no representation from members at this meeting.

#### **21/2.5 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20 January 2021 as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr

Bowman. Cllr Bowman proposed that 'Staffing Sub-Committee' be an agenda item at the next meeting, this was seconded Cllr Beckett. Cllr Bowman to draw up terms of reference.  
*Action: Cllr Bowman*

#### **21/2.6 Approval of Contract and Job Description for the Footpaths Officer**

Members resolved to approve the draft contract. Cllr Beckett to discuss the contents with the Footpaths Officer and obtain signature. *Action: Cllr Beckett*

#### **21/2.7 Approval of Locum Clerk Contract**

After the addition of the words 'pro rata' after the full-time salary' the Council resolved to approve the Locum Clerk Contract. *Action: Cllr Beckett & Clerk*

#### **21/2.8 Recruitment of Clerk/RFO report from Chair**

Wendy Amis from DALC was drawing up a report on the role of Clerk/RFO and advised that the role is not split but had suggested that payroll provision be contracted out. Cllr Beckett to obtain current payroll information. The Clerk to obtain a template for the Clerk's contract.  
*Action: Cllr Beckett & Clerk*

#### **21/2.9 Trees around Mill Pond**

The District Council had declined to cut the trees as requested by the Parish Council. The trees were suffering from Ash Die Back. The Council resolved that the Clerk should make a further request to the District Council. *Action: Clerk*

#### **21/2/10 Twinning Opportunity with Ratingen, Germany**

Cllr Bowman briefed the Council on the background to the twinning proposal. However, Ratingen is a large city and Cromford Parish Council does not have the resources to carry this forward and proposed that the Council support the Arkwright Society if they wish to go ahead with the twinning.

#### **21/2.11 Community Speed Watch Update & Purchase/Storage of Equipment**

Theory training is planned for tomorrow, due to Covid regulations it was uncertain when actual speed watches could be carried out.

#### **21/2.12 Station Volunteers and matters arising from the January DV/WHS Community Rail Meeting**

Cllr Boyack briefed Councillors on issues raised at a recent Railway Partnership meeting, these included: lack of parking in the village; connection between platform and Cromford Meadows; better connectivity between Willersley and the Matlock Footbridge across Derwent Walk; maintenance of off-road routes; introduction of the Harrington Hump at Cromford Station; car & coach parking locations; liaison between Cromford Parish Council and the District council regarding the conservation area. Cllr Boyack agreed to make a list of proposed actions. *Action: Cllr Boyack*

#### **21/2.13 Quarry Liaison Meeting Report**

Cllr Beckett briefed Councillors on matters raised at a recent Quarry Liaison meeting, these included: spillage from lorries; it was hoped that regular sweeping of pavements would commence shortly; issues at Dene Quarry; a site meeting was to be held regarding the

Dene Hollow footpath; all quarry blasting carried out in Cromford had been within acceptable limits.

**21/2.14 Dog Fouling around Cromford**

Dog fouling around the village and on footpaths had become a real problem and these issues needed to be reported to the District Council.

**21/2.15 Police Matters**

There were no matters raised under this item.

**21/2.16 County Council & District Council Matters**

A Highways traffic survey had reported that the criteria for a pedestrian crossing with lights on the hill had not been met. The survey had been done during lockdown when traffic was lighter. Crossing Warden support would continue.

**21/2.17 Proposed Boundary & Electoral changes in Derbyshire Dales**

The proposals showed that Bonsall would move into a different group of parishes and Cromford would become part of an area known as 'Matlock Rural'.

**21/2.18 Newsletter**

Cllr Beckett had extended the newsletter deadline as door-to-door deliveries were not allowed at present; the newsletter may need to go online initially.

**21/2.19 Bedehouse Lane Signs**

Despite numerous attempts to contact the Footpaths Officer there was no information as to when the new sign would be erected.

**21/2.20 Planning Decisions:**

- a) **T/21/00004/TCA – Application for tree works – Alison House Hotel, Intake Lane, Cromford**

The Council had no objection to this application.

**21/1.21 Trello - Casework/Complaints Procedure**

A subscription for Trello was to be an agenda item at the next meeting. *Action: Clerk*

**21/2.22 Grievance Policy**

The responsibility for the final draft of the Discipline & Grievance Policy was to be the responsibility of the Staffing Committee when appointed.

**21/2.23 Items for Decision: Approval of purchase of Footpath Officer Equipment up to £150**

This expenditure was approved, proposed by Cllr Mosley seconded by Cllr Boyack.

**21/2.24 Finance**

- a) **Balance in the Bank/Budget Appraisal/Approval of Financial Statements**

There was a balance in the current account of £2,883.44 and a balance in the reserve account of £31,188.83, this was approved by Cllr March and seconded by Cllr Mosley

**b) Items for approval and payment at this meeting**

The Council resolved to approve the following items for payment, proposed by Cllr March seconded by Cllr Wakefield:

Cromford Station Expenses (RB)	15.50
Snow Shovels (BB)	18.00
Spotless (Jan)	50.00
Clerk's Salary	288.38
Footpaths Officer	138.46
Locum Clerk - B Kirkham	559.53

**21/2.25 Items for Information**

- There was concern about some stiles in the parish which needed repair, this was the responsibility of the landowners and grants were available from the County Council.
- A map with the new footpath numbers on had been prepared and this needed to be printed. *Action: Cllr Beckett*
- Clerk was asked to find out what was happening with the planning enforcement at 69 Derby Road. *Action: Clerk*
- There was no further information at present regarding the fence at Mill Pond.

**21/2.26 Correspondence**

All correspondence had been sent out by email.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

**Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7.30 pm**