

# **Cromford Parish Council**

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Minutes of a meeting of Cromford Parish Council held at the  
Cromford Community Centre, Market Place, Cromford  
Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 7.30pm

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**Present:** Councillors: J Beckett (Chair); B Bowman (Vice-Chair); R Boyack; M Birch; A Fraser; J March; and S Mosley. Mrs S Bacon (Clerk) John Mee (footpath officer) and Cllr G Purdy (DDDC).

## **21/10.1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Nutting and K Wakefield

## **21/10.2 Variation to the order of business**

There was no variation to the order of business.

## **21/10.3 Declaration of Members Interests**

Cllrs Boyack, Bowman, Beckett, and Mosley declared an interest in Agenda Item 31.C as they were requesting reimbursement for items purchased.

Cllrs Bowman, Beckett and Fraser also declared an interest in agenda item 30.C as members of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

## **21/10.4 Public Speaking**

### **Cllr Purdy (DDDC)**

Cllr Purdy reported that as a mark of respect to the late Cllr J Pauley the illuminations on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October will be dedicated to her. An arbour has been purchased to be placed in the gardens at Matlock Bath and a plaque will be placed with her family. There will also be a collection for MacMillan Cancer support on the Saturday and a Tombola organised by Cllr M Wakeman. Tickets for the illuminations can be bought online and the illuminations start at 7.30pm with fireworks at 9pm.

Arkwright's has had three meetings and one round of grants they applied for has been given. The conservation planning department has no objections in principle to the proposed scheme which will see a metal water wheel placed on the weir. The plans are still dependant on two further grants being awarded. Severn Trent has stated they will not give a grant without planning permission in place. The scheme should produce enough green energy to power the Mill's lights eventually. Two subgroups are to be set up. One for the technical part of the project and one for communication with residents. The Parish Council Chair is invited to join, and Cllr Purdy is also on the steering group as well. The steering group is looking for further volunteers with a 6 to 7 maximum membership.

Cllr Purdy reported on the Serco strike that union workers have been instructed to work to rule on Friday to Monday and more strike action is possible after that. The GMB are looking for an increase in wage for loaders. The workers are currently on catch up of missed rounds.

Cllr Purdy has received an update from Karen at Environmental Health regarding the road mess and dust coming out of the Tarmac quarry where they are blaming failure of the wheel wash again. The quarry put two sweepers on during the period of the wheel wash being broken. It was reported that someone had damaged the barrier stopping lorries from moving before the wash is finished. Cllr

Bowman noted that she had seen two sweepers operating and that she had seen one sweeper emptying dirty water at the top of the hill. She noted that drivers had previously been told not to do that. The County Council schedule of works that was promised at the last meeting has not yet arrived and it was requested that Cllr Purdy speak to Cllr Murphy about sending it on. It was further noted that the crossroads at the A6 are filthy, and the job requires a man and brush to move the dirt, but it has not been done for two years. There are the waste review results are expected in January from Mr Watts, but it was noted that there had been no chance for upskilling of staff due to austerity. The District Council is currently waiting for their precept from Government and a 3- or 4-year plan. Cllr Purdy is going to try to speak to government ministers regarding cash flow and the lack of financing for local government.

The trees hanging over the A6 were raised, and Cllr Bowman agreed to send Cllrs Purdy and Murphy an email regarding the situation. It was noted that Highways won't action any work unless it is considered a safety issue. **Action: Cllr Bowman**

The promised Via Gellia work that is still not started will be chased by Cllr Purdy.

Cllr Beckett asked if Cllr Purdy had been contacted about a community fund for the Allen Hill playground as he had suggested to the organiser of the group looking to improve the playground equipment that there may be funding available from the Local Improvement Fund and Cllr Murphy's DCC fund. Cllr Purdy reported that as of, yet no contact had been made with him. Cllr Beckett will contact resident to encourage contact with Cllr Purdy. **Action: Cllr Beckett**

Cllr Bowman requested that Cllr Purdy speak to DDDC Officers regarding the Platform land and District Council land by the church as she would like the DDDC's permission to plant.

#### **21/10.5 Minutes of the previous meetings**

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15 September 2021, with a small amendment to page 1360, as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Mosley and seconded by Cllr Bowman.

#### **21/10.6 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

It was reported that the broken streetlight on the Marketplace has been repaired however, the request for the weed removal and painting is still ongoing  
The licence for the Christmas tree waiting was signed by Cllrs Bowman and Beckett and will be returned to the District Council. **Action: Clerk**

#### **21/10.7 Community Speed Watch Update**

Cllr Bowman reported that on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October a speed watch was held. She reported that since the restart of watches 172 vehicles had been monitored with multiple cases of speeding at the top of the hill. She noted that the group would like more volunteers as some volunteers had stopped attending as watches were held in the daytime. Cllr Beckett reported the Police have now had their equipment back. Cllr Boyack noted that the PCSO's had been seen in village more.

#### **21/10.8 Station Volunteers**

Cllr Boyack reported that sleeper wall now completed as of Tuesday and that it looks very good. Three volunteers had been to the East Midlands Railway's conference at Pride Park and seen three presentations. The best presentation had been given was how to apply for a community rail grant up to £1000. It was noted that the railway finds difficult to grant all the money due to a lack of

applications. There were a further two presentations by Loudham Station on village volunteer mobilisation to take care of stations. Cllr Boyack noted that there was still money to spent on plants for the station and it was agreed that the proposed space be looked at by Cllr Fraser as it was a barren area and requires Cllr Fraser's plant knowledge for what will grow there. **Action: Cllr Fraser**

Cllr Beckett gave the Council's thanks to the volunteers who had laid the sleepers and noted there had been a big turnout of volunteers for the job.

#### **21/10.9 Dust on the roads around Cromford**

Cllr Beckett reported that Mr Laycock had informed him that the quarry still hasn't found pavement sweeper contractors yet. Cllr Beckett agreed to chase him up. Cllrs reported that they have received comments from residents on the amount of dust in the village. **Action: Cllr Beckett**

#### **21/10.10 Vehicle problems on Intake Lane**

Cllr Beckett reported that an email from the police that they are taking walks up Intake Lane but with taxed and mot vehicles no action can be taken as they are legally, if inconsiderately parked. If cars are Sorn action can be taken. It was noted that there are no waiting limits on the road. Cllr Murphy had previously reported that there was no chance of Highways putting limits on the road as technically the road does not lead anywhere.

#### **21/10.11 Parking Problems**

It was reported that as with Intake Lane there is not much to be done. Bedale Lane is suffering from the same parking problems since a box had been turned down.

#### **21/10.12 Footpath Officer's Report**

Mr Mee reported he had done a survey of the Dene's Hollow path and so far, there was not much to report. All the area has been top-soiled, but some sections of the wall are not finished, and fencing has been put up. The steps up from the wheel wash have not yet been repaired and some are missing all together. There are also branches encroaching on to the path though some strimming has been completed. The coping stones need placing on the wall.

Footpath 40 at the top of Willersley Lane had been considered for the MMA money but Cllr Boyack is going to look at another footpath due to the chance of breaking the concrete at that path with lorries running over it. Footpath 41 is under consideration for repair, but it was raised that this could be Woodland Trust land. Cllr Boyack agreed to contact the Woodland Trust regarding its ownership and repair. Cllr Boyack and Mr Mee will look for other alternatives. **Action: Cllr Boyack and Mr Mee**

The quarterly foot path report was received.

#### **21/10.13 Cromford Mill Dam/Pond – tree pruning and weeds**

Cllr Beckett noted that there was currently nothing further to report and the Ash dieback had still not been dealt with yet.

#### **21/10.14 Hawthorn Drive & Village enhancement – Wildlife planting**

Cllr Bowman has met Platform housing and has queried the land and the Threepenny Bit.

#### **21/10.16 Allen's Hill Play Area**

Nothing further to report. Cllr March will see if she can speak to the group organiser at the school.

#### **21/10.17 Training Courses for Councillors and Clerk**

The Clerk reported that she had received information and interest from some Councillors in training courses run by DALC. Cllr Fraser had expressed an interest in the tree survey course and Cllr Bowman had expressed an interest in the report writing course. There were also HR and Finance courses available. It was agreed to discuss these at the Finance Committee meeting on 3 November. All councillors will send their course interests to the Clerk prior to the meeting. **Action: All**

#### **21/10.18 Adoption of policies (previously circulated):**

- a) **Grievance Policy** – It was resolved to adopt the grievance policy, proposed by Cllr Bowman, and seconded by Cllr Fraser.
- b) **Social Media Policy** – It was agreed to put this policy on hold until the next meeting to allow councillors a longer time for review.
- c) **Revised Standing Orders** – It was resolved to adopt the revised standing orders and to remove the references to the social media policy from the standing orders, proposed by Cllr Bowman and seconded by Cllr Fraser.

**Action: Cllr Bowman**

#### **21/10.19 Parking outside the Methodist Chapel**

There was nothing further to report

#### **21/10.20 Installation of Memorial Bench on Scarthin**

Cllr Beckett has heard nothing further regarding this from the residents who had requested it.

#### **21/10.21 Lea Road Closure Meeting**

It was reported that an update email from the County Council had been received after the cancellation of the meeting and circulated but there had been nothing further on the meeting or the situation.

#### **21/10.22 Beacon for the Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Birch reported that he had collected the beacon and consulted with the gas man who had told him that as long as the flame pitch is right, it is fine to use. It does, however, require a new gas cylinder. No other work on it is required and it just needs a test firing. It will be placed by the engine house. The Clerk will produce a risk assessment. **Action: Clerk**

#### **21/10.23 DDDC proposed boundary commission changes**

Cllr Beckett reported that the suggested boundary changes are the same as the previous proposals. The Council has no further comment on the changes.

#### **21/10.24 Cromford Flag**

Cllr Beckett reported that he had been in contact with a resident regarding the village flags and the resident had wished to donate the flags to the Guides. Cllr Beckett suggested instead that the Parish Council take charge of the flags rather than Guides. There are 200 flags of different types that require storage and distribution on events. Cllrs Fraser and Beckett will temporarily store them and organise them into categories.

### **21/10.25 Police Matters**

All matters had been covered earlier in the meeting.

### **21/10.26 County Council & District Council Matters**

Cllr Beckett reported that he had a list of issues that required updates or looking into by Cllr Murphy (DCC).

- An email from a resident querying if there was any news on the placement of a 'No Through' sign at the start of North Street.
- Dangerous Trees on A6 – Street lights cannot be seen due to the trees making it very dark and some of the trees look as though they are going to fall onto the road.
- An update on the parking outside Methodist Chapel - suggestions of removing parking that had been made at the previous meeting.
- An update on the two yellow hatchings raised at the previous meeting - The one at Scarthin which is on the schedule, to be repainted and Water Lane Junction hatching which needs repainting and remeasuring.

### **21/10.27 Newsletter**

Cllr Beckett reported that the deadline was the 5<sup>th</sup> November for submissions. Cllr Mosely reported that she has received an email from a resident requesting notice about dog fouling go in newsletter.

### **21/10.28 Planning Decisions:**

- a) 20/01018/DCOND, Discharge of Conditions 2, 3 and 4 of application ref: 20/01018/LBALT - External and internal alterations - 90 The Hill Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QU – No Comment
- b) T/21/00166/TCA, Crown Reduce and shape 1no. large Willow tree by 1/3 down to broken branch and removal of broken branch - Willersley House Willersley Lane Cromford Derbyshire DE4 5JG – No Objection
- c) 21/01143/FUL. Erection of general purpose agricultural building to house and feed livestock and store fodder and implements - Land At Coumbs Farm Lea Road Lea Bridge Derbyshire – This will be passed to the Clerk at Lea, Dethick and Holloway Parish Council.
- d) T/21/00156/TCA, Dismantle and remove 1no. Spruce tree (T1) - Ivy Cottage Moorside Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QW – No Objections

It was resolved that the Council had no objections to any of the applications. **Action: Clerk**

It was noted that the Willersley Castle Planning Consultation had not yet been received. The Clerk will raise this with the Planning Department. **Action: Clerk**

### **21/10.29 Trello - Casework/Complaints Procedure**

No new items had been added to Trello.

### **21/10.30 Items for Decision:**

#### **a) Proposal to join the Local Government Pension Scheme and enrol the Clerk**

It was resolved to join the Local Government Pension Scheme and enrol the Clerk, proposed by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr March. The Clerk will fill out the required Paperwork and return to the pension section and DCC. **Action: Clerk**

#### **b) To close the Lloyds bank ISA account**

It was resolved to close the Lloyds Bank ISA account, proposed by Cllr Boyack and seconded by Cllr Bowman.

**c) To donate to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for purchase of additional Rose End Meadows Land**

It was resolved to give an s137 grant of £250 to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust towards the purchase of additional Rose End Meadows Land, proposed by Cllr Boyack and seconded by Cllr March. Cllrs Fraser, Bowman and Beckett did not vote.

**21/10.31 Finance & Administration**

**a) Report from the Finance Committee**

Cllr Beckett reported that the Finance Committee would be holding a meeting to discuss the budget and precept on Wednesday 3 November at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

**b) Balance in the Bank**

The balance in the Unity Trust accounts was £39,672.39.

**c) Items for approval and payment at this meeting:**

The Council resolved to approve the following payments, proposed by Cllr Birch seconded by Cllr March. Cllrs Boyack, Beckett, Bowman and Mosley did not vote.

<b>Invoices for payment in October 2021</b>	
Derwent Treescapes - Sleepers	834.00
Flowers for Locum (Reimbursement JB)	28.00
Spring Memorial Bulbs (Reimbursement SM)	9.98
Spotless	50.00
Bedding Plants (Reimbursement BB)	10.47
Remembrance Wreaths - RBL	100.00
Bedding Plants (Reimbursement RB)	10.00
Pea Gravel for Station (Reimbursement RB)	6.12
Roots of Remembrance Wreath	18.50
Petrol - Footpath Officer July	6.75
Petrol - Footpath Officer October	6.85
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£1,080.67</b>

**d) Delegated approval to JB & BB of October salary and Laptop payments**

It was resolved to grant Cllr Beckett and Bowman delegated authority to approve the October Salary and laptop purchase payments, proposed by Cllr Birch seconded by Cllr March

**21/10.32 Items for Information**

- An email regarding the Safer Derbyshire Dales Survey had been received by the Clerk and circulated. All Councillors were encouraged to complete the survey.

**21/10.33 Correspondence**

- 1. Snow Warden Scheme** – It was agreed that Cllrs Mosley and Bowman would complete the forms and be the Council's Snow Wardens for 2021/22 and that a ½ tonne of grit would be requested by the Clerk. Cllrs Fraser and Bowman will check the amount of grit in the grit bins. **Action: Clerk and Cllrs Mosley, Bowman and Fraser**
- 2. A resident's email requesting a donation for the playschool' Christmas Party** – This will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on the 3 November and brought to the next full council meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- 3. Lamp – DDDC – email district**
- 4. Complaints from residents regarding the Community Centre toilets** – Cllr Birch will raise this with the Community Centre. **Action: Cllr Birch**

**21/10.34 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 7.30pm at the Cromford Institute.

**Signed** .....

**Dated** .....