

Cromford Parish Council

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

Wednesday 19 January 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Jeremy Beckett (Chair); Barbara Bowman (Vice Chair); Russ Boyack; Kate Wakefield; Sue Mosley; Mike Nutting; Matt Birch; Alistair Fraser.

22/01.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk) due to illness

CLRs G Purdy (DDDC) & Cllr D Murphy (DDDC & DCC) due to emergency DDC meeting

22/01.2 Variation to the order of business

There was no variation to the order of business.

22/01.3 Declaration of Members Interests

No declarations of members interests were made.

22/01.4 Public Speaking

There was no public speaking.

22/01/5 Footpaths report:

The footpath in the section that is part of Middleton Parish has not yet been completed due to adverse weather conditions. Completion is due by spring.

The steps on the footpath which leads up the side of the quarry from the haul road beside the wheel-wash have not yet been repaired. The repair is awaiting the contractor assigned the job and suitable weather conditions.

The footpath adoption at Pennyford was discussed and it was agreed that we support this application now being made.

22/01.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 19 December 2021, with the following agreed amendments:

- i) that Cllr Alistair Fraser was not present as he had agreed not to be present in order to keep the numbers at the meeting within those of the Covid guidelines for the venue.
- ii) That the minutes be renumbered as per the original agenda, with notes to say where discussions of items had been deferred.

Proposed Cllr Barbara Bowman, seconded Cllr Russ Boyack.

22/01.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

All matters covered by agenda items

22/01.8 Community Speedwatch update

Cllr Barbara Bowman gave a report. No Speedwatch sessions had taken place since the previous update due to a combination of bad weather, holidays and Covid. It was hoped to restart in February. Further possible locations for the Speedwatch had been submitted to the police; most had

been approved, but unfortunately the police had refused a site on Water Lane as they felt it was too dangerous.

22/01.9 Station volunteers

Cllr Russ Boyack gave a report. Grant monies are available from East Midlands Railways (EMR). Possible applications were discussed at the volunteers session held on Tuesday 18 January and between Cllr Boyack and Alastair Morley, the overall volunteers co-ordinator.

- i) Renew the timber barrels both on the platform and just outside , possibly with self-watering units or planters to match those installed as part of the bee friendly initiative.
- ii) Renew the small “manger” type planters on the platform with self-watering units
- iii) Installation of a set of discreet steps to give safer access to the top of the steep planting on the station approach and behind the waiting room. (This may involve a contractor)

A possible larger scheme would be to improve the lighting on the station approach.

22/01.10 Dust on the roads around Cromford - JB

This was also discussed at the Quarry Liaison meeting held prior to the Council meeting (see separate minutes). Additional measures are being taken by Tarmac including a new high pressure jet system before the weighbridge. A wheel bath had been tried but not found to be suitable as it was damaging the underside of some of the larger articulated lorries including their fuel tanks. A contract for bi-monthly pavement sweeping has been issued by Tarmac. DDDC are not able to do this under contract for them. In each session, sweeping will continue downhill to the Market Place and then recommence from the top.

A clean out of debris from the ‘Bear Pit’, including that washed down from the roads, has been commissioned by Tarmac.

22/01.11 Parking problems

Discussion of this item was deferred in the absence of the DCC councillor.

22/01.12 Village enhancement – wildlife planting

Cllr Barbara Bowman reported that she hoped work could start during February.

Dene Hollow restoration has been completed and grass seeding has taken place with a seed mix of several different wild grasses. Cllr. Becket enquired if there were any plans to include a wildflower mix but this was not agreed as part of the restoration.

22/01.13 Grit bin checks & refill provision

Cllr Barbara Bowman reported that there was still a need to have a contractor willing to refill the Parish Council road grit bins. It was now standard for the grit to be bagged, not loose - with a knock on effect on costs which may require additional budget expenditure later in the year.

A new location had been found for the storage of the pavement grit.

22/01.14 Lea Road closure update

No further news on this item from DCC. (A further meeting has been promised to update in January – see minutes of meeting 25/11/2021). Councillors were sure that there had been further movement recently as evidenced by drone shots available online and personal views on to the site from off Intake Lane. Cllr Boyack to write and request an update that had been promised for early January.

22/01.15 Community Centre

There had been no further communication from the Community Centre re support for running the toilets.

22/01.16 Market Place lamp post

The condition of this (located on DDDC owned land) was discussed. The bulb had been changed, but no cleaning or maintenance had taken place eg removal of weed growth from the top. DDDDC Cllr Garry Purdy had reported to Cllr Beckett that DDDDC was following this up. A discussion followed about the possibility of the Parish Council taking over non-electrical maintenance – the feasibility of this to be discussed with DDDC.

22/01.17 Planning Decisions:

a) Appeal against Tree Replacement Notice at Haytop Park, Alderwasley

It was RESOLVED to write to Whatstandwell & Alderwasley Community Action Group (WACAG) giving our support.

b) SCOM/3/79 at Dene Quarry, The Hill, Cromford (County Council). No councillors had been able to access this on the DCC website

c) EM3/1221/46 at Dene Quarry, The Hill, Cromford (County Council) No councillors had been able to access this on the DCC website

It was RESOLVED that in respect of the above two items that DCC be contacted to ask for details of how to access the information and the Parish Council be given time to make comments

d) CM3/0817/40 at Slinger Top Quarry, Cromford (County Council) This appeared to be further information submitted by the applicant regarding biodiversity. The Council has no further comments to make.

22/01.18 Items for Decision:

- a) To approve expenditure of up to £150 for equipment for the footpath warden –** It was RESOLVED to agree this. Proposed Cllr S Mosley, seconded Cllr B Bowman.

22/01.19 Finance & Administration

a) Balance in the Bank

The total balance in the Unity Trust accounts was £36,739.70 when all items had been cleared – NOT the amount stated on the bank reconciliation summary (amount in reserve account double counted in error)

b) Items for approval and payment at this meeting - none

c) Delegate approval of January salary payments (When available) to the Chair & Vice Chair) – Proposed Cllr Barbara Bowman, Seconded Cllr Mike Nutting – all agreed

22/01.20 Items for Information

Cllr Alistair Fraser reported that the arranged public meeting about **Celebrating Cromford** had had to be cancelled due to Covid guidelines and advice, but it was hoped that the event would go ahead, perhaps in conjunction with the Jubilee celebrations in June.

22/01.21 Correspondence

A request had been received from Cromford Rainbows, too late for the agenda, for help with funding. It was agreed in principle that £100 be donated – to go on February agenda.

21/12.12 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 7.30pm at the Cromford Institute.

Signed **Dated**