

Cromford Parish Council

Cromfordparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Cromford Parish held in the School Hall, Cromford Primary School on Wednesday 24 May 2023 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs A Fraser; M Birch (Chair); M Szegota
Clerk: Mrs S Bacon & 2 parishioners

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wakefield, Cllr Bowman and Cllr D Murphy (DCC)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18th May 2022

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 18th May 2022, as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr Birch.

3. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

Cllr Birch read the following report on behalf of Cllr Bowman:

We seem at last to have got back to business as usual after Covid, with all our activities back in full swing.

In no particular order, in the past year the Parish Council has:

- Produced and distributed (with Celebrating Cromford volunteers) four newsletters to keep everyone up to date with news in and around the village. At this point I must thank Jeremy Beckett another longstanding councillor who did not re-stand for election. It is he who has been responsible over many years for editing this newsletter, chivvying contributors to get their copy in on time (no easy task!).
- Talked to the Arkwright Society about maintenance of the Bear Pit. They hope this can be partially funded with income from the Community Interest Company which will run the turbine at the old Corn Mill.
- Continued to chase Derbyshire County Council about traffic, highway and parking problems. We submitted a detailed report on their proposals for the A5012 (which includes the Via Gellia and Water Lane in the village), pointing out that actually very little if anything was being proposed to mitigate the traffic congestion and resultant noise and pollution. We hope our comments will be taken on board, but have not heard back as yet (beginning of May) on the finalised scheme. We have received an increase in complaints about “souped up” cars and motorcycles which are making peoples’ lives more stressful and less enjoyable.

- Organised the snow wardens and gritting teams. Our thanks to them for the work they had to do this winter.
- Commented on the planning applications made within the parish
- Made a substantial grant donation to The Institute to help them get back on their feet and also helped with the costs of the Playgroup Xmas party. If your group or society is interested in having a grant please contact our clerk for the procedure to go through.
- We organised work on footpaths and made sure that they were clear of obstructions. Our thanks to John Mee our Footpath Warden; we would not have been able to do much of the work without his advice, surveying and monitoring work.
- In collaboration with the police, we organised Speedwatch sessions – usually at the top of The Hill. We will have carried out 8 sessions this year – more would have taken place but for roadworks and bad weather (snow?!). We continue to get complaints about speeding vehicles. The vast majority of the speeding vehicles reported are not local to Cromford, but people travelling through the village.
- We continued to be official Station Adopters at Cromford station and worked with the volunteer group planting and improving the area and planting. (Many of the volunteers are also councillors!)
- We organised planting in the centre of the village (again mainly carried out by councillors) and also had a litter pick, helped by volunteers.
- We organised the Xmas decorations and decorated the tree in the Memorial Gardens.

Reading this you will realise that the Council could not do half of what it does do without the help of volunteers. We are sincerely grateful to all of you who have helped over the past year to make Cromford a better place.

The Council is also grateful to John Mee our footpath warden, who also litter picks many of the footpaths within the village on a regular basis.

Also, thanks to our clerk Sian Bacon, who keeps us on the straight and narrow as regards our statutory and financial responsibilities and carries out the admin tasks, leaving the councillors free to do their work.

Finally, I would like to say that it has been a privilege and a pleasure to be on the Parish Council and to see how it has changed and taken on more activities over the years.

4. The Accounts of Cromford Institute

These have not been received as yet.

5. Any other Business

It was agreed to put forward a vote of thanks to Barbara Bowman and Jeremy Beckett who served for a cumulative 73 years between them.

The next annual parish council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 7pm** and followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting and an Ordinary Meeting.

Signed.....Dated.....