

# **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 15 September 2021 at 7.30pm**

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**Present:** Councillors: J Beckett (Chair); B Bowman (Vice-Chair); R Boyack; M Birch; A Fraser; M Nutting; J March; S Mosley and K Wakefield. Mrs S Bacon (Clerk) and two Parishioners.

## **21/9.1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr G Purdy (DDDC).

The Chair at this point expressed the Council's best wishes to the lady who was injured in the car accident at the top of Cromford Hill and noted that an arrest had now been made.

The Chair also expressed the Council's thanks and gratitude to Mrs B Kirkham for all of her hard work as Locum Clerk over the past 15 months.

## **21/9.2 Variation to the order of business**

There was no variation to the order of business.

## **21/9.3 Declaration of Members Interests**

Cllr B Bowman declared an interest in planning item 21/9.28 - 11 The Hill, Cromford.

## **21/9.4 Public Speaking**

A resident made enquiries regarding the dust and noted that as an entrance to a World Heritage Site and the situation had been worse over the last three months with the issue starting at the tarmac quarry and continuing down the hill to the marketplace. Gutters and curbs are not being cleaned and piles of dust are only washed away by rain. It was queried as to what the arrangements as to solving these issues. It was also noted that there had been early morning lorry movements starting at 3.30am and it was queried whether owners and operators are meeting agreements.

Cllr Beckett stated that the Parish Council has no agreement with or power over the quarries. He reported on the Quarry Liaison meeting that had been held earlier in the evening. Three pumps had failed at Dene quarry in a week the sprinkler, wheel wash and quarry pump had all failed and been repaired at cost of £12,000 and this work would be finished the following. The work of the sweeper had been queried at the liaison meeting particularly the work after Hawthorn Drive. The wheel wash at Dene had been refurbished and the water has been tested and the quarry had installed a traffic light system at the Parish Council's request, a barrier on the wheel wash and further sprinklers after the wheel wash. Cllr Beckett noted that it was very unusual for three pumps to go in one week as the usual rate would be once a year at most. The liaison committee had been informed that there were sprinklers being installed inside the quarry and 150 meters of new piping being replaced down the road from the office to the wheel wash so that lorries will be washed before coming to the whey bridge. There is also a possible wheel wash in a bath form being considered for installation that would wash the bottom of lorries and the wheels. The quarry manager was hopeful this would be approved, and funding given.

The problems with dust were raised and Cllr Beckett stated that the quarry planning consents require testing around four points of the quarry and all tests had come back well below the legal limits for harmful dust. Nuisance dust is the problem as opposed to particulate dust which is life threatening. Nuisance dust is not considered to be health threat. The quarry crushing permit is currently under review as a hired crushing plant was used on a as needs basis and now there is more crushing required than originally anticipated. The licence for the crusher is issued by authority from where the crusher is owned so in the case of the Dene quarry this is Barnsley County Council. There has been considerable discussion regarding the permitting process for minerals and quarries with Environmental Health and Derbyshire Dales District Council and this is ongoing. With the representatives from both organisations reporting to the earlier quarry liaison committee. Cllr Nutting after discussion at the last Parish Council meeting wrote a response to the permit planning notice for the crushing. Environmental Health are considering several points raised regarding the permit and the permit will be sent to the Parish Council before it is granted.

Cromford Parish Council has been active not just with issues around the Slinter and Dene quarries but with other places as well. Cllr Beckett reported that a concrete firm had deposited concrete at the top of Cromford Hill and at the A6 traffic lights. Cllrs Beckett, Purdy (DDDC) and Murphy (DCC) had jointly written to the company and informed them that they would be reported and prosecuted for spillages that are not dealt with. Dene quarry contacted them also regarding this incident and sent their own sweepers out to clean up the mess. The company has since agreed that they will attend any spillages immediately when they are contacted.

A lorry moving down Via Gellia had been photographed un-sheeted and the driver has been banned from the quarry as he contravened the quarry's planning. Cllr Murphy had arranged for meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner regarding un-sheeted lorries and other issues. The Commissioner was going to ask the Head of the Traffic Officers about contacting operators to remind them of the law.

Cllr Bowman had observed a tractor and trailer un-sheeted and depositing soil. It was noted that this was a potential repeat offender seen by Cllr Beckett, but no number plate had been visible. One on the A6 to Holmsfield had been seen as well. Unfortunately, no number plate means no police action unless seen by police on the road.

A resident commented that the pavement had not been swept this year and as Cromford is a World Heritage site this was poor. They also noted that things had been better before the quarry reopening. Cllr Beckett stated the sweeping had been arranged with Derbyshire Dales District Council on three separate occasions in last year. Dene quarry had asked DDC sent out a mechanical weeper which then couldn't access the pavement. They were then supposed to send out brush and shovel team, but this is able to do less than the mechanical sweeper. DDC can now not continue due to other work. Cllr Beckett agreed to email the quarry to ask what arrangements are in place now. **Action: Cllr Beckett**

Another resident reported that the road sweeper was farcical and only did the section straight down road. Then it turns round in the marketplace car park and so never gets to the A6 lights. Cllr Murphy had managed to identify stones that had been dropped and the quarry was spoken to it was noted that this was not either the Slinter or Dene quarries. A concrete lorry had damaged a car in a previous incident, and it was pointed out that falling items could kill or seriously injure pedestrians. Cllr Beckett stated that he was not sure how far out of village sweeping would go and that paths need sweeping. It was observed by the resident that it was mainly Dene white dust as nothing was

on other side of the road. It was reported that empty lorries are sheeted now and early morning lorry movements should not be before 6am as stated in the Mineral planning permission. Cllr Beckett stated that he would look into this and any braking of the 30mph speed limit. **Action: Cllr Beckett**

The resident noted that they appreciated the work the council was doing and had felt this week as though things were going back to square one with the quarries. They noted that it seemed as though more lorries were being sent out. Cllr Beckett noted that the quarry had admitted the tonnage had increased and there were problems.

A light on the marketplace was reported to have had no maintenance for some time. The County Council had checked all the others but not this one despite all the lights being wired together. It was noted that a weed was also growing out of the light, and it had not been painted for several years. Cllr Beckett noted that he had reported the old light that flashes to the District Council.

A resident queried who pays for sweeping in Matlock Bath and why does Cromford get less. Cllr Bowman noted that she had done some litter picking but much of the litter is bound in with dust. Bags of rubbish being shoved into public rubbish bins was also noted. Cllr Murphy (DCC) noted that he thought the shops in Matlock Bath paid money towards having the area cleaned regularly but that he will raise the issue of a schedule with the District Council officers. It was noted that if the quarry has community fund could this not be used for an employee to clean. Middleton have been given funds for a new playground. It was noted that this fund was not directly controlled by the quarries. Road sweeping was funded by the County Council but that the District Council carry out the schedule on behalf of the County Council with much of it subcontracted further. Cllr Beckett stated that he will follow up on the schedule. Cllr Nutting noted that planning will have information on conditions but that his understanding was that no access was permitted before 6am when the quarry was open previously. Some lorries are left in overnight so they can leave at 6am. **Action: Cllr Beckett**

Cllr Murphy reported that he had taken Ms Foster the new Police and Crime Commissioner around the village with Cllr Beckett and shown her the quarry sites and tarmac debris at traffic lights. He had also raised issues of speeding and un-sheeted wagons. Ms Foster has spoken to the Chief Constable and officers will contact Cllrs Beckett and Murphy regarding these issues. Mr Murphy noted that Ms Foster doesn't have control of operational policing but will try to get more policing done in the area. A traffic officer has been requested to visit other sites and remind operators of duties of ensuring no unsafe loads.

It was noted that Cromford was untidier when compared to Matlock Bath and the mess was putting people off.

Motorbikes and the noise they create are also causing problems for the residents particularly those with modifications to exhausts. Cllr Beckett queried the promise of new officers and noted that PCSO's have no real power. Cllr Murphy noted that many villages had currently given up on police appearing. The County Council is currently looking at how to make it easier to get interactive road signs and suggested interactive signs for Cromford. It was noted that there is one at the top of the hill that is shared with other councils and moved around so the camera is not always on.

Cllr Murphy reported that the hatched area opposite the junction is scheduled to be repainted and it was raised that the other one required repainting. Cllr Bowman observed that lorries are not able to turn due to the tightness of the turn so are still blocking the road. It complies to the turning circle

regulations and the council was informed that it would be redone with an extension when it was next re-painted unfortunately cars were also parked on it so further blocking lorries egress. The tyre tracks on the road show how much further it should be extended. Cllr Boyack suggested that, at the box at the Water Lane junction, the DCC modelled the HGV turning hatched area with cars parked at the side of the road. Cllr Fraser stated that Cllr Murphy should take this suggestion seriously. Cllr Beckett suggested the parking bay outside Methodist church being made smaller would also allow easier traffic movement and that perhaps it could be temporarily removed for review. Cars can park inside the wall if required. It currently has 2-hour limit which is not policed. Cllr Wakefield noted that at Bede House Lane parked vehicles were forcing people to stand in the road for the bus which impedes progress and is a hazard.

Cllr Murphy also reported that the planning application in for Slinger quarry has been delayed.

#### **21/9.5 Minutes of the previous meetings**

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 21 July 2021 as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Bowman and seconded by Cllr March.

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24 August 2021 as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Bowman and seconded by Cllr March.

#### **21/9.6 Community Speed Watch Update**

Cllr Bowman reported that there had been a couple of speed watches since July and the group had been informed that they should only send details of speeds of 36mph or more. The next speed watch will take place on Friday at 11am with four people taking part. They will take note of how many over 30mph for their records. Cllr Beckett will supply the signs. **Action: Cllr Beckett**

There had been one volunteer sourced that Cllr Bowman will sign up. **Action: Cllr Bowman**

Cllr Bowman also requested that volunteers give the dates they are available into October as each speed watch requires a minimum of three volunteers and a maximum of five. Four is the ideal number. **Action: Everyone**

Cllr Mosley reported that there had been an email from a resident concerned about the collision on hill and they had requested camera on hill. A suggestion of a 20mph limit around the marketplace was raised by Cllr Nutting.

#### **21/9.7 Station Volunteers**

Cllr Boyack reported that he had sourced the sleepers so there will be a session on 5<sup>th</sup> October where the sleeper wall will be built. Thanks were given to Sue Mosley for plants she had donated, and the plants will be planted next Tuesday. From now all volunteers can attend the Station. The Clerk agreed to organise the £850 payment for the sleepers online. **Action: Clerk.**

There has been an email received regarding Routes to Remembrance. Wreaths are being brought by train on the way to Derby station on the 11 November to arrive at 11am and then attendees will be meeting up with others to take the wreaths to the Derby war memorial. The Council resolved they were in favour of participating and Cllrs Beckett and Boyack will attend. Cllr Beckett will respond to the organisers to inform them of the Councillors attendance. **Action: Cllr Beckett.**

### **21/9.8 Friends of Cromford Station New Licence 21/22**

Cllr Beckett reported that the licence had come with the Mrs B Kirkham's details and required updating to the new Clerk's details. The Clerk will find the licence and update it. **Action: Clerk**

### **21/9.9 Dust on the roads around Cromford**

Cllr Beckett gave a report on the quarry liaison meeting. The Environmental Health officer had monitored dust levels at the four locations required as part of the planning requirements and all dust particles at sites levels were well below the legal limit. They are not required to monitor further afield as they cannot monitor the dust source. They had also done monitoring outside of the planning consent distance at 50 or 60 meters away and the monitoring still showed below legal levels of dust. The ongoing permitting process will deal with nuisance dust. It was noted that Environmental Health are only responsible for airborne dust. Once the dust is on the road, they are not responsible which is where the permit process comes in. Cllr Boyack noted that cars were being covered in white dust and it was agreed that CRH should be written to. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Nutting noted that there was a legal difference between dusts nuisance dust won't kill, but the village becomes covered in it. ROMP has now been defined for Dene quarry but not until 2023 and then it takes years to go through.

The water washing from the sweeper was causing dirty water to get into the bearpit though the gully water now will be emptied into quarry not on the road. The Environmental Health Officers are not required to monitor anywhere other than four spots around the quarry. Cllr Nutting suggested that the Council could look to subsidise cleaning. Matlock Bath shops are levied for the illuminations which raises funds for Matlock Bath Parish Council which is then used for cleaning. Cromford litter it was observed is not as extreme as in Matlock Bath.

Cllr Beckett reported that there had been noise complaints from both Dene and Slinter. The Slinter noise complaint was about the bund being built an extra 6 feet and a reversing siren on new equipment been replaced. There were no blasting issues at present. The Dene Hollow restoration is starting on Monday and should be completed in two weeks this could temporarily cause more mess problems. The Deepwood quarry was not going to be activated anytime soon. Cllr Fraser observed that the quarry was putting some measures in place not just dismissing problems raised.

### **21/9.10 Vehicle problems on Intake Lane**

Cllr Beckett reported that this has been raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner but was informed that if parked cars were taxed and insured then nothing can be done. Sorn cars should be reported and will be removed. The sat nav error wrongly sending people to Intake Lane instead of Black Rocks is specifically on smartphone sat navs. Cllr Beckett has reported the error to google maps and awaits response. The sign visibility been raised with Cllr Murphy (DCC) for reporting to officers

### **21/9.11 Parking Problems**

It was reported that the area was not often policed for breaches of the waiting restrictions. Wardens are occasionally out on Saturday for the illuminations.

### **21/9.12 Footpath Officer's Report**

Cllr Boyack reported that there had been a Footpath registration application from Northern Footpaths Society, and it had been discovered that the footpath down by Penny Ford is not down as a public footpath from the Goat and stile to Penny Ford. And the footpath instead should run through Walker's yard. The Society had asked the Parish Council for support getting the last section regularised. If it is marked correctly, they should remove the Walkers yard section of the path. The Clerk will look at how long the footpath registration process will be open for. Cllr Birch will send the link to the up-to-date maps which may show correct path. The Council agreed to support the Society and will revisit the issue in 6 months.

It was reported that the Dene Hollow path would have a graded slope down on one side and steps on the other. It was also noted that the handrail been replace down from school yard path to allotments good job done.

### **21/9.13 DMMO Application – footpaths 30 and 31**

Cllr Boyack reported that the footpath selected was the one at the top of Willersley Lane, Path number 40 as the stile was in poor condition.

### **21/9.14 Cromford Mill Dam/Pond – tree pruning and weeds**

Cllr Beckett noted that there was currently nothing further to report and the Ash dieback had not been dealt with yet. Cllr Bowman noted that there was a need to push on it as it is getting very bad. The pond has only half dredged about 20 years prior as there are toxins in the silt. The weir was originally put in to catch silt and the island was moved to help however now the weir was silted badly and had not been cleared. It was suggested this could be a use for the derelict land grant.

### **21/9.15 Hawthorn Drive**

Cllr Beckett reported that he had so far heard nothing regarding the repairs required to the Three penny bit and he was not sure who had coned the area off.

### **21/9.16 Village enhancement – Wildlife planting**

Cllr Bowman reported that the strip of land between St Mark's steps to the lytch gate steps' ownership is unclear. Both Platform housing and the District Council claim they do not own it. Cllr Bowman has managed to get the plan and it looks as though the District Council has transferred half of the land to Platform housing including the lytch gate. Cllr Bowman has queried the rest of the land ownership and will look at the footpath maps to see if the answer is there. **Action: Cllr Bowman**

### **21/9.17 Allen's Hill Play Area**

A resident reported the play area is in a poor state. Cllr Beckett noted that the seesaw had been there for a very long time. The wooden equipment is also aged. It was queried whether the Parish Council will support new equipment and possibly contribute. It was suggested that the Aggregates levy board be looked at as they had previously supplied equipment to Middleton. Cllr Murphy's County Council fund and the District Council's Local Project fund may also be able to supply some money. The Council need to have a discussion with the District Council as they own the site. It was agreed that assisting funding if required would be better than the Parish Council taking responsibility for the site.

**21/9.18 Weekly food market in Cromford**

Cllr Beckett reported that the Council had received an email querying the Council's opinion on a weekly food market. It was noted that the Parish Council do not own the marketplace so the organisers would need to go to the Derbyshire Dales District Council for permission. It was noted that the marketplace is problematic due to parking and the prom would be better. Otherwise, the council was not opposed. Cllr Bowman noted that this would need discussion with residents.

**21/9.19 Parking outside the Methodist Chapel**

This was discussed with Cllr D Murphy (DCC) in the public section of the meeting.

**21/9.20 Installation of Memorial Bench on Scarthin**

Cllr Beckett will respond to the parishioner who requested a bench that they did not have one available due to ownership and repair issues with the Willersley Castle benches. **Action: Cllr Beckett.**

**21/9.21 Lea Road Closure Meeting**

It was noted by Cllr Beckett that it had been proposed the County Council hold a meeting to update people, but nothing gone any further so far and the Council was now waiting for a meeting date and how many Councillors will be permitted to attend. Cllr March reported that the Clerk of Dethick, Lea and Holloway had requested a meeting for the 27 or 29 September but there was no confirmation yet.

**21/9.22 Location of Replacement Waste Bin**

Cllr Wakefield was stopped by residents who requested that the bin not be placed by the school fence due to there already a problem with rubbish being dumped at that site. Cllr Bowman noted that there was no sensible place to place it. No further suggestions have been put forward for a suitable location.

**21/9.23 Beacon for the Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Beckett has located the beacon but is unsure if it needs an overhaul. Cllr Birch agreed to collect the beacon and take it to be checked and repaired if possible and necessary. **Action: Cllr Birch**

**21/9.24 DDDC proposed boundary commission changes**

Cllr Bowman thought the proposed changes were the same as previously suggested, but she was unable to know definitively due to the quality of the map. The suggestions previously were that Cromford will be in a ward with Bonsall. The Clerk will email Cllr Purdy (DDDC) and ask him to clarify. **Action Clerk.**

**21/9.25 Police Matters**

Cllr Bowman reported that the police street meets were poorly attended. There was now a new PCSO. All other matters had been covered earlier in the meeting.

**21/9.26 County Council & District Council Matters**

There were no further matters to be raised with the County and District Councils.

### **21/9.27 Newsletter**

Cllr Beckett reported that the newsletter had gone out. The copy deadlines for the next newsletters will be sent out in the next few days and a community speed watch photo will be taken for the magazine. Cllr Bowman noted that Celebrating Cromford were not delivering the newsletter at the moment. Cllr Fraser reported that they will be delivering soon though currently are very short of volunteers. He will at the end of October and beginning of November be calling for volunteers and listing the activities that required doing. He noted that there were currently not enough volunteers and Celebrating Cromford is at risk without more volunteers. Cllr Fraser agreed to do up the hill, Addison Square and Barnwell Lane. **Action: Cllr Beckett**

At this point Cllr Bowman left the meeting.

### **21/9.28 Planning Decisions:**

- a) 21/01046/LBALT - Proposed single storey extension - 11 The Hill Cromford
- b) 21/01045/FUL - Single storey rear extension - 11 The Hill Cromford

It was resolved that the Council had no comments to make on either application. **Action: Clerk**

At this point Cllr Bowman returned to the meeting.

### **21/9.29 Trello - Casework/Complaints Procedure**

No new items had been added to Trello. The item regarding the fence will be removed.

### **21/9.30 Items for Decision:**

#### **a) Proposal to spend £150 on winter planting scheme**

The Council resolved to spend £150 on the planting scheme.

### **21/9.31 Finance & Administration**

#### **a) Balance in the Bank**

The balance in the Unity Trust account was £41,761.86

#### **b) Items to be approved from payment in August**

The Council resolved to approve the following payments, proposed by Cllr Nuttall seconded by Cllr Bowman.

DCC Advertising	134.40
Highland Print Services	458.00
Spotless	50.00
Cromford Institute	78.75
Clerk's Salary	376.81
Locum Clerk's Salary	464.84
Footpath Officer's Salary	110.90
HMRC	227.20

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

The Council resolved to approve the following payments, proposed by Cllr Finch seconded by Cllr Mosley.

Cromford Community Centre	36.00
Spotless	50.00
Key Cutting (reimbursement to RB)	14.25
Clerk's Salary	376.81
Locum Clerk's Salary	422.11



Footpath Officer's Salary	110.70
HMRC	227.60

**d) Delegated approval of September salary payments**

This was no required as figures had been sent early for the meeting and forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting on an updated financial statement.

**21/9.32 Items for Information**

- The Derbyshire Dales District Council had sent out a notice apologising for the non-collection of bins and requesting they be left out if missed.

**21/9.33 Correspondence**

1. Community interest company & Hydroelectricity. Cllr Beckett has confirmed parish council support through a letter. Electricity will be fed to the grid and the funds from this will be paid back to the community interest company who will use the funds for the benefit of Cromford.
2. Cllr Mosley reported that she had received an email stating that the Memorial wall has been dismantled and the names removed. This will be queried with the Forestry commission.
3. Cllr Beckett reported that he had been told there was no further information on Willersley Castle sale at this point from the agents.

**21/9.34 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 7.30pm at the Cromford Institute.

Signed .....

Dated .....