

Cromford Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Cromford Parish Council held in the
Cromford Institute, Cromford.

Wednesday 17 April 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Matt Birch (Chair); R Boyack; P Curzon; P Ashley; A Fraser; C Gould and R Walsh;
Sian Bacon (Clerk), Eilis Scott (CEO Arkwright), Cllr D Murphy (DCC), Cllr N Whitehead (DDDC) and 1 parishioner.

24/4.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr I Page.

24/4.2 Co-option of new councillors

It was **RESOLVED** to Co-opt Mrs Caroline Gould to the council. Proposed by Cllr Curzon, seconded by Cllr Walsh. Cllr Gould signed the acceptance form and joined the Councillors.

24/4.3 Variation to the order of business

None

24/4.4 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Birch declared an interest in the Community Centre as a trustee.

Cllr Walsh declared an interest in the payment's agenda item 18.c as a Friend of Cromford Canals member

Cllr Curzon declared an interest in the Staffing Committee appraisals agenda item 16 as a relation of the Footpath Warden.

Cllrs Curzon and Boyack declared interests in the payments agenda item 18.c.

24/4.5 Public Speaking

CEO of The Arkwright Society – Eilis Scott

Eilis Scott gave the following report:

The Arkwright Society own the Mill at Cromford and Lumsdale in Matlock.

The Society is keen to develop stronger and closer relationships with the village and the organisations within the village. The Society has engaged with Celebrating Cromford and will be partaking in and promoting Celebrating Cromford. The Society is also promoting their history tours around the village and wish to do more. They are moving forward with the regeneration proposals

for the mill site which requires significant funding. The next plan is to renovate the vacant building on the site. Ms Scott's aims for her appointment are a sustained mill and legacy of regeneration. The water turbine has been replaced and the society is focused on education and conservation. It costs £1000 to keep the gates open and the mill was hit hard by the huge increase in electricity bills and is still recovering. They have had lottery grants which helps with maintaining staff and the education projects. 70 school groups a year attend the mill site to learn about Arkwright and the Mill which was the first cotton spinning mill and purpose-built village. Work placements for those who would otherwise not get places have been offered to the Holbrook school of autism for teenagers who can't secure placements elsewhere. The Mill is also working with the YMCA in Derby help get people into work and will begin working with the YMCA in Leicester. The Mill has a busy events programme which is quite eclectic. There is the dog show next Sunday, Antiques Roadshow, highlighting heritage talks and comic con. This results in lots of different people coming who might not otherwise come to the mill. It also means the Mill is generating income to survive. The Society are applying for funding and grants to continue. The Business tenants also need to be maintained.

Antiques Roadshow will take place on the 28th May and the mill is working with the BBC closely and have recommended inclusion of the village. This will be used as a platform to tell stories about the area. They are still working out the logistics and practical things such as cars and parking and will be encouraging public transport where possible and having parking on site. Ms Scott will liaise with the Clerk as they are expecting 2 to 3 thousand visitors and are keen to get the infrastructure right.

On the 4th June there will be a launch for the Cromford Waterpower Project to thank everyone involved. It would be nice if there could be some parish council representatives in attendance. Ms Scott will liaise with Clerk about invitations.

The refurbishment of the corn mill turbine is not generating electricity yet though a community interest company has been formed.

The Mill is working with Belper North Mills to display historical cotton spinning objects and has been organised by both sets of volunteers from the mills.

The Society are always grateful for volunteers and those who get involved. There are lots of roles available in different areas so anyone is welcome. Anyone who is interested should speak to Eilis Scott.

Cllr Walsh asked whether the DDDC could clean up the village before the Antiques Roadshow and Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) will speak to the officers to see if DDDC can spruce the village up.

Cllr Murphy suggested the council forewarn Tarmac for a road clean. The Clerk will email Tarmac.
Action: Clerk.

The restoration of the aqueduct was raised by Cllr Boyack and the Society have commissioned a master plan with the first mill repairs to be done first. The aqueduct is in the long term plan for replacement in roughly 10 years' time. It was noted that this was before Ms Scott's time but the money received at the time of the lorry damaging the aqueduct was put into repairs and shoring up. The aqueduct is currently in storage and can't go back into position until there are agreements around the turning areas from DDDC and DCC which will take some time to resolve. The Mill own the top yard so that is one site proposal but there are a lot of decisions to be made around the project

and it forms part of a multimillion-pound scheme that is not yet funded. The current priority is that building one starts to generate income. The full aqueduct is stored in a DCC depot.

Cllr N Whitehead - DDDC

Cllr Whitehead offered his support with anything require to Ms Scott.

He reported that additional dog signs should be being placed all down the village when they come back into stock at the DDDC this will include Cromford Hill and the Market place.

On the Market Place Lamp post he has is still working on speaking to the officer in charge at DDDC.

On Planning it was reported that a listed property on the Hill had installed a velux window in their roof with no planning permission. This was then reported to enforcement and the following planning application was then rejected by committee. So, enforcement will take place and the window will have to be removed. Conservation windows have been offered as a compromise but these are expensive. It was noted that precedent doesn't count in conservation zones or on listed buildings and statute of limitations doesn't count either so even if the work is 20 years old if it is reported it can be enforced with removal. All conservation zone home owners should speak to Planning before doing work.

The rotten wooden posts were raised and this needs to go to the officer in charge at DDDC. These will be raised as a safety concern by Cllr Whitehead. They will probably be removed initially then there will be conversations about their replacements

The lighting at the Limeyard was raised and Cllr Birch gave a brief explanation of the issue and noted that the Limeyard was not part of the deal the Community Centre had had with the DDDC on the toilets. The DDDC manage the Limeyard and the Memorial Gardens lighting. Cllr Whithead will speak to officers regarding this. It was noted by a member of the public that it's the responsibility of the DDDC not the Community Centre and they had raised this before with the DDDC and got nowhere.

Carparking charges were raised and it was noted that the aim was to be equitable across the whole DDDC area as some were charged and some were not but this is being reviewed for charges for all DDDC carparks. The DDDC have been suggesting looking at dynamic pricing for them all. At present there are no firm details and it hasn't been voted on yet. There is to be a consultation online. Cllr Murphy noted that the DDDC has had these conversations at DDDC before and it was noted that people will park elsewhere and cause issues if parked on the roads. Cllr Murphy noted that some villages have coned in the Peak Park after they did the same and this has resulted in double yellow lines. He also noted that there is a £750K surplus in the DDDC at the moment so the funds aren't required. Cllr Birch queried why use dynamic charging if the DDDC are wanting equity as that argument is flawed. The residents parking was raised and it was noted that no traffic wardens are sent at present to manage parking on restricted areas. Cllr Boyack reported that the Parish Council did a survey in the past and objected to similar plans very strongly but EV charging points mean costs of electricity will need parking charges. It was noted that at the Greyhound it is resident parking primarily and what mechanism will there be for residents to park? Cllr Walsh asked Cllr Whitehead to check for any covenants on the land from its original sale to the DDDC by the Greyhound. Cllr Whitehead agreed to ask.

Cllr D Murphy - DCC

Cllr Murphy reported that there is still no update on the Via Gelia works and this is ongoing. There is also no news on the Slinter planning application and Slinter need to do more work on the application.

The overhanging trees on the A6 been have been dealt with now and the DCC are chasing land owners for payment.

There are 30 teams out filling pot holes and can all residents please report pot holes to the DCC. Currently there are 2000 per week filled and the DCC have taken on new kit to improve filling. The DCC are looking at longer term repairs rather than temporary but big sections of road repair are expensive. There is money from Government promised but it is not clear when it will be received or in what amounts. This money will be ringfenced once it is received.

It was also reported that the Lea Road is slipping again so it has been shut.

24/4.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 20th March 2024, as true record of those meetings, proposed by Cllr Walsh and seconded by Cllr Ashley.

24/4.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

- a. **Rotten Wooden Pavement Posts** – discussed with Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) in public participation.
- b. **Market Place Lamppost** – discussed with Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) in public participation.
- c. **Potholes** – discussed with Cllr Murphy (DCC) in public participation.
- d. **Lighting at the Limeyard** - discussed with Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) in public participation.
- e. **Tourist Map** – this will be looked at in the coming year.

24/4.8 Reports

a. Footpaths

The Footpath warden has obtained a quote of £550 for repairs to the station footpath where the surfacing has washed away. It is proposed to use the £415 received from the DCC MMA Grant towards this repair.

b. Speedwatch

There was no report at this time

c. Station Volunteers

Cllr Boyack reported that the volunteers have continued to meet but it is so wet so they have largely been keeping the area tidy and the wet has been an issue with the tubs as the plants are being washed out. The next couple of weeks residents should visit the station as it looks fantastic at the moment. Thanks were given to the volunteers by Councillors.

d. Planting

No report at this time.

24/4.9 Village Matters

- a. **Public Toilets** – Cllr Birch reported that the Community Centre still owe on the bill for the toilets and electricity on the toilet block but the companies are not yet chasing it so the amount is unknown. The Centre has one more payment plan to put in place and they have to initially pay £1400 then a repayment plan will be put in place for the last debt. Once payment plans are in place then the Centre needs to see if the business is viable. It was noted that the Trust have not been paid rent yet. Paperwork has gone missing from previous manager so the current committee are having to wait for bills coming in to know what is owing. The councillors requested Cllr Birch obtain the amounts owed on the toilets and report back. The Clerk will put the council purchase of the toilets on the May agenda. **Action: Clerk**
- b. **Hedges** – St Mark's hedges need chasing with platform. **Action: Clerk**
- c. **Work on 3d bit** – needs chasing with platform housing. **Action: Clerk**

24/4.10 Outside bodies:

- a. **Cromford Institute** – it was reported that the institute had held a history night and these will continue every month. There is a fashion show to be held in May. The Committee are currently looking for funds towards the toilets. The Clerk noted that the Council needed an invoice for hire. The committee AGM will be soon.
- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – this was covered in the public toilet item.
- c. **Cromford Meadows Sports Club** – There is no further update.
- d. **Celebrating Cromford** – Cllr Fraser gave the following report. Things are well on schedule for Celebrating Cromford. The fly past isn't happening this year. The flyers will be ready by the end of April and distributed by the time of the Antiques Roadshow. All adverts in the programme are welcome. The committee are looking for volunteers for putting up bunting and other activities.
- e. **Cromford CIC** – No update at this time.

24/4.11 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – The Clerk has produced the newsletters and they now need delivering. The dates for the next issue will be set in the next two weeks. Cllr Fraser will coordinate the distribution. **Actions: Clerk & Cllr Fraser**

24/4.12 Planning Decisions:

- a. T/24/00077/TPO - T1 - Cypress - Fell to ground at 73 Derby Road Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RP

The Council had no objections for applications a). The Clerk will forward this to the planning department. **Action: Clerk**

- 24/4.13 Training** – New Councillor Training – it was agreed the Cllr Gould will attend the new councillor training on the 3rd June. The Clerk will book the session. **Action: Clerk**

24/4.14 Policy Approvals

- a. **Complaints Procedure** – the Clerk produced a draft policy for comment and Cllr Walsh will assist with the policy. **Action: Cllr Walsh and Clerk**
- b. **Business Continuity Plan** – The Clerk reported that this is in progress and Cllrs Gould and Walsh will assist with the policy. **Action: Cllrs Gould and Walsh and Clerk**

24/4.15 Staffing Committee

- a. **Meeting Update** – The Clerk reported that she had received her appraisal and that the Footpath Warden will have his soon. As part of last year’s appraisal process hours worked have been discussed and the Clerk has taken on the Newsletter as an addition to her job description.
- b. **Staff Appraisals** – it was **RESOLVED** to amend the Clerk’s and Footpath Warden’s contracts to reflect accurate hours. Proposed by Cllr Birch and, seconded by Cllr Gould.

24/4.16 Items for Decision

- a. **To consider s137 grant applications** – None
- b. **Replacement of wooden posts around village** – the removal will be done by DDDC then this will be discussed.
- c. **To employ a village caretaker** – it was agreed to look for a subcontractor to do the work required. The Clerk will put together the specification with Cllr Birch to bring back to council. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Birch.**

24/4.17 Finance & Administration

- a. **Finance committee meeting update** – Cllr Walsh reported that on the budget last year there had been an underspend of the allocated budget of £5897.52. It was **RESOLVED** to move this into general reserve proposed by Cllr Fraser and, seconded by Cllr Birch. As reported in the Staffing Committee update there is an hours increase required which will come with extra expenditure on the Clerk and Footpath warden’s salaries.
- b. **Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed by Cllr Ashley and, seconded by Cllr Boyack.
- c. **Items for approval and payment at this meeting** - It was **RESOLVED** to pay all items listed below proposed by Cllr Fraser and, seconded by Cllr Birch.

Invoices for payment in April 2024	
Clerk's Wages	581.05
Footpath Wardens Wages	133.72
LM Creative - Spring Newsletter	760.00
Friends of cromford canal - S137	500.00
Spotless - March bus shelters	50.00
HMRC - PAYE	33.20
R Boyack - Station Bulbs	33.99
Total Payments	£2,091.96

24/4.18 Items for information

- a. Town and Parish Council Forum – Cllr Walsh attended the Town and Parish Council Forum and attended a talk on restorative justice. The finance talk reported that the DCC is in a perilous position financially and they are hoping to get money from the new mayoral authority when in position. Most of the deficit is from adult social care, children’s services and highways. The Highways and planning items both got heated with Parish Council’s stating they are not being listened to and local expertise is being disregarded. It was noted that there is currently a lack of resources and planning officers.

24/4.19 Correspondence

- 1. DALC Roadshows – the closest roadshow will be on Monday 29th April at Wirksworth Memorial Hall at 1.30pm for Councillors and 12.30pm for Clerks.

24/4.20 Parish Council Calendar

Parish Council Meetings

- Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute – Annual Parish Meeting
- Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 6pm in the Cromford institute – Quarry Liaison Meeting
- Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 17th July 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Finance Committee Meeting
- Wednesday 17th July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting

24/4.21 Date of next meeting

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.30pm following the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council Meetings in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....