

Cromford Parish Council

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

Wednesday 17 July 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: M Birch (Chair); R Boyack; A Fraser; K Mitchell and R Walsh; Sian Bacon (Clerk), John Mee (Footpath Warden), Cllr Nick Whitehead (DDDC), Cllr Dermot Murphy (DCC) and 2 parishioners.

24/7.1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Curzon, Cllr I Page; Cllr C Gould and Cllr P Ashley gave their apologies.

24/7.2 Co-option of new councillors

There were no candidates for Councillor at this time.

24/7.3 Variation to the order of business

It was **RESOLVED** to move agenda item 12 Planning to item 6 directly after the public participation.

24/7.4 Declaration of Members Interests

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

Cllrs Fraser and Boyack both declared a personal interest in Planning application 24/00545/FUL as members of Matlock Rugby Club. They are not permitted to vote on the application.

24/7.5 Public Participation

Mr D Toone (Matlock RFC Chair) attended the Council meeting in March with the plans for a new clubhouse. The plans are now submitted. The current building is from the late 60's and had a life expectancy of 25 years it has been well maintained over the years but has now reached the period where it is not worth maintaining it any longer. The new proposed clubhouse will be two story but with a smaller footprint. The plans satisfy the flood requirements. The club has been running since 1928 and now has two and a half men's teams and the biggest junior section in the north with 300 child members. The Club holds a big tournament in April attended by 1300 children. The club have caravan rallies in the summer and this will continue. It will be business as usual with the new clubhouse with no more traffic or noise. The club has started a special educational needs team who have had 3 to 4 games. The members who set up the team have won the regional volunteer of the year award and are now going to compete for the national award. The club is currently trying to start women's team. The club competes at reasonable level and most of the players are local. The club want the clubhouse to be an asset. The club has been negotiating a new lease and this process is nearly completed with the sub leases issued and once the lease is signed the club will have security of tenure for 75 years. DCC is the leaseholder at moment but the leaseholder will become Matlock RFC and the cricket and football will be encompassed with their own subleases. The world heritage group wrote to planners stating they have no issues with the new clubhouse now amendments have been made to materials used. It will be a stone building with single pitch roof.

Cllr Whitehead (DDDC)

Cllr Whitehead gave his apologies for missing the last two meetings and reported that he has been chasing the issues raised with him. It was reported that the hedge around the memorial gardens is overgrown but the DDDC only do 2 cuttings a year. It was noted that 3 are needed but the DDDC can't cut before August as birds are nesting. Cllr Birch noted that the specs for the work aren't right and the timing of the first cut should be adjusted to June or July time when the growth is at its peak. Cllr Whitehead reported that he is meeting the officer in charge of the Clean and Green Team again with cleaning as the agenda. It was noted that the paths are un-swept and slippery and Cllr Whitehead reported that these will be swept. It was noted that Cromford is a busy village visited by a lot of tourists but has a general feeling of neglect. Wildflower programmes look nice in other places but in Cromford this isn't workable and the area needs better maintenance.

Cllr Whitehead reported that he had meeting with Mike Galsworthy scheduled but the general election caused the meeting to be cancelled. The rotten wooden posts have been inspected but officer hasn't come back to Cllr Whitehead with a report yet. The Parish Council want the posts to be replaced and it would be better cost wise to do both removal and replacement in one go. The Footpath Warden noted that the gardens look a mess at the moment and it is disrespectful to the memory of the men whose names are on the memorial. It was noted that Bakewell looks lovely and some areas are focused on but others have been left. It was noted that the area and around the dam are a state and the whole village wants a clean. The dam has been raised by Cllr Whitehead but the estates department haven't produced the schedule of cleaning yet.

Green and Clean team have put the street signs back up on Barnwell Lane but now the Arkwright Gardens and St Marks signs have gone missing. Cllr Whitehead will report this.

Cllr Murphy (DCC)

Cllr Murphy noted that he agrees that the state of the villages are a problem and some things are left so long that more costs are happening to put them right than would have been spent if they had been fixed earlier.

Cllr Murphy reported that he had spoken to the officers dealing with the Via Gellia project and the surveys have all been done and are being assessed. Heritage, flora and fauna and wildlife surveys are all completed. The officers are looking at cutting back 20 meters of the verge to open up the visibility of the road and to remove ash trees. Average speed cameras will be introduced as part of the funding. It will be the autumn before trees are being cut with quotes from £200,000 to £600,000 having been received for the work. There is still a lot of work to be done and 4 pieces of land to be purchased for gantrys. The landowners should deal with the trees on their patches. The start date for works should be available next month.

The DDDC car park review will be going out to consultation with charges on all carparks being considered. It was noted that issues will be caused by those who won't pay parking on the roads. Cllr Murphy encourages all residents to have a say. The consultation will be an online consultation. It was noted that the majority of those parking on the Marketplace in the evenings are residents. Cllr Fraser stated that he thought that residents should be given a permit but it was noted there is no guarantee there would be a space. Cllr Boyack noted the electric car charging points are to go in and

queried how will this be controlled without pay and display. He noted the electric charges is pay and display through the back door. It was confirmed that the DDDC would need planning permission to put chargers in. It was noted by Cllr Murphy that online consultations miss a lot of residents and have poor response rates. The Parish Council can make representations at the DDDC meetings. It was noted that people responding would make a difference.

24/7.6 Planning Decisions:

- a) 24/00432/FUL - Erect first floor front extension, two storey side extension, new dormers to front, side and rear elevations, form new balcony including balustrading, replace roof tiles, insert new roof window to side elevation, erect new greenhouse and log store, form new parking bays - 73 Derby Road Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RP – There was no comment for this application.
- b) 24/00306/FUL Single Storey Rear Extension (Retrospective) and replacement of existing garage with Garage/Workshop | 186 The Hill Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QU – the Council has no objection but will ask that a condition be placed that the garage is granted permission for domestic use only.
- c) 24/00548/LBALT Installation of roof lights (resubmission) | 80 The Hill Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QU – the Clerk will query if the windows proposed are at the rear of the property or at the front as the drawings aren't clear. **Action: Clerk**
- d) 24/00545/FUL Erection of a replacement clubhouse | Matlock (Baileans) Rugby Union Football Club Cromford Meadows Mill Road Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RQ – the Council had no objection to the application. Councillors Boyack and Fraser were not permitted to vote due to a personal interest in the club.
- e) Tree Works Application T/24/00128/TCA, Fell 1 Beech tree at Lea Mills Lea Road Lea Bridge Derbyshire DE4 5AG – the Council had no objection to the application.
- f) Tree Works Application T/24/00137/TCA, Reduce height to 7' of 1 Evergreen green species, Evergreen golden species and holly bush at 75 Derby Road Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RP – There was no objection to this application.
- g) Tree Works Application T/24/00140/TCA, Various works to multiple trees at Culver Croft Lea Road Cromford Bridge Derbyshire DE4 5JJ. – There was no objection to this application.

The Clerk will forward all comments and queries to the planning department. **Action: Clerk**

24/7.7 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 19th June 2024, as true record of those meetings, proposed by Cllr Walsh and seconded by Cllr Fraser.

24/7.8 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

- a. **Rotten Wooden Pavement Posts** – this was raised in public participation and the council are awaiting the report from Cllr Whitehead's meeting with the Estate's Manager at DDDC.
- b. **Market Place Lamppost** – this was raised in public participation and the council are awaiting the report from Cllr Whitehead's meeting with the Estate's Manager at DDDC.
- c. **Potholes** – All have been reported.

- d. **Lighting at the Limeyard** – Cllr Birch will chase up the Community Centre to ask what action has been taken. **Action: Cllr Birch**

24/7.9 Reports

a. Footpaths

Mr Mee is still waiting on the work from Mr Sturt at footpath 60 once he can get down. The work has been delayed due to the wet conditions.

The Tarmac quarry paths need cutting back on the diverted footpath.

There are overgrown hedges at 17, 27 and 31 Hawthorn Drive blocking footpath 30 and at the rear of Tor View Rise blocking byway number 7. The Clerk will report these to the DCC. **Action: Clerk**

The Footpath Warden's quarterly report was handed in and Cllr Fraser noted that the warden does a sterling job.

It was asked that the warden trim round the milestone marker on the A6.

b. Speedwatch

Mrs Bowman reported via the Clerk that a session had been set up for Tuesday 25th June at the usual location. When we got on site we found that STWA were doing emergency water works in the road just uphill, which included temporary traffic lights. So that put an end to any hope of doing Speedwatch that day.

I have arranged another session on Thursday 18th and a further one on the 26th July, so will report on them in August or September

c. Station Volunteers

Cllr Boyack's report was noted. (Appendix A)

d. Planting

None

24/7.10 Village Matters

- a. **Tourist Map** – Cllr Birch has contacted Mrs Szegota who is happy for the stand to stay where it is for the meantime and he will take measurements. Cllr Fraser's report into the designs was noted. Cllr Walsh will discuss the map with DVMWHS and with the Clerk. Cllr Mitchell has had some input in map proposal. It is thought that costs for the map will be in the area of £1500. It was agreed that the Councillors will sit down and discuss the map and bring back a proposal to the September meeting.
- b. **Hedges, roads and drains** – covered in the Footpath warden's report.
- c. **Work on 3d bit** – The tarmac is being costed by platform for repair. The Clerk will raise the planters with them again. **Action: Clerk**
- d. **Turnpike Stone on the A6** – the Clerk has contacted Groundworks five counties and will advertise for a local artist in the newsletter. **Action: Clerk**

- e. **Bus Shelter on the A6** – it was noted that though the panels on the shelter are untidy they are still all intact and the cost to replace them is around £200 a panel with 12 panels to be replaced. It was agreed to look at this for next year's budget and the Clerk will check for funding from Trent Barton. **Action: Clerk**
- f. **Open Gardens** – Cllr Fraser reported this year's Open Gardens took place over the Sunday 7th of July. As a result of the kindness of the garden owners 16 gardens were open. These ranged from large to small including interesting courtyards allotments, ornamental gardens to productive domestic use. Some feedback from a few residents thought it was great and are considering opening theirs next year. So fingers crossed we may have others. Our thanks go to the organisers of both events. If it was not for their time, energy and enthusiasm they just would not happen There were 133 visitors and the committee made £692.50 with a donation of £20 going to Open Gardens.
- a. **Garden Produce Show** – this is taking place on August Bank Holiday on the Monday between 12pm and 5pm. There will be classes for all range of produce. The organisers need volunteers to give a hand to set up.
- b. **Closing of Cromford Preschool** – The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Gould had met with the organiser of Cromford Preschool and the preschool was now definitely closing for good at the end of the school term. No new location for the preschool was found in the village so it has been unable to continue. The Church will be closed as soon as it is agreed at synod. It was noted how sad it was to lose the preschool after 50 years in operation.

24/7.11 Outside bodies:

- a. **Cromford Institute** – Cllr Gould sent the following report via the Clerk. The finances are healthy and the new treasurer is chasing up utility bills. The 200 Club continues to be a good fundraiser. Further fundraising ideas are to hold bingo sessions, possibly afternoon and evening sessions. Grants are being sourced to have an inside toilet. The outside toilet has been replaced and is being refurbished. Broadband is being investigated. There is a potential option to transfer Playgroups existing contract when Playgroup closes in the summer. It was hoped that having WiFi would attract more business meetings. Further discussion is underway. It was agreed that when Playgroup closes the "Stay and Play" will move to the Institute and be held on a monthly basis. It was hoped that the Toy Library will also move to the Institute. The adult and children library to continue. There is ongoing interest in the room hire. Annual safety checks are underway for the building. It was noted that the WI are using the Greyhound for their meetings and do not want to return to using the building.
New email for the Institute - cromfordinstitutetreasurer@gmail.com
- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – should be having the Annual General meeting next month.
- c. **Celebrating Cromford** – Cllr Fraser reported that this year's celebrating Cromford took place over the weekend of the 14th-16th June. Despite the occasional heavy shower, the event was well attended by both residents and visitors and it was pleasing to see so many families visiting our village. There was a wide range of events taking place from live music of a range of genre. In addition, there was dancing, the fell race, exhibitions, craft fairs, recitals and demonstrations. Of particular interest was the Cromford Heritage Exhibition

in the Institute. The joint Churches celebration at St Marys was also well attended with readings and community signing with communion delivered by the Bishop.

- d. **Derwent Valley Mills Heritage** – Cllr Walsh reported that he and the Clerk will be attending a meeting tomorrow with the DVMH management team. Some aspects of the management plan include the church so Cllr Walsh will meet with the vicar.

24/7.12 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – The Clerk reported that all pieces for the magazine must be with her on the following dates for each issue:
28th August for the Autumn issue,
8th November for the Winter issue, and
7th March 2025 for the Spring issue.
It was reported that delivery is an issue and the magazines aren't being sent out in time. it was agreed to use the distribution list for Celebrating Cromford to get the magazines delivered and Mrs Mosley has volunteered to help as well.
- b. **Council Facebook Page** – to be discussed at the next meeting

24/7.13 Training

- a. **Bespoke Training for the Council** – This will take place on Wednesday 25th September 6-8.30pm

24/7.14 Policy Approvals

- a. **Reserves Policy** – To be discussed at the next meeting
- b. **Social Media Policy** – To be discussed at the next meeting

24/7.15 Items for Decision

- a. **To consider s137 grant applications** – None
- b. **To set up a Village Taskforce** - This will be discussed at the next meeting.

24/7.16 Finance & Administration

- a. **Finance Committee** – Cllr Birch reported that the committee had looked at the reserves policy and the new financial regulations and would be recommending them at the next meeting.
- b. **Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed by Cllr Fraser and, seconded by Cllr Birch.
- c. **Items for approval and payment at this meeting** - It was **RESOLVED** to pay all items listed below proposed by Cllr Birch and, seconded by Cllr Walsh

Invoices for payment in July 2024	
Clerk's Wages	606.75
Footpath Wardens Wages	188.20
L Mckenzie - Summer Newsletter	750.00
UT - Service Charge	18.00
HMRC - PAYE	53.40
Total Payments	£1,616.35
Income	
Interest	198.31
Total Income	£ 198.31

24/7.17 Items for information

None

24/7.18 Correspondence

None

24/7.19 Parish Council Calendar

Parish Council Meetings

- Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute – Quarry Liaison
- Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 16th October 2024 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute – Staffing Meeting
- Wednesday 16th October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 20th November 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Finance Committee Meeting
- Wednesday 20th November 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Finance Committee Meeting
- Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute – Quarry Liaison
- Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Staffing Meeting
- Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Finance Committee Meeting
- Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute – Annual Parish Meeting
- Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting

24/7.20 Date of next meeting

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....