

Cromford Parish Council

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

Wednesday 19 July 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Matt Birch (Chair); Marie Szegota; Iain Wakefield and Alister Fraser.
Sian Bacon (Clerk), Cllr Murphy (DCC) Cllr N Whitehead (DDDC) and 5 members of the public

23/7.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr P Curzon and Cllr R Boyack.

23/7.2 Co-option of new councillors

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr Richard Walsh to the Council. Cllr Walsh signed the acceptance of office and joined the councillors.

23/7.3 Variation to the order of business

None

23/7.4 Declaration of Members Interests

None

23/7.5 Public Speaking

Knockerdown Inn Planning Application

Mr T Foxlow and Ms P Hattersley came to give an update on the current Knockerdown Inn planning application. The previous application for a performance car venue had been turned down in December. It was noted that the company has a similar place in Stratford. The new application is requesting a change from 29 to 99 parking spaces and with another exit closer to the junction by the holiday cottages. The plan is likely to see lots of events with high-performance cars on a road well-used by walkers and horse riders which is not mentioned in the application for additional spaces. It was noted that the inn has managed with 29 spaces and the adjacent field for 20 years and the application is not increasing the size of the pub. It looks as though the company is trying to gain planning application for a performance car venue by stealth. The plan includes losing a number of caravan pitches to put hardstanding down instead. The application states that 100% visitors go by car when actually 50% is more accurate number. The residents are looking for local councils to object to the application with currently 80 to 100 objections having gone in. There are concerns about the surrounding roads becoming a race track and slots for vehicles are booked so if people turn up early they will be required to drive around until their slot time. It was noted that the A6 will be the arterial route with people from all round the country coming. At the company's other site some events have 1000 cars attending. That site started with 40 spaces and went to 160. The application is looking to put four entrances on to Knockerdown road where there have been deaths already. They also want to be open 7 days a week from 9am-11pm which will cause light pollution and be very noisy in a rural area. Cllr Wakefield reported that he had attended the other venue and that there are different

events with some super cars and some classic cars. There will be a lot of people attending and driving on the winding country lanes. The plans are unlikely to be bringing any money to the local economy as attendees will drive in and drive out. At their Stratford site they are in a semi-rural area but are near motorways where as the Knockerdown Inn is accessed through a and b roads. There are 50,000 people per year already quoted as future visitors to CW Sellors when it opens so there will be even more traffic. The plans are not green or sustainable and they are not in DDDC policy and the Peak Park have objected. The road is already heavily used with caravan sites with lots of people turning onto the road and the skip lorries moving along it. It is a very busy road already with many hazards. It was noted that most pubs only have 30 parking spaces and even the Cock Inn at Muggington only has 60 and it is a much larger establishment. The company has invested a lot of money into purchasing the site and they haven't invested in formalising any camping up there so it seems as if it is not going to be run as country pub.

A resident came to raise the flooding and highlight how bad it was. It was noted that the drains are not properly cleaned so it has led to flooding.

The Marketplace Lamp post was raised and it was noted that the lamppost is still in a state of disrepair the Clerk will approach Cllr Whitehead at DDDC. **Action: Clerk**

It was reported that the wooden posts outside the Greyhound and the community centre are becoming rotted and dangerous the Clerk will raise this with Cllr Whitehead (DDDC). **Action: Clerk**

The Bearpit ownership was raised and as yet it has no one claiming it. It requires a clean again after the one Dene Quarry did. The Clerk will speak to Mr Beckett regarding whether the community interest company is planning to take on the work. **Action: Clerk**

It was reported that Ball Eye quarry has been sold to Collins Earthworks.

A resident reported issues with speeding up and down the hill. The police have been out before and the area needs a speed camera but to get a camera requires speed survey. Cllr Murphy (DCC) will look in to this. There have also been many issues with loud cars with modifications. Cllr Murphy (DCC) will look in to this as well.

The barriers down the hill were raised and it was queried whether these can be removed. Cllr Murphy will query it with the DCC.

Cllr D Murphy (DCC)

Cllr Murphy reported the overgrown trees on the A6 are going to be cut back after the cabinet member got involved.

It was reported that on Barnwell Lane the drain isn't coping with the water with houses 9, 11, 13 flooding. Flood sacks have been delivered and it was suggested they be left in place. The County Council have cleared the drain but there is a suspected fault further down so the drain will be surveyed with a camera to identify the fault.

The Via gellia project is ongoing but it will be September before the designs are completed. It has been established that Highways don't all own the land that tree work is required on but Highways has contacted the property owners.

Cllr Murphy reported that all the overgrown hedges have been reported and Cllr Fraser noted that ones on the Hill have been rectified.

It was reported that there are funds available in the Community leadership funds if projects are requiring funding.

Mrs Taylor-Wilde raised the sandbags for the flooding. She reported that she had rung the DCC on the Monday for sandbags and was informed that she would need to buy them. The DDC only provide to residents not businesses. Cllr Murphy noted that sandbags are only issued if the Environment Agency declare a flood warning. Mrs Taylor- Wilde reported that 10 empty bags have arrived for her in the post. It was noted that the gullies have been reported by the community centre as they are all blocked. Mrs Taylor-Wilde will send the report case number to the Clerk for Cllr Murphy (DCC) to chase. It was noted that removeable flood barriers could be the best option as a permanent solution. Cllr Murphy will enquire about this.

It was also reported that the lighting down the Limeyard is still out and it's not safe in the dark. Reportedly the Community Centre has had the electricity cut off. Cllr Murphy will do a walk round the area. .

23/7.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meetings held on the 24th May 2023 and the 21st June 2023, as true record of those meetings, proposed by Cllr Szegota and seconded by Cllr Birch.

23/7.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

23/7.8 Reports

a. Footpaths

No report at this meeting.

b. Speedwatch

It was noted that Speedwatches are being held.

c. Station Volunteers

Cllr Boyack reported that the required risk assessment and licence have gone back to EMR.

d. Planting

It was raised queried whether there could be planters on placed on lampposts in the village. This will be discussed. The towers are to be replanted by Mrs Bowman. Mrs Wakefield has planted by the threepenny bit.

23/7.9 Representatives to Outside Bodies

- a. **Quarry Liaison** – it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Wakefield will join the quarry liaison committee.
- b. **Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site** – it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Walsh will join the DVMWHS as the Council’s representative.

23/7.10 Outside bodies:

- a. **Cromford Institute** – the report from Cllr Szegota (appendix A) was noted.
There will be a craft fair on the 30th July. There have been a couple of enquiries including one regarding a children’s party. There are some big bills coming in as all the fire safety work has been done and the electricity and gas certificates are coming in. The Institute is now up to compliance with all regulations. Privacy film for the windows is being put up and looks nice. Indigo very kindly donated the new table and chairs outside. The Committee has started the produce sale as an honesty box scheme and a seed swap is planned. Any produce can be donated and would be very welcome.
- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – There has been no further information.
- c. **Cromford Meadows Sports Club** – There is no further update. Cllr Boyack will continue as Parish Council representative.
- d. **Celebrating Cromford** – Cllr Fraser has nothing to report yet and there is a meeting to be held on Thursday 27th July in the Bell to plan the following year.

23/7.11 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – There is no further update but Cllr Szegota will liaise on the next deadline with Mr Beckett.
- b. **Parish Council website** – the Clerk reported the old website should be handed over by the current administrators once the final bill has been paid and the Wish will put up the finished new website.

23/7.12 Planning Decisions:

- a. 23/00559/FUL - Erection of garage outbuilding and retaining wall with associated access - Land South Of Yeats Lane Cromford Derbyshire
- b. 23/00683/LBALT - Removal of internal wall - 36-38 Bedehouse Lane Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QZ
- c. 23/00711/FUL - Change of use of garden shed to holiday let - 14 The Hill Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QL
At this point it was **RESOLVED** to extend the meeting by 30 minutes as per standing order 3f. proposed by Cllr Fraser and, seconded by Cllr Birch.
- d. Appeal by Martyn Towle and Sanchia Paquita Hunt Towle - Land south of Yeats Lane, Cromford - ENF/23/00037 - 23/00022/WREP - APP/3323106 and APP/3323107
- e. 23/00566/FUL - Formalisation of the existing overflow car park, formation of an additional parking area, formation of new vehicular access and associated drainage and landscaping works - The Knockerdown Inn, Knockerdown, Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1NQ
- f. 23/00704/VCOND - Variation of conditions 3 and 4 of application 20/00838/FUL to alter opening hours and agree noise mitigation measures - 16 - 18 Market Place Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QE

The Council had no comment for applications a) and d), no objections to applications b) and f). The Council object to applications c) on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site and e) on the ground that a large number of cars added to the road will cause highways issues and accidents.

The Clerk will forward these comments to the planning department. **Action: Clerk**

23/7.13 Items for Decision

None

23/7.14 Finance & Administration

- a. **Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed by Cllr Birch and, seconded by Cllr Wakefield.
- b. **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 Wakefield.

Invoices for payment in July 2023	
KL Comms Final Invoice - Website	127.97
Unity Trust - Service Charge	18.00
S Bacon - Paper and hotmail storage (May - July)	12.11
S Bacon - Cilca registration fee (training)	450.00
Cromford Institute - Hall Hire	125.00
DDDC - Election Costs	275.00
Footpath Warden Wages	123.12
Clerk's Wages	544.05
Total Payments	£1,675.25

23/7.15 Items for information

None

23/7.16 Correspondence

1. Derwent Valley Mill have donated a stand for the council tourist signage. They want to present it but it needs storage for the moment. Cllr Wakefield is contacting the map maker and working on getting the permissions required to place the map. Cllr Szegota will store the stand in her garage for the time being.
2. Anthony Gell School Foundation John Thompson Bursary – a grant for young people under the age of 25 to realise their entrepreneurial, creative and sporting ambitions.
3. The state of the Marketplace was raised by a resident and the Clerk will contact Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) regarding getting it tidied. **Action: Clerk**
4. The Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum is to be held by the DCC on Monday 18th September – Cllr Birch will attend.
5. Consultation on TRO
6. There has been an email concerning the overgrown hedge in St Marks cemetery – Cllr Murphy (DCC) will look into this.
7. The Woodyard proposed gypsy site at Holmesford is currently up for appeal and will be heard on the 10th October. The Council can apply to speak if they wish. The owners of the site have

put in the same planning application again despite the first application being under appeal. The DDDC have decided they will not make a determination on the second application until after the appeal on the first application comes back.

23/7.17 Parish Council Calendar

Parish Council Meetings

- Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute – Quarry Liaison Meeting
- Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary meeting
- Wednesday 18th October 2023 at 6pm in the Cromford Institute - Finance committee
- Wednesday 18th October 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting

23/7.18 Date of next meeting

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

Cromford Institute AGM 28th June - Cllr Szegota

I attended the AGM of the Cromford Institute on Weds 28th June. I was the only other person there apart from 3 Trustees and one volunteer, despite it having been advertised. Disappointing

Funds are quite healthy with a profit of £3023 but they acknowledged that this was in part due to the grant received from Parish Council enabling them to carry out various maintenance without eating into funds. The 200 club continues to do well. Unfortunately, bookings are not improving with just 2 yoga sessions and the Parish Council's bookings.

Not a report as such but Matt and I went down to the Village on probably one of the hottest days of the year to take down the bunting. It was such hard work and I would like to thank Annabelle, Ann's Saturday girl and Alice Von Williams. We could not have managed without them.