

Cromford Parish Council

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

Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Matt Birch (Chair); R Boyack; P Ashley; A Fraser and Richard Walsh
Sian Bacon (Clerk), and 4 residents

24/3.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D Murphy (DCC), Cllr I Page, and Cllr P Curzon.

24/3.2 Co-option of new councillors

No candidates have approached the Clerk.

24/3.3 Variation to the order of business

None

24/3.4 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Birch declared an interest in the Community Centre as a trustee and planning application
24/00214/FUL – 10 Ridgewood Drive as a neighbour.

24/3.5 Public Speaking

Cromford Preschool

Claire Booles and Carmel Doohan came to discuss the closure of the Methodist Chapel which will close the Preschool and other organisations. It was noted that it is a large community asset that will be closed and there has no consultation. The preschool is Ofsted registered and a childcare provider so it isn't easy to move due to regulations. There is a query over what will happen with the building after the 31st July when it will close. The preschool has put a lot into the building. Would like to look at possibilities to continue the preschool perhaps purchase or alternative venues. It is attended by 40 children attend and those on the list plus the employees will be affected. There isn't enough space in other childcare providers for all the local children. The Methodist Circuit are being spoken to by the preschool but there is no answer as yet. Cllr Walsh noted that as a charity the methodist church will probably have to put it on the open market. Other venues have been approached. Asset of Community Value. The preschool is currently trying to establish the cost of running and repairing the building. Cllr Walsh queried whether the preschool had a lease as if so, they may have protection against eviction. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Cllrs Ashley, Birch and Fraser and the owner of the Preschool.

A resident raised the Limeyard again.

24/3.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 14th February 2024, as true record of those meetings, proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Ashley.

24/3.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

- a. Rotten Wooden Pavement Posts** – This will be raised with Cllr Whitehead again. It was noted that there was some broken and very damaged posts which are a potential danger. It was suggested replacement with stone which, it was noted, had been there before and had vehicles reversing into them. Iron bollards were suggested. It was noted that they would need to be a certain spec to abide by highways and world heritage regulations. The Councillors will return to the next meeting with a proposal to replace the bollards in April. **Action: Cllrs Birch and Fraser**
- b. Market Place Lamppost** – Cllr Birch will contact Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) regarding this. **Action: Cllr Birch**
- c. Potholes** – it was noted that the pot hole outside the institute had been repaired. The new East Midlands Mayor should be able to access government funding to repair pot holes. It was noted that the machines aren't available for the DCC in the numbers required.
- d. Lighting at the Limeyard** - Cllr Birch will contact Cllr Whitehead (DDDC) regarding this. **Action: Cllr Birch**
- e. Tourist Map** – the map stand is being stored in a residents garage and is due to be moved to the PC storage.

24/3.8 Reports

a. Footpaths

The Footpath warden reported that it was pretty quiet at the moment. On footpath 60 from the station to the top the rain has washed the stone out of one section. It requires steps to prevent it washing down and replace the stone. This will be costed up for the MMA grant 2024/25. The Clerk has received the timesheet. It was noted that the rain is causing issues in places.

b. Speedwatch

There was no report at this time

c. Station Volunteers

Cllr Boyack reported that they have continued to meet but it is so wet and so it's been an issue with the tubs and the plant 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.

d. Planting

No report at this time.

Cllr Fraser noted that the planters are looking nice. The summer bedding will go into the planters in May.

24/3.9 Village Matters

- a. **Public Toilets** – Cllr Birch reported that the debtors haven't all come in yet and the debts are being paid as they come through. The toilets are closed still. A public meeting will be held when the Centre is in more order. It was noted that the DDDC election pledges were to reopen some of the toilets so it was noted that this may apply to the Cromford toilets.
- b. **Hedges** – St Mark's hedges need chasing with platform. **Action: Clerk**
- c. **Work on 3d bit** – needs raising with platform housing. **Action: Clerk**
- d. **Bear Pit – dye test results** – the Clerk reported that a dye test had been done and it was thought that some dirty water was coming off of Dene into the Bear Pit so Dene have cleaned it up and repaired the area. It was noted that Dene had done this a year previously.

24/3.10 Outside bodies:

- a. **Cromford Institute** – it was reported that the treasurer of the institute was resigning so the committee will be down to three trustees. The Committee are looking for more trustees. This will be advertised. Fizz and Fashion night and a few more regular rentals have come in. Builders are being asked to tender for the toilet work. Another grant has been received towards the toilet.
- 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:
There was a meeting on Monday and Celebrating Cromford will take place this year over the weekend of Friday evening June 14 through Saturday 15th to Sunday 16th of June. A wide range of activities are planned including Live Music, Market Stalls, Dancers, Poetry Recitals, St. Mary's Church will be open, Fell Race, School Fete to name a few, at a wide range of locations throughout the village. As usual the village will be decorated with bunting and flags. Keep your eye open for the programme coming through your letterbox a couple of weeks before the fantastic festival, giving full information on events and venues. The Arkwright Society has been contacted and has joined in.
- e. **Cromford CIC** – No update.

24/3.11 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – The Clerk has a meeting on Friday to finalise content and the magazine layout.

24/3.12 Planning Decisions:

Cllr Birch left the meeting at this point.

- a. 24/00214/FUL - Bridge and raised platform - 10 Ridgewood Drive Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RJ

Cllr Birch returned to the meeting at this point

Cllr Walsh raised that it appeared that the council had not received applications from the planning department for the below discharge of conditions applications:

- b. 21/01426/DCOND - Discharge of conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of application no. 21/01426/FUL - Change of use and extension to barn to form a live/ work

dwelling, erection of associated outbuildings and formation of wildlife pond - Barn At Carrwood Farm Intake Lane Cromford Derbyshire

- c. 21/00857/DCOND - Discharge of Condition 2 of application 21/00857/FUL - Refurbishment of existing stone store building including the installation of a lean-to roof and new door opening - 9 Hillside Scarthin Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3QF

The Clerk will raise the missing applications with Planning department and circulate them for comment to the Councillors. **Action: Clerk**

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

- 24/3.13 Training** – New Councillor Training – it was agreed the Cllr Ashley will attend the new councillor training on the 3rd June. The Clerk will book the session and ask Cllr Curzon if he can attend. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk will put together a business continuity plan for the council. **Action: Clerk.**

- 24/3.14 Staff Appraisal Arrangements** – it was agreed that staff appraisals will take place before the 17th April with Cllrs Birch and Fraser. **Action: Clerk, Cllrs Birch & Fraser.**

24/3.15 Items for Decision

- a. **To consider s137 grant applications** – None

24/3.16 Finance & Administration

- a. **New Signatories** – it was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Ashley, Birch and Walsh would be added to the bank as signatories. The Clerk will add them. **Action: Clerk**
- b. **To approve the internal auditor for the 2023/24 accounts** – it was **RESOLVED** to use Mr John Marriott from Marriott Accountants.
- c. **Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed by Cllr Ashley and, seconded by Cllr Boyack.
- d. **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 March 2024	
Footpath Warden Wages	133.52
Clerk's Wages	573.65
HMRC	40.80
Spotless - Bus Shelter cleaning (Feb)	50.00
Community Rail Network Membership 2024	30.00
Total Payments	£827.97

24/3.17 Items for information

- a. Cllr Fraser has been invited to the House of Commons on Wednesday 3rd April to discuss climate change.
- b. A hearing loop for the institute was raised and Cllr Birch will assist with this.

24/3.18 Correspondence

1. Letter from resident regarding government and council services and issues that was read out at the meeting – the Clerk will draft a response.
2. Amber Valley Borough Council – Local Plan Review
3. DCC – Safe Places Scheme

4. DDDC – Public Space Protection Orders and reporting to DDDC
5. DDC – Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum – Cllr Birch and Walsh to attend.
6. DCC – Bus Improvement Plan
7. Paddle Peak – River cleans of the Derwent completed.

24/3.19 Parish Council Calendar

Parish Council Meetings

- Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Finance Committee Meeting
- Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting
- 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

24/3.20 Date of next meeting

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....