

Cromford Parish Council

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

Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Matt Birch (Chair); Phil Curzon; Pam Ashley; Alistair Fraser; Richard Walsh; Cllr N Whitehead (DDDC) and Cllr D Murphy (DCC).
Sian Bacon (Clerk) and Mr J Mee (Footpath Warden)

24/1.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Boyack (Illness).

24/1.2 Co-option of new councillors

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr Page to the Council.

24/1.3 Variation to the order of business

Cllr Fraser reported that on the Footpaths there is an issue with dog waste on the pavement from the Bell Inn to the shop. Cllr Murphy and Whitehead noted that the enforcement signage needed improving and possibly another bin although it was noted that there is a bin in front of the shop. Cllrs Whitehead and Murphy will raise this with the DDDC.

24/1.4 Declaration of Members Interests

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

24/1.5 Public Speaking

Royal British Legion

The Cromford Legion have been discussing the lowering numbers at the services it has been encouraged to move the service to a Sunday Morning instead of the current afternoon service. The Councillors are all happy with the change in times.

Cllr D Murphy (DCC)

Cllr Murphy reported that he had received communication about the dangerous overhanging trees on the A6. There had been an issue with identifying the owners with Cllr Walsh help. A job order has been put in though there is no date for works as of yet.

Hawthorn Drive also has a tree issue which is believed to be Platform housing. Cllr Murphy will continue this.

Via Gellia – Cllr Murphy reported that some plans have been put forward for the cameras but no other information. There should be drawings of the road markings and signage in the next two weeks. The project is very complex due to the number of landowners and consultees involved. The Peak Park are now happy with the plans. The money available for the project is £3.2 million.

Potholes – there are 27 teams out currently hole filling and repairs. It's not the right time of year for the work which is causing failures. Extra government money has been received and an £176 million is ring fenced for Derbyshire road issues though it is not clear how this will be distributed at this time.

Severn Trent – there are issues with housing developments coming to DDDC and Severn Trent always agrees to planning applications despite not having capacity and the DDDC wish to speak to Severn Trent about this as it's clear there are some system failures and the DDDC would like to see proof on applications that there is capacity for more developments. Other infrastructure issues such as 106 funding, health and schools are being looked into as well. Cllr Walsh noted that s106 funds should follow the developments and be applied to need rather than be move elsewhere in districts.

Developments and the developers were raised and it was noted some of this is partly the issue.

Cllr Whitehead (DDDC)

Cllr White head reported that he'd had a couple of residents contact about the bottom of the hill mess.

Giganet and Fiber Heros companies are installing the broadband cables. The residents on Ridgewood drive had received poles up overnight and it was noted that these companies have the statutory authority to put up the poles. The residents have managed with assistance from Cllr Whitehead and the DDDC planning department to get them removed and the cables placed underground.

Cllr Birch raised the lamp post and queried whether the Parish Council can just do some work on the post as a one off to tidy it up. Cllr Whitehead will speak to the relevant officers.

The wooden posts around the Greyhound and the Community Centre were raised as dangerous.

The hedges on St Mark's Close were raised and Cllr Murphy will report these.

24/1.6 Minutes of the previous meetings

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 15th November 2023, as true record of those meetings, proposed by Cllr Ashley and seconded by Cllr Birch.

The Council will approve the minutes of the December meeting after a point on the Threepenny bit has been clarified and the outside body item has been updated.

24/1.7 Matters arising from the previous meeting (non decision making)

None

24/1.8 Reports

a. Footpaths

Mr Mee reported that he has given the invoice for the footpath repairs to the Clerk.

It was agreed to permit the Footpath warden to have £150 for supplies.

The quarterly report was handed to the Clerk

It was agreed to use the Minor Maintenance funds for 2024/25 to infill on foot path 60 by Cromford station right up to the top of the path.

b. Speedwatch

No report at this time

c. Station Volunteers

No report at this time

d. Planting

No report at this time

e. Tourist Map

Cllr Birch suggested that map stand be moved down to the Parish Council's storage in the toilets

f. Village Walk Around with DDDC Officers – Cllr Birch

This was covered with Cllr Whitehead

The Promenade Chair has been replaced.

Cllr Fraser suggested that another walk around should be done up the top part of the village.

Dene quarry – some residents have requested additional noise monitoring. The Clerk will raise this with DDDC and the DCC. **Action: Clerk**

24/1.9 Village Matters

- a. **Public Toilets** – the Community Centre still owes money but it is decreasing its debt. Cllr Birch will find out the debt of the water and electrics to the toilet and report back.
- b. **Hedges** – Discussed in Public Participation.
- c. **Work on 3d bit** – no current update. The Clerk will raise this with Cllr Murphy (DCC)
- d. **Grit bins and Snow Wardens** – it was reported that the bins have been refilled. St Mark's Close bin is cracked. The Clerk will report this to the DCC for repair. **Action: Clerk**
- e. **Bear Pit and Cromford Water Power Project** – the report from Mr Beckett was noted (Appendix A). The Council will pass their thanks to Dene Quarry for cleaning the Bear Pit.

24/1.10 Outside bodies:

- a. **Cromford Institute** – No update at this time.
- b. **Cromford Community Centre** – Cllr Birch reported that the Centre is paying some debt off.
- c. **Cromford Meadows Sports Club** – There is no further update.
- d. **Celebrating Cromford** – Cllr Fraser reported that the event was scheduled for the 14th to the 16th June. Friday 15th February at Oakhill from 6pm is the next meeting. Any interested parties are welcome to attend.
- e. **DVMWHS** – Cllr Walsh reported that he is on the technical panel and has been sent some documentation for the Council. Cllr Walsh will attend the meeting next month.

24/1.11 Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – The Clerk will speak to the new contractor for the magazine about deadlines and revamping the magazine. The Clerk will raise logos with the contractor at Cllr Page’s suggestion. The Clerk will discuss the contributors list with Mr Beckett. **Action: Clerk**

24/1.12 Planning Decisions:

- a. Tree Works Application T/24/00006/TPO - T1 Conifer - Fell & grind stump at 73 Derby Road Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RP
- b. Tree Works Application T/23/00235/TCA - G1 - Elm & Ash - Remove 6 individual stems (4x Ash, 1x Elm & 1x Hawthorn) at Land To Rear Of 17-19 Market Place Cromford Derbyshire
- c. Tree Works Application T/24/00024/TPO - T1 - Ash tree fell to ground level at Rock Lodge 69 Derby Road Cromford Derbyshire DE4 3RP
- d. Tree Works Application T/24/00025/TCA, Top Cherry Tree by 6ft Pollard 1 Willow Tree to approx 7m at Willersley House Willersley Lane Cromford Derbyshire DE4 5JG

The Council had no objections for applications a), b), c) and d). The Clerk will forward these comments to the planning department. **Action: Clerk**

24/1.13 Items for Decision

- a. **To consider the Cromford Institute Grant Application** – The Clerk has not yet received an updated project proposal from the Institute.
- b. **To consider the Cromford Playgroup Grant Application** – The Clerk will request the finances of the playgroup and raise claiming damages from the contractors. The grant will be discussed at the February meeting. **Action: Clerk**

24/1.14 Finance & Administration

- a. **Balance in the Bank** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented financial report – proposed by Cllr Ashley and, seconded by Cllr Fraser.
- b. **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 December 2023 & January 2024	
Footpath Warden Wages	133.52
Clerk's Wages	573.65
B Bowman - Speedwatch batteries	4.28
O Sturt - Footpath repair	350.00
Footpath Warden Wages - Jan	133.52
O Sturt - Grit bin refill	170.00
O Sturt - Xmas Tree	100.00
Clerk's Wages - Jan	573.65
HMRC	81.60
Total Payments	£2,120.22

24/1.15 Items for information

None

24/1.16 Correspondence

1. Road Closed - B5035 Washgreen Wirksworth for Carriageway patching 2nd April to 12th April 2024 between 08:00 and 16:00 each day
2. Road Closed - A5012 Via Gellia Road Bonsall for Tree Felling 12th Feb to 17th Feb 2024 between 08:00 and 16:00 each day
3. Road Closed - B5035 Porter Lane Middleton by Wirksworth for Carriageway patching 25th March to 28th March 2024 between 09:30 and 15:30 each day
4. Road Closed - B5035 for retaining wall repairs 19th Feb to 28th Feb 2024
5. Leashaw Road closure is extended to April as the road is still moving
6. The road to Whatstandwell to Crich is also closed due to a burst water main.
7. Offer of King's Portrait from Sarah Dines MP
8. Local Boundary Review Consultation for Derbyshire County Council

24/1.17 Parish Council Calendar

Parish Council Meetings

- Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 6.00pm in the Cromford Institute – Quarry Liaison Meeting
- Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute – Ordinary Meeting

24/1.18 Date of next meeting

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cromford Institute.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

CPC Meeting 24th January 2024 Reports

Bear Pit – Mr J Beckett.

After the last Quarry Liaison meeting I took Andy Caile |(Dene Quarry new manager) over to the Bear Pit and explained that Aaron Laycock had arranged a clean in 2022, and had hoped to arrange another in 2023. I outlined the fact that the road drains above 9, The Hill feed into the Bear Pit and carry a great deal of material from the lorries with the rainwater, and with the water from the road sweeper, and from the jet washing of the pavements. I also pointed out that the wheelwash at the quarry had an overflow that fed into the Bear Pit. As a result of the material being carried in there was now a major growth of water plants that could lead to a blockage of the adits that flow out of the Bear Pit. (Photo showing plant growth in the Bear Pit)

Andy agreed to look into this and contacted me later to say that he had put a proposal to the senior management as Aaron had simply added the clean to another job a team was doing at the time, but that Andy would now need budgetary approval. This proposal was obviously approved because a dye trace was carried out (photo with green water) that showed that the emergency overflow from the wheel wash tank did drain this way. They accepted that there was a run off from the roads that was partially their responsibility.

As a result a team of two men were employed to clean out the water course, and at the same time they removed all the vegetation from the surrounding stonework and removed a tree that was growing in the wall. (Other photos). They have also reinstated the jet washing of the pavements. Andy informed me that they hope to do an annual clean.

In the meantime I have been in correspondence with Eilis Scott, the new CEO at Arkwright Society, and we are discussing the possibility of a few volunteers occasionally helping me keep the area clear of vegetation and rubbish. One of my neighbours, recently moved into 5, The Hill is joining me in this.

Cromford Waterpower Project: - Mr J Beckett

When I stepped down from the PC I was asked by the Arkwright Society to be a director of the new Community Interest Company they were setting up to utilise the water power from the turbine at the upper mill on via Gellia. Directors are unpaid, and CIC's are non-profit making so that all proceeds from the sale of the electricity generated would be offered as grants to non-profit organisations in the village of Cromford once a working balance of funds has been established.

The turbine and Archimedes screw have been refurbished, and we are currently seeking to sell the electricity generated into the grid. I believe that the necessary meter has been fitted but not yet commissioned. However, there has been a major technical issue so that power is not currently feeding in. We have our next meeting on 1st February so I hope to be able to update the PC further after that meeting.