CROMFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7:30pm

Present at the Meeting: Cllr R Walsh (Chair), Cllr P Ashley, Cllr J Richards, Cllr R Boyack, Cllr D Brown, Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr A Fraser, Cllr I Page, Cllr Birch

Minutes prepared by the Locum Clerk: Katherine Furby

26/01/01 **Apologies Received and Accepted by Councillors:** No apologies

26/01/02 **Variation of Order of Business:** No variation - **Resolved**

26/01/03 **Declaration of Members Interests: The following Councillors declared interest on a point on the agenda:**

Cllr Brown – Planning Application T/26/00004/TCA – Neighbouring Property – **Resolved**
Cllr Boyack – Member of Rugby Club - **Resolved**

26/01/04 **Public Speaking:**

Cllr Hunter was in attendance and enquired whether the grant had been received. The Parish Council confirmed that a form had been received and returned, and funds are currently awaited. It was reported that the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) grit bins have now been filled. Concerns were raised regarding the DCC car park land, which requires tidying. P Ashley advised that the toilets at the Mill are not currently working and may have been closed due to campers using the car park for overnight stays.
Cllr Boyack reported that the car park is owned by Key Estates and has been sublet to a car parking company. Clarification needed as to whether planning permission or additional facilities are required if the site is being used as a 24/7 camper location.
Cllr Richards and Cllr Ashley will forward the site address (via What3Words) for the toilets to Cllr Hunter.

A resident reported an ongoing rat infestation believed to be originating from a nearby property and adjacent café area, with the location described as being part of a rat run. Multiple meetings have taken place with Environmental Health, and the property has been served with a 28-day enforcement notice. Concerns were raised regarding wood stored at the front of the property providing harbourage for rats, along with chickens and feed potentially attracting vermin. A further visit from Environmental Health is scheduled for next week, with an inspection of the café also planned.
The Parish Council agreed to contact Environmental Health at Derbyshire District Council as a matter of urgency to request an update following the second visit to the property. It was also noted that trees have not been removed, preventing grass cutting and leading to a build-up of rubbish.
Additionally, the bus shelter next to the café requires cleaning, and it was agreed Cllr Walsh would report this to the District Council.

A member of Cromford Institute was in attendance and enquired about a grant, item to be included in the next agenda.

It was reported that there are ongoing issues with the Community Centre and the running of it. It was discussed that there has been no children's party.

Signed: …… Date: ……

Cllr Ashley read out a letter received from a resident with various concerns in the Parish. One concern is a possible water leak at the public toilets, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Severn Trent and request for the water to be turned off to prevent damage. Another concern was regarding no power supply to the Lime Yard, Parish Council to follow up on this and Clerk to respond to resident.

Cllr Walsh reported that the Community Centre plan to reinstate the public toilets and will be requested the Parish Council to remove items kept in the community store.

(a) Police Liaison Officer was not in attendance.
County Councillor A Hunter was in attendance.
(b) Members declaring a prejudicial interest – None to declare

26/01/05 To confirm the minutes of the following meeting
17th December 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (attached) **Resolved**

Items for Information

26/01/06 To receive an update on:-

(a) Footpaths – Footpath Officer was in attendance and reported issues with fallen trees and also the overgrown hedge at St Marks Close, this was reported to Platform Housing and DCC last September. Thanks was given to Mr Mee for his work and litter picking.
(b) Station Volunteers – Awaiting grant from DCC.
(c) Speedwatch – There is no update on this item.
(d) Planting – There is no update on this item.
(e) Hedges, roads, grit bins, potholes and drains to be reported – Cllr Walsh to arrange payment for Mr Sturt's invoice. Clerk to order replacement grit bin for St Marks Close and enquire about the application for the new grit bins at Ridgewood Drive and Castle View.
(f) Parish Website and Councillor Email Addresses – To be agreed at the next meeting, it was agreed for Cllr Richards and Cllr Brown to set up a new Cromford Parish Council website.
(g) Millpond Newsletter – Next edition due end of February/beginning of March, any articles to be sent to Cllr Ashley.
(h) Casual Vacancy on the Council – One application received. It was agreed to appoint Nigel Huish as Councillor.
(i) Repainting of Milepost – Cllr Boyack provided an update, the letters require re-scribing, awaiting quotes from stone mason.
(j) Public Toilets & Community Store – It was confirmed that the ownership of the toilets belongs to the Community Centre. It was discussed that the Parish Council may need to move belongings from the Community Store and possibly to the Arkwright Centre. Cllr Boyack attended a meeting with the Community Centre and advised the Parish Council will need to move belongings out of the store room, Cllr Boyack advised the Community Centre to approach the Parish Council for support.
(k) Methodology for storing Council Records – Item to be discussed at the next meeting.
(l) Tour of Mason Mill – Cllr Mitchell to suggest the date of 21st February for the tour and confirm with Cllrs.
(m) Defibrillator – There are issues with the defibrillator. There is no power supply to the defibrillator, when the temperature drops below zero there is a risk it will not work. Cllr Richards has investigated a defibrillator bag but there are none suitable for this model. The next option is to re-site the defibrillator to Cromford Institute, Clerk to write and ask permission for this with the Parish Council covering the cost of electricity. Thanks was given to Cllr Richards for the work on this item.
(n) Parish Noticeboard Refurbishment – Cllr Richards reported that planning permission is not required for the noticeboard at the Market Place, Cllr Richards to ask DDDC about the types allowed.

(o) Speed Indicator Device – Cllr Richards gave an update on this item, currently awaiting installation.
(p) Village Maintenance Requirements – It was agreed to clear the leaves from the promenade and the edge of the memorial gardens, Clerk to contact Mr. O. Sturt to carry out the works. It was noted that this work will be extra and over and above the work carried out by DDDC at the cost of the Parish Council.

26/01/07 Outside Bodies

(a) Cromford Institute Update – Item discussed in public speaking.
(b) Celebrating Cromford Update – Cllr Fraser reported there is a shortage of volunteers, item to be advertised on the new Parish Council Facebook page and included in the Millpond newsletter. Cllrs Ashley and Brown offered help.
(c) Derwent Valley Mills Heritage Update – No update on this item.

26/01/08 Finance & Administration

(a) Balance in the Bank – Circulated to all Councillors – **Resolved**
(b) Budget Variance – Circulated to all Councillors – **Resolved**
(c) Bank Reconciliation – Circulated to all Councillors - **Resolved**
(d) Items for approval and payment at this meeting – All payments approved – **Resolved**
(e) Budget 2026/27 – The budget was discussed and approved – **Resolved**
(f) Precept 2026/27 – The precept was discussed and approved. It was agreed for the Chair to sign as RFO due to absence.

Items for Decision –

26/01/09 Planning Matters

a. T/26/00006/TCA
2 no. goat willow trees, pollard 1 no. willow tree, dismantle to retain a 3m stump 1 no. willow tree.
Car Park, Cromford Wharf, Mill Road, Cromford, Derbyshire

The Parish Council makes no objection to this application.

b. T/26/00004/TCA
Fell 1 no. ash tree due to ash die back.
Land adjoining the Malthouse, Water Lane, Cromford

The Parish Council makes no objection to this application.

c. 25/01171/LBALT
Proposed removal of existing staircase to be replaced by new staircase in a different position.

The Parish Council makes no objection to this application.

26/01/10 To consider Derbyshire Dales District Council maintenance in the Parish
Cllr Walsh and Richards to meet with DDDC Clean and Green team to discuss the maintenance requirements in the Parish and report back at the next meeting.

26/01/11 To consider the purchase of additional salt for grit bins
It was noted that there are 27 snow wardens. It was agreed to spend up to £250 on additional salt.

26/01/12 To consider the purchase of a defibrillator bag
Item no longer required.

26/01/13 **Business Continuity**
Proposed for Closed Session In accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2) and the Local Government Act 1972 s100 (2) the following agenda items to be considered with members of the public and press excluded from the meeting for the reason that the matter is commercially sensitive - **Resolved**

26/01/14 **To receive a report (verbal) on the ongoing absence of the Clerk**
Confidential item.

There being no further action the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 7.30pm