



ROYAL BURGH OF CRAIL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes 31st January 2022
7.15pm Crail Town Hall**

Present: Chair: David Jerdan (DJ), John Wilson (JW), Cllr John Docherty (JD) , Cllr Linda Holt (LH), Cllr Bill Porteous (BP), Alan Hood (AH), Erica Hollis (EH), Colin Morrison (CM), Lynsey Watson (LW), Andrew Purves (AP).

Four members of the public

Apologies:

Max Taylor (MT), Sonja Potjewijd (SP), Dawn Wallace-Watson (DWW)

Welcome: DJ opened the meeting and welcomed all.

Approval of last minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th November were approved.

Action Summary:

- **Signs** – apparently all signage issues in NE Fife were on hold pending decisions on East Neuk Now’s request to replace the Fisher Lass with a Puffin but this request has now been withdrawn so work on other signage issues will resume (JD). DJ & AP restated what those issues were for the benefit of those who had missed or forgotten – basically one of the two signs on entry to Crail from St Andrews fell down and was removed by Fife Council some long time ago with no replacement forthcoming, additionally Fife Council intimated that the 30mph sign on entry from the Anstruther direction were to be moved entailing a move of the Welcome to Crail signs. With this in mind CCC had requested that Fife council could give us a costing for having the coat of arms on the new entry signs but have never had a response. JD will chase this up.
- **Cycle parking** – this item carried over to next meeting.
- **Rotten Bench(es)** – JD contacted Fife council after last meeting and was told that someone would be out “next day” to review but nothing has yet happened. Also in response to whether there was a waiting list for commemorative benches Fife Council’s response was that people were being encouraged to plant a tree rather than a bench – which doesn’t answer the question. AH re-iterated the question as to why we can never get a timely answer to a simple question – JD’s response was that it was due to people being moved around departments due to Covid and not knowing what they should be doing! BP will chase the question of waiting lists for benches and trees.
- **Planning** – CCC did comment on both Westonlea and 61 High Street. The former has now been approved without conditions but no more has been heard about the latter.
- **Dementia Friendly Crail** – carried over to next meeting

- **Circulation of document from communications subcommittee** – was completed last year.

Chairman's Report:

1. Thanks to Colin Davidson of Fife Council grounds maintenance dept, we met with Craig Hutton of Community payback at beginning of December and they subsequently cleared weeds from paths, steps and wall bases at Roome bay, Castle walk and the hen's ladder. We are grateful to them for carrying out this work.
2. Earlier this month, we received a request from a local householder to instigate weed clearance around the benches at the top of the hen's ladder and removal of a wild tree. Again, through Colin, action is being taken.
3. Suggestion that we affiliate with APRS – The association for the Protection of Rural Scotland. Fee £35 pa. This was approved.
4. Fife Council have intimated that the Community Council Elections, due to be held this autumn, have been postponed until October 2023.
5. Fife Council have advised that the pavement widening at St.Andrew's road, will be carried out in February/March.
6. We are meeting with the new owners of the derelict buildings at the airfield, next month, and will report back thereafter. LW clarified that the development refers to the listed buildings on either side of the road not to the actual airfield.

Treasurer's Report:

AP reported only one transaction of £50 to Will Cresswell to power the Christmas tree and Will has passed it on the Kilminning fund. This leaves us with restricted funds of £3016.43 and general funds of £2950.45. AP has done some projections, and assuming we renew our Zoom license for a further year as a precaution, we will have around £220 remaining of this years grant.

Update - Crail Community Partnership (CCP):

- Dennis Gowans (DG) reported West Braes acquisition completed on 21/12/21 and that SP will have more details on proposals at next meeting.
- Roome Bay visitor centre (which was one of the charrette outcomes) has been awarded £25,000 for a feasibility study, the selected consultants will visit for a site inspection next week and will also liaise with Fife Council regarding ownership of the land.
- Digging of ponds at Pinkerton triangle has begun (one already starting to fill with water) thanks to Mark Ireland and colleagues.

Agenda Items

- **JW** has previously circulated three options of a Queen's jubilee beacon with the following comments – a gas fired beacon burning fossil fuel is not very environmentally friendly; a locally built brazier is likely to be too small to be very significant and a bonfire may pose health and safety risks. Discussion revolved around where to site a bonfire (which could be a great way of disposing of some of the mass of fallen timber) – the first promontory out West Braes would be most visible, possibly one could be site on the airfield which would allow for more attendees but with the lighting time of 9:45 on 2nd June ,when it will be still full daylight, would it be better to mark the occasion with something more lasting like tree plantings – perhaps with cairn to mark the occasion. As 2nd June is a Thursday perhaps a more inclusive gesture would be one or more street parties on the Saturday (or Friday which will be a school holiday). CCC will try and canvas local opinion perhaps via Crail Matters.

- AH stated that the communication subcommittee will now be the custodians of the website. AH also thanked MT for maintaining the site until now. The subcommittee will also consider complementing the website with social media channels and other non-digital options.

In addition, AH added that, as requested, the subcommittee would review existing notice boards with options to replace and reduce the number of flyers attached to railings. As the Town Hall noticeboard is seldom used except by the museum, DG suggested following consultation with the museum, it may be best if removed.

- 20mph zone extension – BP said that the new head of roads at Fife Council, Lesley Craig, is more open to new ideas such as an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) which could be used to trial a 20mph zone throughout Crail for 6 months. It is not clear how the success or otherwise is actually measured other than by count of complaints but it is hope that once in place it will take considerable negative feedback to remove again. The usual caveats apply of lack of enforcement but statistics show that around 80% of drivers do obey speed limits and if that is enough to show success than possibly other traffic calming measures could follow – such as speed bumps or narrowed areas. CCC feel we have enough consensus within Crail to ask our Councillors to ask for the trial given that around 90% of respondents to the charette asked for speed reductions and/or traffic calming. BP, JD and LH will take this forward jointly.
- FFCAN – EH attended a zoom workshop entitled “Shaping transport strategy in the context of climate change” on behalf of CCC. Car speeds in village centres was very much on the agenda there too. The workshop looked to come up with (a) the main barriers to encouraging more active transport (apparently well over half of all car journeys are over distances that could be walked in under 15 mins) and thereby decarbonising transport and (b) what the effects of climate change are or are likely to be on transport. There will be a follow-up workshop looking at potential solutions in the autumn. Meantime EH will forward two documents – the first is the introductory presentation from the representative of Fife Council and the second is a graphic of the contents of the “whiteboards” used during the workshop, where we were split into 3 groups. As can be seen there are a lot of common threads and an overall feeling that this cannot be only the responsibility of a single official or department in Fife council but needs to become embedded in all departments such as planning to mandate active transport corridors in ALL new developments.

Fife Councillors Reports:

BP commended CCC as being one of the better community councils at communicating, talking through issues and also getting things done. Apparently our progress is admirable. He also noted that the Town Hall lease has been agreed with the Town Hall committee for 10 years not the 20 requested and that it can be rescinded if management is not satisfactory.

LH seconded BP’s commendations of CCC and uses us as an example of the only East Neuk village to pick up and run with a charette. She also notes that we need to get in quick to get a share of Fife councils funds. Up to £2000 can be approved by a single official, £2000-£5000 by our three councillors and only over £5000 needs a full committee (this is the same limits as for common good applications). She will also send out a copy of the common good accounts for us to keep an eye on. DG has tried to get some of this funding for repairs to the community hall boiler.

JD also lauded CCC particularly the recent event in the community hall for all local organisations to set out their wares – which was a great success and could prove an example to other areas. There is also a Fife council telephone line for enquiries – 03451 550000 from 9am to 5pm.

AOCB:

- DG noted that we have been awarded 6 free consulting days from Scottish government which CCP will utilise to review the charette with particular emphasis on the harbour area.
- CM noted that the Crail raceway escaped wheel incident had moved on with Fife council representative meeting a representative from Glenrothes motor sport on site but the report had not yet been published
- CM also noted that the bulging wall at Denburn narrows had been referred to the council who had surveyed the wall and sent out notices to the owners to effect repairs – EH noted that she had been contacted by one of the owners and there is a history of part of the land and wall being offered to developers to widen the road many years before but Fife council had stopped this, so she feels particularly aggrieved that she is now expect to pay for repairs which will be complex (and therefore expensive) due to gas pipes. The owners of the wall are seeking legal counsel.
- JW asks if we should apply for a share of the council funds mentioned by LH for our jubilee celebrations – LH says make it quick and needs only be sketchy not detailed if under £2000 – she will forward the appropriate forms.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 28th February 2022 – 7:15pm in Crail Town Hall

DJ thanked all for attending

For Action:

Signs – JD

Benches and other memorials - BP

EH to circulate FCCAN documents

JW apply for Fife council funds for Jubilee

CCC to canvas local preferences for Jubilee (e.g. beacon/ street party/ tree planting...) DJ

BP/LH/JD to push for ETRO for 20mph zone

Agenda Items

presentation about potential airfield development

Dementia friendly Crail – MT

Cycle parking - SP