



# ROYAL BURGH OF CRAIL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes 25th April 2022  
7.15pm Crail Town Hall**

**Present:** Chair: David Jerdan (DJ), Cllr John Docherty (JD), Cllr Bill Porteous (BP), Cllr Linda Holt (LH), Erica Hollis (EH), Colin Morrison (CM), Sonja Potjewijd (SP), Lynsey Watson (LW), Andrew Purves (AP), Dawn Wallace-Watson (DWW), Max Taylor (MT),

Three members of the public

**Apologies:**

Alan Hood (AH), Dennis Gowans (for Crail Community Partnership), John Wilson (JW)

**Welcome:** DJ opened the meeting and welcomed all.

**Approval of last minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March were approved.

**Action Summary:**

- **Signs** – JD informed the meeting that there is a 6 month waiting list for replacement signage – LH noted that this doesn't seem to apply to road deemed to be on route to the Open Golf as all the signage on A915 have been renewed.
- **Web Portal** – DWW no decision yet on links to Crail.info but the Facebook page went live today – DWW asked if CM could supply a photo of the harbour for the header. AH apparently put a poster in the Co-op about today's meeting.
- **Traffic calming** – DJ says that a speed check along Orchard Park done at the same time as the Denburn narrows one showed and average speed of less than 30mph as most drivers do slow down – we need to continue pursuing traffic calming measures to catch the few who do not.

**Chairman's Report:**

- Fife council have advised that the tree work scheduled for Victoria gardens has been postponed until the autumn, as a consequence of a backlog of work following the storms last November.
- The cherry trees have been planted at Beechwalk park. Thanks to Fife Council for supplying and to the volunteers who planted them. The official opening and plaque is an agenda item – EH asked if all 12 trees were cherry as one was labelled Acer campestre. DJ clarified that the first 8 are cherry and then there are 4 field maples as Crail got all the remaining cherry tree stock that Fife council had.

**Treasurer's Report:**

AP reported only one transaction of £96. This leaves us with restricted funds of £2316.23 and general funds of £2650.47 totalling £5062.70. Peter Salkeld has agreed to examine the accounts in time for CCC AGM at the next meeting.

### **Update - Crail Community Partnership (CCP):**

- DJ reported that the Roome Bay feasibility study was proceeding well and would culminate in a local public consultation.
- The Community Hall now has 10 weddings booked between now and September providing a welcome income stream.
- The Mercat Cross repairs are now complete and the Heras fencing has been removed. The Lumsden monument repairs should be completed during May.
- Crail Preservation Society AGM is on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Agenda Items for Discussion**

- **Cycle Parking** – SP and DG surveyed possible cycle parking opportunities in Crail and have come up with 5 potential proposals :
  1. Using the leftmost car space in front of the Smoke Fired shop to place cycle rack – this would also propose a minor widening of the pavement in front of the shops by 30-50cm and the yellow line at the right hand end (which is largely ignored and parked on) to be replaced by a parallel parking space for disabled badge holders. The meeting noted that this may be thrown out due to the slope of the site.
  2. A larger cycle parking area (signed from 1) in Beechwalk Park behind the new cherry trees which would be useful to local children using the park as well as tourists.
  3. A cycle rack at the end of Nethergate just at the top of the slope down to Roome Bay (and the steps to the Doocot) which would appeal to cycle tourers who might struggle to cycle the steep slope back up when/if the Roome Bay development occurs.
  4. The area behind the railings next to the Beehive could potentially house another cycle rack for shoppers and cafe traffic although it is not known if this land is in public or private ownership.
  5. Between the garages and end of Castle Walk by the Watch House – cyclists may use the area below Castle walk to picnic – again ownership of this land is unclear. If council owned land the location could also usefully house a water bottle refilling station for both coast path walkers and cyclists. DWW suggests this could be one of several water stations. SP has been in contact with Fife council who are just waiting for locations to be identified, MT thought the council would do nothing if presented with options and we need to make a preferred case but the idea is not that these are alternatives to each other but that having all 5 would be the ultimate goal. If Fife council won't fund the racks then potentially the Crail-St Andrews cycle path would do so. Action SP to progress
- **Planning application at Sauchope links** – planning application 22/01049 is for a further 8 lodges butting right up to the community owned Kilminning reserve. Much discussion over the desirability of yet more lodges – their effect on the environment, the effect on the coast path, possibly reducing demand for brick and mortar holiday homes, pressure on roads (Denburn narrows again), possibly unstable land (was an old rubbish tip but this has been sifted by a waste disposal company), sustainability in the face of predicted sea level rise. It was felt that none of these would be sufficient grounds for Fife planning to reject the proposal and that the best we could do would be to point out any factual errors (e.g. claiming the land to have been agricultural which it never has been). DJ has lodged a statutory objection on behalf of CCC to ensure that the proposal has to go to a full planning committee. Those with an interest should lodge their own objections/support in addition. Three possible areas are (a) not farmland but previous waste dump with possible

instability; (b) no publically visible environmental report (c) ask for screening from Kilminning by additional planting of trees/shrubs. Action DJ to ask for ecological report on behalf of CCC (Michelle Gavin, environmental officer, might be a useful contact at the council) and send an appropriate objection to Fife Council.

- Crail Common Good Fund – Fife Council consultation – much discussion around Fife council's apparent proposal to utilise common good fund money to survey all the common good property they are responsible for (but have neglected over the years) which could result in communities like Crail losing their Common Good capital and/or income to survey properties in areas without funds. This would not be allowed under the 2014 act to protect Common Good funds for the good of their local community. We need to prompt incoming Fife councillors after the election in May to keep a close watch on the Area Committee meetings to monitor this situation as it develops.
- Queen's jubilee plaque – options were to place this on the entry monument (now found to not be possible), on one of the benches or to source a large piece of stone to site the plaque on – the plaque itself is inexpensive. The meeting's preference is for a large piece of stone to be sourced and the plaque so attached and to have a public unveiling with the school children on the Jubilee weekend. Action JW

### **Fife Councillors Reports:**

BP has retired from standing for council but may visit our meeting in a private capacity having enjoyed working with CCC over the years.

LH hopes to be back as an independent again and considers Crail the most successful local CC. JD also hopes to be back as an independent councillor and congratulates Crail on being a strong community that is an example to other Ccs.

### **AOCB –**

- **Lobster hatchery** – as previously circulated there is a proposal to release 60 lobsters at Crail at a cost of £170 – DJ has ascertained from the fishermen that this is more of a symbolic action being a mere “drop in the ocean” but a welcome sign that we care about the sea and fishery. It would also be good to do this in memory of Bernie McConnell who was very keen on the idea. The meeting was in agreement. Action AP to donate the £170 from CCC funds.
- **Climate and Ecological Emergencies Bill** – private members bill to highlight the need to put action on climate change in the forefront of all government policy. All individuals and organisations are asked to lend support to this bill – which can be done online at <https://www.cebill.uk/>. The meeting agreed that CCC should lend its support. Action EH to sign for CCC
- **Common Good Fund** – two applications – the first on behalf of Crail museum for upgrading their card index of around 6000 items to an acceptable computer database system for ease of access to respond to queries. The generally used system, called Modes (as used by many other museums such as Anstruther Fisheries museum) will also need to upgrade the Museum's elderly computers and undertake training costing a total of £3650 of which the museum are seeking half (£1825) from Common Good Funds. The meeting approved this application.
- Second Common good fund application is from Crail in Bloom, who have never made a CG application before, to make a bulk purchase of new troughs and planters to replace those that are beyond repair or likely to become so in the next year or so. Crail in Bloom plant up the troughs and planters along the length of Marketgate, High Street, St Andrews road and one or two others twice yearly with summer or winter bedding. They are trying to be more environmentally aware by using peat free compost and looking to put more permanent/perennial plants in. Until now planters have been replaced on an ad hoc basis when Crail in Bloom has had the funds to do so but buying in bulk gives more leverage. £2900 is needed for new planters, compost and disposal of the damaged planters of which they apply for half i.e. £1450 from Common Good. The meeting approved this request.

- Play park DWW – the survey through school and Crail matters generated an impressive (given a school role of only around 70) 106 responses so far with some useful new suggestions. DWW is meeting with Ian Wilson from Fife Council on 11<sup>th</sup> May to find out the next steps. Action DWW
- MT drew out attention to the hustings to be held at the Community hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Questions in advance can be sent to Crail Matters. All 8 candidates have confirmed attendance.

The meeting closed at 8:47pm.

**Date of next meeting and AGM: Monday 30<sup>h</sup> May 2022 – 7:15pm in Crail Town Hall**

DJ thanked all for attending

**For Action:**

Cycle Parking - SP

Ecological report and appropriate objection for Sauchope plans – DJ

Stone and plaque for Queen's jubilee – JW

Lobster release – AP

Climate and Ecological Emergencies Bill – EH

Playpark - DWW