



ROYAL BURGH OF CRAIL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of 31st October 2022 7.15pm Crail Town Hall

Present: Chair: David Jerdan, Erica Hollis (EH), Colin Morrison (CM), Max Taylor (MT), Lynsey Watson (LW), Andrew Purves (AP),

Councillors: Cllr Alycia Hayes (CAH)

Apologies: Cllr Sean Dillon, Cllr Fiona Corps, Dawn Wallace-Watson, Alan Hood, John Wilson (JW), Dennis Gowans (DG) (for Crail Community Partnership) and Kevin Thurlow (member of public)

4 members of the public including John Freeth for a presentation on recycling and Damon Reynolds for information on the new Crail Traders Association.

Welcome: DJ opened the meeting and welcomed all

Approval of last minutes:

The minutes of the 26th September meeting were approved

Action Summary:

- **AP** has purchased a wreath for Remembrance day. Likelihood of Fife Councillors attending: possibly Fiona Corps but with 11 services and only 3 councillors this is always a problem.
- **Flexi-bus** – **CAH** reports that the service is extended for the duration of the roadworks and she has asked that it will be possible for it to continue to take up the shortfall of new bus timetable – this is being considered but will not happen until after the end of the roadworks.
- **Beechwalk park carpark extension** plans to go in Crail Matters for comment DG – not yet done.
- **Crabbing pool repairs** – no-one designated for this, DJ will take up for next time.

Chairman's Report:

- DJ had a walk around Crail with Donald Grant, Fife Council Communities officer. Discussed required repairs to the clock tower in Crail Town Hall. He is raising this with Estates Dept.
- Also raised the problem of decaying fences at Roome bay and he will pursue with Coast & Countryside Trust
- Requested again that the felled tree stump in the pavement Roome Bay Ave be removed and the pavement reinstated. Subsequently assured that this would be attended to within 5 working days. Still outstanding!

- The redecoration of gates, railings, fences and bollards throughout most of the public spaces in Crail, has now been completed and all looking good. Thanks to local tradesmen Peter Rodger, Steven Tilbrook & Derek Wood for carrying out the work and for funding from Crail Common Good Fund.
- We are very sorry to be losing the services of Lynsey Watson as a community councillor. There are now 2 vacancies on the Community Council and we have nearly a year until the next elections. We need to actively seek replacements.

CAH will chase up on repairs to the diversion route on the road past the Secret Bunker which is literally falling apart at the edges, huge pot-holes appearing and buses unable to pass each other without further damaging the verges. Damon reported that about half the pot-holes were filled in today. DJ suggested that temporary infill is not a long term solution as such repairs seldom last. CM asked about priorities on road works – on the plus side CAH says that emergency vehicles will be allowed through, work stopping for them to pass but on the other side, in other council areas the local community are included in decisions on timing of roadworks unlike here in Fife where we are lucky if we are even informed in advance. She is hoping this can be remedied in future.

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month of £617.68 Fife Council Grant and £4858.40 Common Good Fund Grant. Expenditure of £45.60 on wreath, £2360.40 to W.A. Rodger and £2498.00 to Steven Tilbrook for the railings and bollards painting.

Leaving a closing balance of £6082.58 made up of £3061.45 in general funds and £3021.13 in restricted.

There was some discussion regarding whether the bollards outside the Town Hall had been missed, apparently those outside the Shoregate need replacement so were deliberately missed. CAH asked if Crail Community Council were happy with the Common Good Fund accounts as there is some suggestion of large sums apparently disappearing in other communities. AP says Crail's look Ok but it would be useful to have more regular account reporting, say quarterly, to prevent discrepancies creeping in. CM asked about the invested part with "Hendersons" – DJ commented that Hendersons were fund managers but it would be extremely useful to have a breakdown of the actual investments of the fund and to have some input on the type of investment made, e.g. responsibly managed funds. A question from the floor as to whether the CGF was invested in the Cornceres wind turbine – apparently this is not the case, the investment is all by Crail Community Trust who also get any income to distribute.

Update - Crail Community Partnership (CCP):

- Successful conclusion of crowdfunding for Kilminning raised over the target £8,000 and Nature Scot will be visiting the site tomorrow.
- The Open day on 15th October was judged a success – a sub-committee will draw up a business plan for Roome Bay for future discussion.
- Crail Preservation Society report that the Lumsden memorial work is now almost complete with only the erection of an interpretation panel still to come.
- CM has been to the harbour and finds that lots of issues raised by fishermen need to be raised here at community council so they can be taken forward by councillors – the most pressing currently is that 50% of the lights at the harbour are currently not working making for a very dangerous situation as daylight shortens – this has been ongoing for some time. CM will draw up a list of issues and email to CAH.

Presentation by John Freeth

John has a background in recycling projects in Australia among other places and would like to make us all aware of the Scotland Deposit Return Scheme (SDRS) which is due to come into force in August next year. Basically all glass, PET plastic and metal drinks containers will have a 20p deposit applied at point of sale which can then be recovered when the empty container is returned. All such containers will have a unique QR or barcode and can be returned to ANY seller of such items. The retailer then needs to store the containers for collection and repayment. There are several potential problems with this e.g. storage volume required and potential for having the refund “scavengers” who have been collection drinks containers from multiple sites – so far there is no mention of any limit on how many containers can be returned to a retailer by one person at one time – in Australia anything over a certain number requires the returner to give their tax number! There are exclusions for closed loop recycling which can be used by hospitality venues that do not sell take-away containers and for retailers who have another recycling point in close proximity – unfortunately the definition of close proximity is yet to be issued – does it mean next door, next street or within a mile....?

There are automatic reverse vending machines but they need to be sited undercover to protect from weather, need both electric and internet connection and are both costly to purchase (the best John could find was around £18,000) and costly to maintain.

It is thought that many people will be happy to donate their deposit, which is where a community recycling hub might fit in but we would still need to sort the three different types with the danger of injury from broken glass or metal containers. Where to site such a facility could also be a problem. Other potential problems including scavengers being exploited by criminal gangs have been seen in other countries.

A lot more awareness and discussion especially for Crail’s almost uniquely wide range of independent traders is the aim. The Scottish government has an ambitious aim of 90% recycling by 2024 – Australia have been running similar schemes for 40 years and still not achieved this!

A new Crail Trader’s association has recently formed lead by Damon who told the community council about their inaugural meeting on 12th October which laid out the aims:

- To Promote Crail businesses to residents and visitors to ensure our long term sustainability and viability.
- Liaise with Community Council and other local interest groups to make sure our views and best interests are represented and acted upon.
- Influence council and local government decision making and be part of first stage consultations and reviews.
- Co-ordinate with local festival and event organisers to ensure local traders are promoted and can offer appropriate services to help them.
- Build recognition of how much local businesses ‘Give back’ to the community.

DJ suggested they might like to nominate a member to join Crail Community Council – Damon will discuss and consider. The Association hope to cover not just shops and hospitality but also caravan parks and the Cowshed – so far they have had support from all bar one of the businesses approached. The new association will be very useful in raising awareness of SDRS.

Crail Community Council support SDRS, in principle.

Councillors reports

LW asked what the current situation was with the problem child – CAH reports that he has been relocated and the social workers involved hope to redirect his fire setting to a less destructive and dangerous means of generating feelings of self-worth in the child.

Items for discussion

Cost of living – the list of useful contacts and agencies generated by Fife Council and promoted through Crail Matters is very good but we still need to be aware of people in Crail who may find it too demeaning to admit to poverty. Things like setting up community larders and encouraging everyone, regardless of wealth, to use them as a means of reducing food waste are potentially easier for folk to get help without the “stigma” of using a food bank but we may also need to consider more regular venues for warmth and food – not just for the elderly but also many struggling young families. In Crail the Welfare committee and the churches have volunteers who take on specific areas and, therefore, have a good insight into pockets of poverty in the community – which may get worse as winter draws on.

Denburn narrows – the sticking out islands are not working, not all the white lining has been done – e.g. the “SLOW” and “20” painted on the road are still next to invisible. Apparently there is a 20 day service level agreement on lighting problems however the Denburn lights have been out for at least two months and reported after the August meeting and again in early October. A marked pedestrian crossing in the middle of the narrows is not now scheduled until 2023/24.

Allotments – DJ has been approached to ask about provision of allotments. While this was not seen as any kind of priority during the charrette, the advent of the pandemic and now cost of living crisis may be focussing people’s desires more on growing-their-own. After some discussion, none of us were able to immediately think of a suitable area as most publicly owned surrounding land is under agricultural tenancy agreements. Apparently Fife council now have a standard shed design and set of rules for allotments so they should not be seen as scruffy these days. CAH will ask Peter Duncanson for ideas.

AOCB

- CAH noted that the Town Hall router password seems to have changed from that written behind it. It would be extremely useful for Councillors to have internet access during meetings.
- LW – is there anything to be done about inconsiderate parking – basically without enforcement of double yellow lines etc it is still a major bottleneck around the centre with much potential for accidents as through traffic tries to negotiate a way past parked cars while looking out for pedestrians trying to cross – especially the elderly and the very young.
- AP noted that the pavement and surrounding land near the chip shop is both very uneven and very untidy with weeds etc – as this is where folk have to queue for the post van there is a high potential for trips and falls. A member of the public noted that she had seen one lady heavily laden with shopping fall heavily on the uneven pavement – it was amazing she wasn’t badly hurt. CAH will see if this and is council land (surely the pavement at least is?) and what can be done to fix the problems. AP to send CAH a photo showing the problem.
- AP also noted that the pavement outside Albany Court had an incomplete surface with patches where mud and debris collects making it slippery in wet weather. Again AP to send photo to CAH to take forward.
- Kate Eggo asked if 20mph reminders could be painted on the road near the corner where Kirkmay Road, Lamont Terrace, Felkington Avenue and the unmade road (which satnavs tend to direct cars to the Cowshed!) meet as many locals go far too fast round the corner or ignore the give-way line and could cause a serious accident given the amount of sheltered accommodation and families with children nearby. At the very least repainting of the give-way lines might help.

DJ thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 21:20.

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

For Action:

- Councillor AH – press Fife Council to extend the Go Flexi service to take up short fall in new Stagecoach timetable.
- DG – put Beechwalk Park carpark extension proposal in Crail Matters for comment.
- DJ to try Fife Coast and Countryside initially regarding repairs to the crabbing pool.
- CM to email a list of outstanding issues at Crail Harbour
- Councillor AH to ask Fife council about repairs to the B940 so damaged by being used as a diversion and to ask Fife Council to consult with local communities about timing of roadworks in future.
- Councillor AH to ask for more transparency in the Common Good Fund accounts – perhaps quarterly submission to community councils and some breakdown of the actual investments made by Hendersons.
- AP to send photos to CAH of problem pavements.
- LW volunteered to try and find out the router password.
- Kirkmay/Lamont junction EH to take photo(s) and send to Councillor AH
- Allotments – Councillor AH to consult with Peter Duncan and report back.