



# ROYAL BURGH OF CRAIL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 7.15pm Crail Town Hall

**Present:** Chair: David Jerdan (DJ), Erica Hollis (EH), Colin Morrison (CM), Max Taylor (MT), John Wilson (JW), Andrew Purves (AP), Jenni Brittain (JB)

Councillors: Cllr Alycia Hayes (CAH), Fiona Corps (FC), Sean Dillon (SD)

**Apologies:** Alan Hood (AH), also John Freeth, Damon Reynolds

3 members of the public including Dennis Gowans (DG for Crail Community Partnership)

**Welcome:** DJ opened the meeting and welcomed all to the first meeting of 2023.

### **Approval of last minutes:**

The minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> November meeting were approved

### **Matters Arising**

- Broken noticeboard from side of Town Hall has been removed (DJ)
- Cllr AH circulated information about scam workmen who were caught trying to get council workmen to repair a privately owned property – to her knowledge no members of the public have been caught by the scam.
- EH has again reported the single light out in Denburn with no response, FC will add to a growing list she has of lights out across the constituency, others may like to add complaints to the council to give more weight.
- The path by the Brandy Burn has been cleared by the community payback team who also did the Hen's Ladder and Roome Bay. (DJ)
- Cllr AH has circulated some information about resources related to the Warm Scots campaign, although the current funding has closed there may be more later. MT will get the information published in Crail Matters
- Cllr AH has circulated some information about Henderson's investments but not their fees. Apparently other organisations have switched investment managers from Hendersons because of both their fee structure and investment policies – we need to keep pressing Fife Council to ensure Crail Common Good Fund is ethically managed.
- SDRS 3<sup>rd</sup> party operators information held over to next meeting. Cllr AH
- Advising the community about community council elections in October – see separate item below.

### **Chairman's report**

- In early December, Community service completed weeding work at the hen's ladder, Roome Bay and Brandy Burn – much appreciated and appearance greatly improved.
- In early January, a member of the public again raised the danger and obstruction caused by vehicles parking and on the pavement at the bank corner. This remains a problem. Apparently AH and DG have considered putting a notice board at the site to replace the posters on railings but the meeting felt this

would probably need planning permission and not be ideal. Bollards, planters and fences were discussed with the majority more in favour of bollards to match those by the Town Hall and across St Andrews Road. SD will take this forward with Fife council.

- Following a request, Fife Coast & Countryside carried out repairs to damaged and missing fencing at Roome bay.
- We asked if handrails or improvements could be carried out at the sleeper steps leading from Roome bay to Pinkerton. Not economically viable. Uneven steps should be removed. DJ will follow up.
- Disappointing but not surprising to see that planning consent was granted, without conditions, for the final extension at Sauchope caravan park, despite the high number of objections. This is another example of both local public and community council being over-ridden.
- A member of the public asked if any progress has been made with the provision of cycle stands in the village. DG met Sonja by chance and she says the areas identified at the end of Nethergate and by the Co-Op are going ahead – Cllr AH will clarify this when she meets Sonja on a different matter.

## **Treasurer's report**

- Payments this since last meeting all from general fund :
- Town Hall booking through till March 2023 £120
- Electricity supply to Christmas lights Will Cresswell £50 – Will has requested this be donated to Kilminning fund.
- Removal of noticeboard – Crail Handyman £20
- Bank balance £5,907.58 (general £2,886.45 restricted £3,021.13)
- This leaves a bank balance of £5717.58 made up of general funds £2696.45 and restricted of £3021.13
- MT to look into renewal of Zoom license – who pays and when – as this is often still used by various Crail organisations.
- New signatories for the bank account were agreed as Jenni Brittain and Colin Morrison with Andrew Purves remaining. Max Taylor and John Wilson wish to be removed as signatories (AP).

## **Update – Crail Community Partnership**

- New Gas boiler installation at the community hall began today (£25k). The electrical upgrade that should have been done years ago for modern circuit boards and breakers (£4k) has been completed and is now very robust.
- Work at South Kilminning has been delayed due to further Archaeological investigation – apparently of a burial ground as well as the “historic” tarmac.
- DG also reports on behalf of Crail Preservation Society that the large willow tree is severely infected with fungus and needs to be taken down on safety grounds.

## **Items for Discussion**

- SDRS – Circularity Scotland has set up some workshops around the country but JF thinks it would have been better to have small mobile workshops visiting each community as small traders would have to give up a whole morning or afternoon to attend as none of these are at all local to Crail (or even Fife!). The Welsh scheme has now been delayed to 2025 like the English one but the Scottish govt seems to be still pressing ahead for August this year. Lorna Slater is being pressed to leaving glass containers out of the scheme, initially at least.
- Publicity for Community Council elections due in October – DJ has circulated a document from Falkirk community council highlighting some of the difficulties in recruiting volunteers for community councils especially the apparent sidelining of them by the county councils e.g., in planning decisions. MT feels that, deliberately or not, community councils seem to have been set up to fail. Cllr AH thinks it is more the way society as a whole has changed with most people so busy with their own immediate concerns of

work, kids etc. to lack time or interest in their communities. There is also the feeling, in Crail certainly, that there are a host of different organisations all needing committee members (e.g., CPS, CCP, Crail festival, the Church etc.). Cllr AH thought we needed to stress the good news more of what CCC has achieved – a YouTube video for sharing on social media might have a broader appeal across generations than articles in Crail Matters for example. JB has already found two people interested in getting involved. We need to make people more aware of the Common Good Fund as a positive benefit that can be accessed through the community council. MT will circulate some other ideas he came across via a chat bot. A subcommittee of AH, MT and JB will take this forward. The coronation in May might provide an opportunity for a community celebration.

## AOCB

- The 4 acers supplied by Fife council with the 8 cherry trees last year have not survived and could be replaced by 4 cherry trees at a cost of £125 from CCC funds – this was agreed by the meeting.
- A member of the public reported that the drains outside nos. 19/21 Nethergate are badly blocked by rubbish and bubble up threatening those properties during heavy rain so need clearing by the Fife Council.
- Also in Nethergate there is a bad problem with dog fouling even on peoples' doorsteps – this generated a discussion as to whether footage from door bell cameras could be used to prosecute – the legal situation is complex as such cameras should not cover any more than the direct doorstep which may capture the dog but not the owner but in any case, Fife council seldom does much more than send a warning letter. Also it is dark in Nethergate with the trees shielding the street lights although complainant would not like to lose the trees [maybe some pruning would help].
- CM has had complaints about the state of the harbour master's house which is in such a state of disrepair bits are falling off on neighbouring properties and vehicles and it is infested with pigeons possibly causing a health hazard. Crail Community Trust is unable to get a lease and then repair the property as Fife Council cannot find the deeds – various council departments will probably give the missing deeds as an excuse to do nothing too but as a health & safety hazard they must step in. There is some question about funding for Crail Community Trust plans as there is a rumour that Fife Environment Trust is disbanding (DG) – although they are still accepting funding requests up to end of March (Cllr AH) so maybe this is more of a rebranding?
- CM also reports that one of the ladders on the side of the harbour is to be removed due to poor condition – it is not one used by fishermen and there are alternatives nearby. It seems not to be well understood that parking at the harbour is ONLY for those who work there not, as advertised, for local Air B&Bs – some how this needs to be dealt with as the current signs seem to be no deterrent.
- Lack of decent mobile phone coverage at the harbour (and elsewhere in Crail) is still a major concern. Some time ago (2021) Linda Holt was looking into getting something similar to CuparNow – one of our current councillors needs to look this out.
- Carpark enlargement at community hall will be pursued in 2 months when alternative storage has been identified and the wooden shed removed. (DG)

## Councillors Reports

- FC – the tree stump in Roome Bay Avenue has finally been removed (although only as far as the cemetery carpark – DG)
- FC & SD attended the harbour users group and have passed information to CM to take to Crail harbour users.
- SD & Cllr AH are on the education committee – Waid academy violence has “opened a can of worms” nationally – there will be a report next month. The Superhead idea is now replaced with Leadership models – parents were sent a letter on 17<sup>th</sup> January and there are consultative meetings scheduled at all the schools – in Crail on February 8<sup>th</sup> between 13:30 and 14:45. Cllr AH thinks the restructuring is more to do with recruitment issues than cost saving as there is already a huge cost saving in the outstanding vacancies for teaching staff Fife council has been unable to fill – one of the issues being that head teachers pay is linked to school size so headships of small rural schools are not an attractive option now with cost-of-living issues.

- SD – the Welcome signs to Crail with our own design seem to have been accepted but any problems will be reported back to MT as the original for the design is held at Crail Museum. Road repairs listed for 2023 only include Balcomie road in Crail.
- From April the council charge for uplift of bulky items will be dropped.
- From August children whose entry to Primary school is deferred will qualify for a further year of fully funded nursery care.

The meeting closed at 20:40.

**Date of next meeting : Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – 7:15pm in Crail Town Hall**

**For Action:**

- Denburn light complaint to Fife Council – Cllr AH
- Publish Warm Scots resources in Crail Matters – MT
- Fees and Ethical investment of Common Good Fund – Cllr AH
- SDRS 3<sup>rd</sup> party operators information – AH
- Bollards preventing pavement parking by old bank building – SD
- removing uneven steps at Roome Bay – DJ
- Cycle parking – Cllr AH
- Zoom licensing – MT
- Subcommittee to look at YouTube video and other ideas for positive publicisation of CCC – MT, JB, AH – Bill Bruce is willing to help make the video according to FC.
- 4 new cherry trees to replace dead acers – DJ/DG
- Funding request for new playpark by school to be channelled through CCP – DWW & DG
- More use to be made of CCC Facebook page – e.g. dates of meetings and agenda – EH can undertake this if AH/DWW make her an admin of the page.
- AP to arrange alteration of bank signatories.