



ROYAL BURGH OF CRAIL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of 27th February 2023
7:15 pm 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)

Apologies: Dawn Wallace-Watson, Cllr Fiona Corps, Cllr Sean Dillon, also John Freeth

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

Welcome: DJ opened the meeting and welcomed all.

Approval of last minutes:

The minutes of the 30th January meeting were approved

Matters Arising

- Denburn light complaint to Fife Council – cllr AH – the council website indicates there is no problem but the light is, in fact, still out. CM has noticed that if he reports the light out (via Council website) then checks again next day it has reverted to being no problem – he has now done this 3 times. Cllr AH will follow up.
- Publish Warm Scots resources in Crail Matters – MT did this.
- Fees and Ethical investment of Common Good Fund – Cllr AH still chasing for a response.
- SDRS 3rd party operators information – this item will be dropped from the agenda for now as it seems that SDRS will be delayed.
- Bollards preventing pavement parking by old bank building – SD says Fife Council have this in hand but timescales are unknown.
- removing uneven steps at Roome Bay – DJ has asked Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT) to progress this.
- Cycle parking – Cllr AH – 3 sites (Outside Co-op, at the East end of Nethergate and in Beechwalk park) are going ahead – again no information on timescales.
- Zoom licensing – MT has in hand – the fee will automatically deduct from his account in March and he will submit a claim for repayment. DJ stressed again that the Zoom account if available for any Crail organisation that wants to host a zoom meeting that can last longer than 40mins.
- 4 new cherry trees have been planted to replace the dead acers supplied by the Fife council last year – at considerable expense to CCC (see Treasurer's report).

- funding request for new playpark by school – DWW reports that funding requests to the Miss Main trust, FET and Common Good Fund will be submitted this week (end of March deadline)
- Facebook page - DWW has made EH an admin and she has duly advertised the availability of minutes and the agenda for today's meeting. Going forward EH will add links to information that CCC receives from Fife council for community circulation (e.g. the recent results of the bus survey). The Facebook page is intended to be informative rather than interactive.

Chairman's report

- Fife Council dumped the Roome Bay tree stump in Denburn Wood. After we complained it was subsequently removed. Needless to say the pavement in Roome bay has still to be reinstated.
- A film crew may be seeking permission to film part of a proposed film about herring fishing, at the harbour.
- There was an outbreak of drunken vandalism over the weekend 11th February resulting in broken shop windows and damaged flower tubs.
- There have been several break-ins in the Pinkerton area. This is an agenda item.
- The gates and railings at the cemetery have finally been galvanised and rehung. Painting remains to be done once the weather warms up.
- Sites have been identified at Nethergate and outside the Co-op for potential bicycle stands. Cllr AH notes that a third site at Beechwalk park is also progressing.
- It appears that the ill-fated SDRS recycling scheme will be postponed and we will not discuss further.

Treasurer's report

Balance at 30th January £5,717.58 (general £2,696.45 and restricted £3,021.13).

Expenditure

- Mayrock Fabrications £3,400.00 for shotblasting and galvanising 5 gates.
- Scotplants Direct £334.32 for 4 replacement trees.

Restricted funds £3,021.13 fully utilised with shortfall of £378.87 met from general funds.

General balance at 31st January £2,496.45 less trees £334.32 and payment towards gates £378.87.

Balance at 27th February £1,983.26 (general).

Only expected expenditure prior to 31st March 2023 - Zoom £143.88 (including VAT).

NB painting of the gates will be done by local painters/decorators once the galvanising has had time to settle (around 6 months) – this could potentially be a Common Good Fund expenditure if we get two quotes rather than a further erosion of CCC balance, which is carrying over rather less than last year.

AP notes there has been no progress on the additional signatories yet due to other commitments on his part.

Update – Crail Community Partnership

- New Gas boiler installation went according to plan. The next major expenditure will be replacing the curtains in the Community Hall which are falling apart due to light damage – to continue attracting weddings and similar events.
- CCP had another meeting with the new airfield owners who are developing their plans – as part of this they need to hold two public consultations.
- Denburn wood currently has four separate owners including CCP, Crail Preservation Society (CPS) and Fife Council. CPS have applied for a transfer of ownership of the Fife Council part to enable more joined up care and maintenance.
- The Roome Bay toilets replacement is a £500k project which is more than any individual trustee feels able to manage. Further discussions are to take place with FCCT.

Items for Discussion

- Publicity for Community Council Election – these will take place in October after an extended term of 5 years. A subcommittee are taking forward ideas on making sure both candidates and electors are more truly representative of all Crail community. Broadly we need to increase transparency, engage with the public and increase under represented engagement. The Airfield development open days offer one element but cannot be all (MT). The school are showing willingness to become more involved with a proposal for a Junior Community Council – either as a one-off or an annual event (JB). The head teacher, Mrs Young, proposes a 5 meeting program starting with the school assembly followed by email to parents, then setting up the junior CC (with the children forming chair, secretary, treasurer etc). Once set up they will need a small project that needs funding. This is a good way to engage parents and give a more positive perspective to what CCC does. The head is very enthusiastic but keen that the school not CCC must “own” this. CCC can perhaps facilitate use of Town Hall etc. Among other ideas the idea of awards as incentives might prove divisive. Publicity will remain on CCC’s agenda. Cllr AH is proposing to put out a newsletter to every household in the East Neuk outlining the work done by community councils – each CC to come up with a paragraph about something they have achieved or are undertaking for their community. The newsletter will not be SNP or Council branded.
- Crail Airfield pre-planning – Ground Developments acquired the land with derelict buildings on both north and south of the road to the golf club – not including farmland. They are in the process of finalising plans for around 90 holiday homes and other mixed use development and will have two public consultations in the Community Hall on 25th March and 29th April in the mornings. It is hoped they will give a presentation as well as a walk round exhibition of plans. After that they will apply for outline planning permission with a view to gaining full planning permission by the end of 2023. We understand that the holiday homes will only have 10 months tenure per year so will not increase school roll etc. JW asks who actually polices the 10 month rule as it appears some of the Sauchhope chalets are occupied permanently.
- Sea Queen and King’s coronation celebrations – Fiona Budd and other parents of Crail primary school pupils have set up a group to revive the Sea Queen celebrations where each fishing boat has a “queen” who will be dressed up along with the boat. The boats and their queens will sail into the harbour to be voted on for best dressed boat (and Queen) on Saturday 15th July followed by the Sea Queen Dance in the Community Hall and coronation of the winner on Sunday 16th. There will be stalls at the harbour and ticket sales for the dance to raise money for the RNLI. Practical issues involve insurance – CCC’s indemnity policy does not cover alcohol or fireworks and probably excludes boat trips but for the rest covers public liability for up to around 200 people – JW & AP will check the details of the cover. In order to benefit from the cover this will have to be

considered a CCC event but with CCC delegating the organising to Fiona Budd's group. Cllr AH notes that there is an Events page on the Fife Council website with a simple form to apply for permission for stalls, applying for traffic restrictions for the day is a bit more long winded and should be started as soon as possible. They have worked out the budget for the dance but not the stalls etc yet. This same group of parents are also keen to organise a giant picnic on Beech Walk park on May 7th to celebrate the coronation of King Charles, with children's events including bouncy castle and face painting the bouncy castle operator will need to have their own insurance. Many such events will include ringing of bells but is it safe to ring the Town Hall (definitely not) or Church Bells – AP will find out the position on the latter. Failing that maybe a recording of bells can be played over loudspeakers and/or the fishing boats can all blast their horns.

- Local Crime and Security – vandals or drunken revellers smashed several shop windows and tipped out a flower tub and several houses on the Pinkerton estate suffered break-ins and attempted break-ins. The police no longer think this was the same crime ring that have been targeting performance cars by stealing or cloning keys as none of the properties affected have fancy cars and at least one is empty – none were occupied at time of break-in, but some break ins were only discovered by chance (window cleaner noticed one). EH suggested some form of neighbourhood watch would be useful here – in her own street she and her husband went and checked other empty properties after the window cleaner's discovery – otherwise houses could remain unsecured against further intrusion including by animals/weather for some time. Cllr AH notes that the police in this area have a 72% success rate in clearing up crime – however MT notes that is 72% of reported crimes – not necessarily the same! Abertay University are going to conduct a Community Safety Survey in Crail which it is hoped CCC will support. Two students will do the legwork but the project will be supervised by Professor Denise Martin and a lecturer who is an ex-police Chief Superintendent. It will begin in May or June and run over the summer, with initial results in November and formal presentation later in the year.

Councillors Reports

Cllr SD –

Deterring pavement parking by cash machine – bollards will be installed, but due to workload, this may not be for several months.

New welcome signs –

- The draft design of the new sign was made available to the meeting and looks good – it has Crail's coat of arms at the top then says "Welcome to the Royal Burgh of Crail" and "Drive Safely" at the bottom. The new signs are approved by the meeting for erection on entry to Crail from both St Andrews and Anstruther directions.

The Waid Academy Cluster Leadership Consultation:

- Following approval of the seven proposals at the council's Cabinet Committee on the 12th of January, the Education department are now carrying out a consultation with parents & concerned individuals. The other week, there were several meetings across the catchment and if anyone was unable to attend or has more to add an online consultation is being carried out. This can be accessed using the link below:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=L6Vp-cBC8UCYutrteEMlfCZHkRkFce9Ou17LIDGDR9dUOTE4N1NROEpYTk9IT1U3T0o2VIJVMjFZQi4u&fbclid=IwAR04t6RVc_AUPK3oRXQPkcUTyOTIsUc-HTsO2eQ-pNwn36vB5LLIZH9zWOW

Subsidised Bus Consultation:

- The council is currently carrying out a consultation on supported bus routes including the 95 and the Go-Flexi service. Any comments will be used to help influence the future of these routes from August 2023. If anyone is interested in taking part, please use the link below:

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-diaries/north-east-fife,-supported-bus-services-post-consultation>

Fife Council Budget 2023/24:

- At last week's full council meeting, a council tax rise of 5% was approved. While mindful of the cost-of-living crisis that we are currently experiencing, this rise will ensure that the problems that are most important to residents are addressed including the roads which will receive £3.5 million in additional funding as well as to allow greater support for those struggling financially.

Cllr AH

Fife council will also be raising council rents by 5%. Cllr AH was very shocked by some of the stories of hardship from the council Welfare Officer including some horrific ones from Crail of people with no power, no food and no cash. It seems the East Neuk is the most heavily penalised area for Universal Credit – one person was fined over £300 for being 10 minutes late to an appointment – entirely due to buses running late. Top up vouchers are more restricted than they used to be and while emergency credit has gone up from £10 to £30 this is not all good news as it then means the customer has to repay £40 before the electricity goes back on. The electricity companies are being very difficult, refusing to speak to any advocacy agency other than Citizens Advice – who do not have the manpower to wait hanging on the phone for 2 hours just to get through, which is not uncommon. MT suggested more use could be made of Crail's Settlement Trust for people in dire need but it is hard to know how to connect those in need with those who could help due to GDR etc. It was agreed that we would look at a subgroup who might engage with the welfare officer to see what practical help might be available to address this matter.

AOCB

None arose.

The meeting closed at 20:40.

Date of next meeting: Monday 27th March 2023 – 7:15 pm in Crail Town Hall

For Action:

- Denburn light complaint to Fife Council – cllr AH
- Fees and Ethical investment of Common Good Fund – Cllr AH
- Checking CCC insurance for events proposed by Fiona Budd – AP & JW
- Using CCC Facebook page to disseminate information coming from Fife Council to CCC - EH
- Subcommittee to carry on exploring ideas for positive publicisation of CCC – MT, JB, AH
- Crime and security – DJ to contact police to attend the next meeting.
- Subgroup to look at welfare issues MT & DJ