



ROYAL BURGH OF CRAIL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of 24th April 2023
7.15pm Crail Town Hall

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

Councillors: none

Apologies: Colin Morrison (CM), Alan Hood (AH), Cllr Alycia Hayes (CAH), Cllr Sean Dillon (SD) (belatedly after the event)

5 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 27th March meeting were approved

Matters Arising

- Denburn light still out.
- Fees and Ethical investment of Common Good Fund – held over
- Poverty food group – JB has nothing yet to say on this.

Chairman's report

- I visited the East Neuk Food bank and have to commend the wonderful work that they do and the support that they give to folk in the community who are struggling. Following the sub group meeting that was reported last month, a community fridge is being set up in the Legion hall by a group of school parents led by Borana Hajdinaj (see below).
- Following the community police presentation last month, there have been at least 2 speed checks carried this month, with a number of driver warned. Some improvement in driver behaviour noted.
- We have asked for additional signage (repeaters and roundels) but this is unlikely to be forthcoming until the end of the trial period if it is continuing.
- The delayed work to pollard trees in Victoria Gardens and fell a diseased tree in Beechwalk park has been carried out.
- Following the last meeting I wrote to Willie Rennie to ask for support with the problem of poor mobile phone coverage. There has been a response from some of the network companies and Alan Hood is liaising with them on this. The responding companies would like more information on not-spots e.g. precise addresses. MT will try and put some kind of survey of results of the recent emergency alert test into Crail Matters – this should also be put on the About Crail facebook page to catch younger residents.
- Ground Developments Ltd, the owners of the airfield, are hosting a public meeting and presentation of their proposals, this Saturday 29 April in the Community Hall at 10am. It is not known if this will include a presentation of any kind or be a repeat of the previous meeting.

- A list of various 'housekeeping' items around Crail has been forwarded to our Fife Councillors and is being followed up.

In response to the first item above, Borana Hajdinaj was present and enlarged on what is happening (she met with Laiza from Fife Council). Borana has been here for about 2 years, is not British but married to a Brit, has two children one at Crail primary and the other at nursery. She apologises for not bringing either CCC or CCP into the picture earlier but is struggling to get a grip on which organisation in Crail does what but does definitely want community support for her initiative – which is neither a food bank nor a pantry. The aim, with the support of local farmers, to “glean” fruit and veg from field corners missed by machinery or unsuitable for processors in addition to growing some in the land she has leased and cleared from the Marine Hotel and some foraging for nettles, sea kale, dandelions etc. This will be packaged into fresh food boxes with “Hello Fresh” type recipe suggestions for people to take on a pay what you can basis. There will be a small fridge located in the Legion Hall for some items but they mainly hope to provide root crops that store longer without refrigeration. They also hope to have co-operation from bakeries to get bread ingredients in bulk for some members of the group to make bread for all. The plan for the land behind the Marine (which is accessed from the path between Roome Bay and Castle Walk, not through the Marine) is to involve children in growing and harvesting thus providing a safe after school productive activity to promote a healthier relationship with food in the “land larder”. Borana has managed to obtain a grant to assist with the set up of fencing and hen coop and hope families without gardens will also come to enjoy the space for picnics. The group of primary school parents behind this also hope to set up a toy library for beach toys (buckets, spades, shrimp nets, kites) to be borrowed. Dan’s Goods have been very supportive.

Treasurer’s report

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|---|----------|
| Balance at 31 st March 2023 was | £1839.38 |
| Less the sign for tree to be planted for coronation | £48.95 |
| Balance | £1790.43 |
| Less crab apple tree | £63.00 |
| Closing Balance | £1727.43 |

AP also reports that Fife council have confirmed that their insurance will cover the event at Beechwalk Park at no extra cost.

Action EH to relocate rowan tree from proposed site of planting.

Update – Crail Community Partnership

- Funding for treating the flooring in the Community Hall is confirmed
- Replacement Toilet at Roome Bay is still at the thinking stage – the plans as proposed by the consultants would cost about £500k. DG has been to look at the modular toilets at Kingsbarns that cost only about £36k and function well but a similar scheme at Elie is very unsightly so we may need to do something in between.
- Part of the old blacksmiths (near the public toilets on High Street) may be coming up for sale but part is retained for a planned extension to the adjoining cottage so although the site is long it has a very narrow frontage and no rear access and is in the middle of the conservation area so could be very expensive to demolish and develop.

Crail Preservation Society have received a complaint about potential fire risk of the piles of wood in Denburn Wood and Fife council’s fire officer is coming to take a look. JB noted that she had been approached by a 16 year-old asking if the burning barrel could be used by anyone for

a bonfire to which she replied “No” but others may not ask so, for safety, the barrel should be removed.

AOCB

- ENCEPT are willing to do a presentation about emergency procedures and will be invited to do so at the start of May’s meeting.
- Community council elections are on the 28th September and the new council needs to have a formal meeting within 28 days thereafter which would be before the next scheduled meeting of CCC so it is proposed to have that meeting on 2nd October – possibly in place of the 25th September meeting.
- Crail Settlement Trust is an aggregate of many small trusts set up over many centuries in favour of various charitable causes (e.g. providing shrouds for pauper burials) and aggregated by High Court order and now managed by Fife Council. The trustees are the three local councillors as the original aim was to provide charitable funding to individuals whilst preserving privacy. The income is believed to be about £2500 but the accounts show that around 66% of disbursements went on expenses like management fees rather than to a charitable target. JW noted that when he tried to apply to CGF for a small sum for repairing benches on Castle Walk he was told to apply to the settlement fund for small sums – even though not a charitable cause. Similarly £1000 was used for the repainting of the Town Hall. Cllr AH has picked this up and passed on to Fife Council. It is noted that Cllr Dillon sits on the audit committee that passed this level of expenditure without question. Note that the Charities Commission expects fund raising charities to spend no more than 10% on management expenses so the Settlement Fund that has no fund raising expenditure should surely have expenses under 10%.
- we were asked whether there was a community power supply that could be borrowed for the forthcoming coronation celebrations in Beechwalk park to supply the PA system for the choir. The only one known about belongs to Jack Jarvis but power supplies can be readily hired from the garden equipment company on the outskirts of St Andrews. Also the legality of using open buckets for fund raising on the day was questioned, a better idea would be to use a lidded catering tub with a slot cut in the lid.

Councillors Reports

No councillors were present – Alycia Hayes sent her apologies due to clash with Kingsbarns CC meeting. Sean Dillon sent an email apology after the start of the meeting due to a family emergency – he sent his report also as follows:

Safety Barrier at ‘The Beehive’:

- The order for a replacement has been made and will be replaced as soon as it comes into stock. I have been advised that this may take up to 12 weeks, but it is hoped that it will arrive at the council’s depot before then.

Potholes:

- Officers are to visit Crail this week & will be inspecting all sites reported in email from CCC.

Entry Sign:

- Following the end of the embargo on new orders with the start of the new financial year, I have been advised that these will be installed over the next 3 months as is standard for any replacement sign order.

Clock Tower:

- Access to the tower is currently prohibited due to health & safety concerns, therefore the clock cannot be amended to the correct time. I have a meeting to discuss the situation with the building inspector in the coming week.

The meeting closed at 20:20.

Date of next meeting & AGM: Monday 29th May 2023 – 7:15pm in Crail Town Hall

For Action:

- relocation of small rowan tree - EH
- management and expenses on CGF and Crail Settlement Fund – cllr AH
- survey of mobile phone coverage including recent emergency alert trial in Crail Matters – MT
- similar on Facebook – EH