



ROYAL BURGH OF CRAIL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of 29th May 2023
7.15pm Crail Town Hall**

Present: Chair: David Jerdan (DJ), Erica Hollis (EH), Colin Morrison (CM), Andrew Purves (AP), Max Taylor (MT), Jenni Britain (JB)

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

Apologies: John Wilson (JW), Alan Hood (AH)

Three members of the public

Welcome: DJ opened the meeting and welcomed all, especially Gillian Duncan from ENCEPT (East Neuk Communities Emergency Planning Team) here to speak about what ENCEPT does.

Summary of Gillian Duncan's talk

ENCEPT works with Fife Council's Resilience team to both prepare for and aid recovery from emergency situations whether county wide like Covid or localised like coastal flooding or missing persons. Their role does not conflict with first line support such as ambulance, fire & rescue or police but follows up with longer term support such as providing places of refuge for anyone who has had to leave their home. The team consists of people with a variety of skills and expertise, e.g. Gillian herself is a first responder and another member, Michael, is a lifeboatman. The East Neuk centre in Anstruther is a designated rest centre so the manager there is part of ENCEPT team.

ENCEPT have insurance for activities like shovelling snow, pumping out floods or removing fallen trees and can provide equipment for communities such as sandbags. They have 24x7 emergency help line which has an answering machine that will email members at any time so they can react much faster than Fife Council's resilience team particularly if emergency occurs at weekend or evening. Each East Neuk village has been provided with a first aid kit and an emergency kit bag containing such items as a loud hailer – these can be used in non emergency situations when required as long as ENCEPT is informed of any items that need to be replaced.

During Covid it became clear that Fife Council's Resilience team were unable to contact or mobilise other sections of Fife Council – after ENCEPT highlighted the problem, Fife Council have addressed the issue and are now much better coordinated according to Gillian and have also set up a forum for emergency groups.

ENCEPT team run tabletop exercises on different emergency situations including missing persons and evacuating a cruise liner. Community councils are advised to contact ENCEPT first in any emergency although this can be done in parallel with contacting FC resilience team if preferred but obviously first line support from Police, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance or Coast Guard should be called on where appropriate.

ENCEPT have a building near Waid Academy as an equipment store and after the community council elections in September will be contacting the new Community Councils for lists of key

holders to halls along with their capacity and facilities. Individual village resilience teams should maintain a list of tractor owners, boarding houses etc.

DJ thanked Gillian who then left the meeting.

Approval of last minutes:

The minutes of the 24th April meeting were approved

Matters Arising

- The rowan tree from Beechwalk park entrance has been relocated to Pinkerton Triangle (EH)
- Management and expenses Common Good Fund and Crail Settlement trust – Cllr AH has circulated reports by email. A further query regarding whether the rent from the Town Hall is correctly added to the CGF account (there was no obvious entry for it in the reports sent out) has been asked by Cllr AH but no reply has yet been received.
- Survey of mobile phone coverage including recent emergency alert trial – MT received 50-60 responses which showed that more than half of respondents in the old town & Pinkerton area received the emergency alert. Cllr AH suggested Fife Council might put up a booster mast but they are waiting for the Scottish Government rural network roll out due by end of 2025. However given the fact that all the main suppliers' websites show coverage all around Crail as "good" suggests nothing will come from that. Also the response that CM received that if he has another similar problem (not being able to get a signal for 999 call) in future he should report it again shows that EE doesn't recognise a general issue here. It was suggested that as many as possible be encouraged to report problems to their mobile supplier to give weight to it being a general, not one-off, issue. MT to write something for Crail Matters and EH to put same on facebook.

Chairman's report

- Ground Developments held a second drop in event and presentation in Crail Community hall on 29 April in advance of their pre planning application for Crail airfield. About 35 members of the public attended and there was some lively debate.
- There was a fire in an electrical junction box in the pavement beside Balcomie green on 29 April. There was widespread loss of power for a considerable period of time and concerns regarding inability to raise a phone signal to contact the emergency services, and lack of support for elderly and vulnerable people. CM noted that there was another issue with the lack of communication between Scottish Power and Fife Council in that the Fife Council resurfacing team were completely unaware of the road works instigated by Scottish Power to repair the result of this outage until CM managed (with difficulty) to find who to contact in Fife Council himself. Even then the FC resurfacing team had to move Scottish Power's traffic lights out of the way but leaving them on but pointing in random direction.
- Balcomie road was resurfaced 9/12 May. White lines and speed advisory markings have not been reinstated.
- The various outstanding repair and other issues that were reported are all still outstanding (Barrier reinstatement at Beehive, potholes, pavement adjacent to chip shop and in Roome Bay Ave, Town Hall clock, street sign replacement, new entrance signs etc etc). Some further repairs have been made in the village centre very recently but excluding the large hole by the Honeypot or the missing railings at the Beehive. Nor the pavement by Albany house on St Andrews Road – Cllr AH has chased that and it is on the list to be done this FY. EH notes that the replacement sign on Nethergate that now wrongly reads "South Nethergate" instead of "Nethergate South" is still an outstanding issue.

- A crab apple tree was planted at the entry to Beechwalk park and the plaque commemorating the Kings coronation unveiled by it at the Sunday party.

Treasurer's report

Balance at 30st April 2023 was £1,727.43

There were no transactions in May so

Closing Balance £1,727.43

Update – Crail Community Partnership

- Crail Community Hall will be closed next week for flooring treatment.

Two CGF applications have gone to council but not back to CCC for approval yet. The first is for £3114 as half the cost of repairs to the Doocot and the second is for £532 for further Crail redecoration for the new galvanised gates and the handrail near the Doocot to be painted black to match the rest. The meeting agreed we approve these.

Councillors Reports

Cllr FC – the Roome Bay tree stump is on the list of works as is weed spraying, which has been delayed but is now proceeding village by village. EH noted that many of the weeds have already set seed so this will be somewhat ineffectual.

Cllr SD – the head teacher post has been filled by Nicola Wallace who seems happy to continue with the initiatives of her predecessor.

Also in the clock tower, the bell support is damaged making access dangerous and Fife council are waiting for an expert from Derby to take assess and advise.

Cllr AH – there have been a series of incidents in Dorward Drive with an adult playing loud music, lying in the street, trying doors and frightening children – so much so that parents have kept children locked indoors despite fine weather. Police took the perpetrator into custody then bailed him on condition he stays away from Dorward Drive – but incidents started again as soon as he was freed as he is actually housed on Dorward Drive by Kingdom Homes. He had a court hearing today but anyone seeing any anti-social behaviour in the area, however minor, is advised to report it to the Police so they can make a report to Kingdom Housing.

Cllr AH is also going to hold a meeting about short term lets in the Community Hall in 15th June – it is open to all East Neuk residents.

Cllr AH also reports that Fife Council trading standards have been carrying out a survey of food pricing and have discovered up to 14% inaccuracy in some supermarkets between marked prices and what rings up on the till – the average bill can be 10% wrong and smaller shops are not immune from the issue either and the errors are mostly in the shop not the customers favour.

Fife council also has a team working to eradicate damp and mould from council housing. And they are increasing the cost of burials and cremations by 5%. Fife council are also in favour of banning disposable vapes.

AOCB

- There is a nationwide coastal cleanup day on 8th June but Crail is postponing till 10th which is a Saturday as many volunteers work on weekdays.
- The Junior Community Council has been elected by the Primary school and will have its inaugural meeting on 23rd April, to which our Fife councillors have been invited and plan to attend. They are fund raising to buy baking equipment so they can make and sell cakes to raise funds for a raised bed garden at the school. All pupils moving on from Primary this year will contribute a plant each (JB)

- JB also noted that the soft opening of the Coop community garden went well and parents can be reassured that the Marine Hotel has no involvement with it.
- CM has been pushing for Crail to get a drinking water tap – Fife Council have ~40 to roll out by the end of the year but have very specific requirements such as proximity to suitable mains, which exclude the harbour area unfortunately. Potential sites are at the corner of Nethergate nearest the Doocot, near the cash point and near the Shoregate – they will do mockups of these and leave CCC to decide which to go for.
- CM also notes that parking at the harbour is still a major problem – not only making life difficult for fishermen but also potentially dangerous as cars try to turn close to the harbour wall edge. It is not clear what can be done unless a lockable barrier is erected to which only genuine harbour users (not holiday home parkers or beach users) have a key.
- EH notes that there are still complaints about the gravel slope on Marketgate between the Kirk and Kirk hall with at least one elderly person have slipped and fallen in the last month, fortunately escaping with only minor injuries, no fractures. The gravel is also difficult to impossible for wheelchairs and push chairs. Again it is not clear what can be done but FC should come out and take a look at least (Action Cllr AH).
- JB noticed that the sale of the smithy seems to be progressing with a recent visit of an architect.
- The meeting was asked to note that Crail in Bloom have removed the rotten crab display - a new sign Welcome to Crail with coat of arms is supposedly coming from Fife Council. Crail in Bloom have also tidied up the cobbled area by the chip shop/post van parking.
- A question was raised as to why a crab apple tree was planted in Beech walk park – why not another Beech (as was there originally before it blew down). CCC should ensure that future new trees in Beechwalk park were actually beeches.

The meeting closed at 20:35.

Date of next meeting & AGM: Monday 26th June 2023 – 7:15pm in Crail Town Hall

For Action:

- Town Hall rent – CGF? (Cllr AH)
- Urge residents with poor mobile phone coverage to report same to their suppliers to apply some pressure (MT – Crail Matters, EH – Facebook)
- Ask Fife council to examine the problem of the gravel slope between Kirk and Kirk Hall and suggest solutions (Cllr AH)