



Royal Burgh of Crail and District Community Council

**Minutes of 26th Jun 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), John Wilson (JW)

Councillors: Cllr Fiona Corps (FC) and Cllr Alicia Hayes (CAH)

Apologies: Cllr Sean Dillon (SD), Alan Hood (AH), Dennis Gowans

Three members of the public

Approval of last minutes:

The minutes of the 29th May meeting were approved

Matters Arising

- Mobile phone coverage – CM has contacted EE again and after threatening to report them to the ombudsman for selling under false pretences (of good coverage in Crail) has been promised that a “flying engineer” will investigate further. EH reports that a resident of Pinkerton road was told by Vodafone to use Wi-Fi calling – which is no use unless you are in the house and your Wi-Fi is working i.e. not during a powercut for example.
- A query regarding whether the rent from the Town Hall is correctly added to the CGF account has still not been received by Cllr AH who will chase Paul Vaughn again.
- Gravel slope – Cllr AH received a totally inadequate response “We must remove the gravel from the footway, as this is a safety issue. Remedy will simply consist of depositing it back where it came from. We could be held liable if someone fell on this on the footway and were injured.” EH noted that the gravel on the pavement had been brushed back this morning but by this evening was back on the pavement but, in any case, that is not the main problem. Cllr AH to chase again and ask for a plan of action.

Chairman’s report

- Several complaints about lack of grass cutting in public areas at Roome Bay and Castle Walk at the beginning of the month. Parks Dept did respond quickly.
- Martin Dibley of Visit East Neuk will attend our August meeting to talk about replacing and updating the visitor map.
- The long awaited reinstatement of the pavement in Roome bay avenue has been done, albeit adjacent roots were not dealt with. All the other items previously listed, remain outstanding. FC said that the barrier by the Beehive is to be re-instated next week and the large pothole dealt with at the same time also the badly repaired sunken pavement east of the chip shop will be looked at.

- It is good to see that the ramp in Denburn has been rebuilt and the white lining and speed roundels re-painted there. It would be helpful if the same were to happen on St Andrews Road and the approach from Anstruther – Cllr FC will ask.

Treasurer's report

No income or expenditure but the delay on adding signatories turns out to be a missed step online by AP – he will restart the process.

Update – Crail Community Partnership

- DJ says the flooring treatment in the Community Hall was completed on time and looks very good – it will need some maintenance in a year.
- While bookings for weddings etc and the price they pay are on the increase there will still be a small funding gap to cover employment costs.
- Plans to increase the size of the Community Hall car park are proceeding slowly.
- The height barrier at Kilminning has been vandalised again and a load of rubbish dumped there, repairs are underway.

Items for discussion

Fife Local Place Plan – there is a subcommittee working on updating and extending the outcome of the 2019 Charette to cover more recent plans such as the proposed airfield development. They plan to have a draft version available in early Autumn for public consultation, which will be amended to reflect the consultation outcomes and submitted in late November (due for January 2024 but avoiding Christmas etc). It is very important that all residents contribute ideas to the local place plan as it can be used to ask the Scottish Government to intervene where it seems Fife Council is approving planning which contravenes the place plan. The idea is to give locals more say and developers less on what is built. Cllr AH told us that councillors had been told not to get involved with planning issues as they could then be accused of bias and barred from voting in planning committee. This leaves residents with only the “planning portal” to raise issues. Both councillors present feel that this leaves them effectively gagged by Fife council officials.

Junior Community Council – JB told us that each class elected members and their elected chair pulled no punches when asking questions of Cllr AH who attended along with DJ (and both received a handmade thank you card from the Junior CC). The questions raised by the children were taken to Fife Council who gave very unhelpful answer which she is loath to take back.

Question raised by Junior CC

Why has the new school shed still not been erected after almost a year?

Why is the school not better maintained?

Why is the playground tarmac as it hurts when we fall?

Do we need permission for raised beds?

Fife council response

Ask the school

The janitor should ask the buildings inspector for any repairs but budgets are tight and Crail school was painted in recent years

Tarmac is hard wearing and needs little maintenance

No but if the children get the wood and soil then the maintenance team will help build them

Fife council also told Cllr AH that the carpark would soon be given marked spaces (as if the children care).

Portioning of school dinners was also discussed – at the moment dinners are cooked centrally at Madras and sent out to be reheated (ideally they would be cooked on site but there is no budget for that). Everyone from tiny 5 year-olds to hulking 11 year-olds ready to move up to secondary get the same size plateful as a result of which there is a “mountain” of waste. Being able to ask for less (or more) of this or that item might go some way to amelioration but Fife Council’s response is that it is nutritionally balanced.

Overall the children and parents (who couldn’t attend due to working hours) are enthusiastic that it should continue. MT suggested we should thank the head teacher, who is sad to be leaving, for all her initiatives. The school roll is shrinking with 19 going on to secondary and only 3 new intakes but not yet below the critical point for school closure (80 pupils).

Also the new playpark near the school is scheduled for next year, funding is 88% in place with a grant of £44,884 awarded from Common Good Fund.

Harbour – CM reports that it is deteriorating daily. He has still not managed to pin the harbour master down to a site meeting although weed killer has now been sprayed on the weeds. It would be easy for volunteers to tidy up and sweep clean but Fife Council will not allow this (citing insurance and Health and Safety – although the community council insurance would cover). They were promised a giant skip “once the boats were at sea again in April/May” in which to deposit damaged and unusable lobster pots and other fishing gear but this has still not materialised. The council claim it is because one “rogue” fisherman has not paid his harbour dues and his equipment is lying all over the place. There are creels (old and new) lying everywhere including blocking access to two bins and the slipway – DJ has had to rescue some on the slipway from being washed off by rising tide.

Cllr AH is still chasing the issue of parking at the harbour and suggests that perhaps if lockable bollards are not financially viable perhaps there should be a permit parking system with valid harbour users getting a free permit to display on their vehicles and a Parking by Permit only sign erected. Other suggestions include making Shoregate no entry from High Street but there are already too many signs around there. Signposting the harbour for walkers is poor and there is the ever present issue of not enough parking anywhere.

Community Council Elections – the timetable has been published in Crail Matters and our Facebook Page but briefly:

Community Council elections this year will take place on Thursday 28th September 2023.

Deadline to apply to register to vote to be able to stand as a candidate 10 July

Deadline to apply to register to vote to be able to vote in any poll 10 August

Submission of nomination papers for election 31 August

Publication of Statements as to Persons Nominated 5 Sept.

Councillors Reports

Cllr FC – as noted above work to re-instate barrier at Beehive, repair pot-hole and investigate botched repair to pavement are scheduled for first week in July.

Cllr AH – notes that the summer recess begins at the end of June. Cafe Inc is back for free meals during school holidays visiting a different East Neuk village each day. Also for free family activities see <https://go.fife.scot/>

Cllr SD - **“Welcome to Crail” Signs:**

- Having chased this up, the work order is now with the operations team and a target date for installation is mid-July.

ATM Removal:

- Having been notified that the ATM at the old RBS branch had been removed, I have been in contact with RBS to clarify whether they have plans to replace it. They have confirmed that they do not.
- I have contacted the Co-op to ask if they would consider installing one that could be accessed 24 hours a day but have yet to receive a reply. If anyone knows of any businesses that might consider installing one, please pass me their contact details.

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Cuts:

- Having been notified of the SFRS decision to remove a fire engine from both Methil & Glenrothes Fire Stations as well as the Height Appliance at Kirkcaldy in September, I have written to the Head of Service Delivery & the Area Commander of SFRS and the Scottish Government's Minister for Victims & Community Safety to express concerns that this decision will leave the East Neuk dangerously unprotected in the event of a fire, flood, RTC etc. I encourage all community councils to do the same and I am happy to provide email addresses.

Unredeemed Energy Vouchers:

- Households with older, non-digital pre-payment meters have been receiving energy bill support vouchers as part of the Government's cost of living support scheme either by post, text or email. However, the vouchers, worth £66 each, will expire on the 30th of June and Energy Action Scotland have found that just under a quarter of the vouchers issued in Fife are unredeemed. These vouchers are estimated to have a value of £912,780 so I would urge anyone who has received an energy support voucher but have yet to cash them to do so as soon as possible.

"Welcome to the East Neuk" Signage:

- Following several complaints regarding the state of the "Fisherlass" signs at the entrances to the East Neuk, I have been working with Fife Tourism Partnership to come up with a plan to replace them. As many of you will be aware, the current image is lost and so a decision has been taken to give the community councils of the East Neuk & the local tourism association input as to what will replace them. The options are:

An updated Fisherlass image

An image of an East Neuk landmark

Remove the image aspect from the signs completely

- If the Community Council could decide which they prefer and communicate this decision to me, I would be most appreciative.
- Once all the community councils have had their say, several designs of the option favoured by the majority of community councils will be drawn up for the public to decide which they prefer.

NE Fife Housing Summit:

- MSP for North East Fife, Willie Rennie, will be hosting a housing summit in St Andrews on the 30th of June 2023. There are to be discussion with academics, homelessness charities, house builders, STL operating associations & the Scottish Government Minister for

Housing. The community council should have received an invitation last week & I hope that the village will be represented.

AOCB

- The hedge by the footpath from Arrighi Crescent to Lamont Drive is very overgrown, obstructing passage and needs to be cut (as happens every year). Kevin will show Cllr FC after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:15.

There is no meeting in July.

Date of next meeting : Monday 28th August 2023 – 7:15pm in Crail Town Hall

For Action:

- Town Hall rent – CGF? (Cllr AH)
- Gravel slope between Kirk and Kirk Hall requires a site visit and proposed plan of action (Cllr AH)
- Overgrown hedge – identify property owner and require them to take action (Cllr FC)
- White lining and 20mph repeaters/roundels on St Andrews Road and entry from Anstruther (Cllr FC)
- Harbour clean up BEFORE sea queen -
- Mobile phone coverage (CM)