



Royal Burgh of Crail and District Community Council

**Minutes of 28th August 2023
7.15pm Crail Town Hall**

Present: Chair: David Jerdan (DJ), Erica Hollis (EH), Colin Morrison (CM), Andrew Purves (AP), John Wilson (JW), Dennis Gowans (DG for Crail Community Partnership)

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

Apologies: Alan Hood (AH), Max Taylor (MT), Jenni Britain (JB),

Six members of the public

Welcome to all.

DJ introduced Martin Dibley from Visit East Neuk one of the six local tourism associations in Fife. Malcolm addressed the meeting about the current project to update the village maps – Crail's is attached to the side of the Town Hall – which have been in place for 25-30 years and can be sadly out of date. Visit East Neuk have funding in place and have begun with Anstruther where the map is almost complete and want to move on to Crail, utilising the same artist and therefore matching style to Anstruther's but with wording and what attractions to include to be agreed with Crail Community Council. AP & DG would like Crail Museum to be included in the discussion. It was also felt that a copy of the map should be displayed at the harbour as that is often where visitors first head. Malcolm said a copy could be made for around £60 but that planning permission would need to be obtained for anything other than direct replacement as per the one on Town Hall. Action DJ & CM to explore options for harbour.

Approval of last minutes:

The minutes of the 26th June meeting were approved

Matters Arising

- Town Hall rent – Cllr AH said the rent was now being directly credited to the Common Good Fund (CGF) and future statements should show this.
- Gravel slope – Cllr AH has asked for a review. EH noted that she had been speaking to the council operative who is currently tasked with sweeping the gravel up from the road who was pretty fed up having to do it every visit in the full knowledge that within hours it will be dragged back into the road by cars. He asked why the entry points to Kirkmay House and the Kirk could not be fully tarmacked like the entries and exits to the gravel parking area on the other side of the road. (Action Cllr AH to keep pressing for site visit by road engineer).
- Overgrown hedge – this has now been cut.

- White lining and roundels on St Andrews road and entry from Anstruther – Cllr FC has raised this and is awaiting a report. EH noted that, finally, the sign at the top of Shoregate erroneously saying 30mph has been removed.
- Harbour clean-up prior to Sea Queen was achieved but there it is an ongoing issue, some under legal restraint. CM noted that someone attempting to clean up after a party on the beach had overfilled one of the bins which gulls had promptly dragged out – the other two bins were empty but hidden by piles of creels.
- Mobile phone coverage – CM had been told that the carrier he had been in contact with is going to do a survey but not when. Other carriers still need to be addressed.
- Cllr AH pointed out that parking issues at the harbour are ongoing and we need an official from the council to come up with some proposals – her own thoughts are possibly free permits for genuine users and signs saying permit parking only or lockable barrier. Another suggestion from the floor was that there should be No Entry signs with exceptions rather than the current signs. A further suggestion was making the top of shoregate one-way away from the harbour – locals will know how to get by Castle Street but visitors should be put off. However the problems of taking anything larger than a car via alternative route (due largely to parking!) could upset the genuine users (who may for example be towing a boat trailer).

Chairman's report

- Crail Harbour was finally cleaned up just before the Sea Queen weekend.
- There are still issues with the number of creels in the harbour and car misuse.
- The barrier at the Beehive was finally replaced on 27 July and 2 bollards have been situated on the corner by the now defunct cash machine.
- I met with a sub group from Anstruther/Kilrenny to discuss the potential Kilrenny/Crail, cycle/Walkway. We need to continue to support and engage with this. Fife council will only maintain a multi use path that adjoins the road which rules out using the coast path but some farmers are resistant to losing land bordering the road.
- I met with Colin Davidson (Fife Council grounds maintenance) to review current position. They will
 - Increase the number of grass cuts at the football pitch on Beechwalk Park during summer.
 - Address excessive vegetation growth in the burn running through the putting green and Victoria gardens
 - Put in place regular grass cutting below Castle Walk next season.
 - Instigate a weed management programme in Marketgate and at the footpath and steps at Roome bay.
- Concern at the condition of the metal/wooden bridge over the burn in Victoria gardens. This may well need to be replaced.
- Complaints regarding the number of motor homes/caravanettes parking, sometimes overnight in Nethergate. Signs like the ones in Market gate specifically saying “no

overnight parking for caravans and motor homes” should be erected although these are, in fact, only advisory. EH pointed out that now none of the 3 “caravan” parks in Crail take tourers by the night people arriving late have little option. Although this is not a problem unique to Crail.

- Thanks to all the Community Councillors, past and present, who have served during the last 5 years, especially John Wilson who served as treasurer for a number of years and Erica who has kept meticulous minutes of our meetings. Serving as a community councillor is a rewarding, but also sometimes a thankless task, but nonetheless essential to ensure that our community voice is heard and represented.

A member of the public brought up another problem in Marketgate that had also been raised by someone else via CCC Facebook page – that of overgrown trees, some of which may be over 100 years old and getting dangerously large. Some are blocking out the light from street lights, others have branches scraped off when large vehicles (e.g. pantechincons) have occasion to access houses and some have branches hanging so low they cause pedestrians to have to step out into the street to avoid them. DJ says this is not a householder problem as the land is common good land so the arborist needs to be contacted about having the trees cut back or pollarded. (action Cllr SD)

Treasurer’s report

The starting balance of 26/6/23 was £1727.43

Income received from

Common Good Fund for paintwork	£532
Helen Main fund for playpark	£2000

Balance as of 28/8/23 is £4259.43 of which

unrestricted is	£1727.43
restricted is	£2532.00

Update – Crail Community Partnership

- A major proposal is underway to fund development coordinators for the community hall and the CCP owned land. This is a test case as CGF has not been used to pay salaries in the past although the new guidelines do include the possibility. Income is steadily increasing, partly due to the wedding bookings “inherited” from Fife Council are only paying £500 whilst CCP are charging £1500 with potential to rise further when we find our place in the market. Also numbers using the community hall has tripled in the last couple of years so ultimately the post will be self-funding. A similar proposal has also been submitted to D-TAS – Scottish government funding for community development but as it will only fund 5 posts for the whole of Scotland are chances may not be high, although Crail is seen to be well ahead in community engagement so may stand a higher chance than expected. AP thinks there should be a lot more detail such as CCP accounts and budget attached to the CGF proposal before CCC should approve it. DJ suggests this should be held over to the next meeting when more documentation can be supplied to the incoming CCC members and the outcome of the D-TAS may be known.

- The transfer of common good land under a community asset transfer (CAT) is not much more complex than other CATs with only the final additional step of having to go to court but this is apparently not difficult.
- Crail Museum is going to prepare an exhibition and presentation about the Common Good to increase public understanding of what it is, how it works and what is included.

Items for discussion

- **Fife Local Place Plan** – the draft is near completion and it is planned to hold a public consultation on 21st October. A CGF application for £4300 was approved by the meeting to produce a revised local place plan and publicity material.
- **Coastal Path hole** – below Downie Terrace has been filled in by Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT) but repairs need to be made to the sea wall to prevent further deterioration. Documents from the Crown Estate clearly show that Fife Council (and not the house-holders) are responsible for the sections including and between Roome Bay and Castle Walk. (action CM & DJ to meet with Robbie Blyth)
- **Community Council Elections** – there is till 4pm on Thursday to stand for CCC. It is believed that currently there are 7-8 standing for a capacity of 10. If no more than 10 stand they will automatically become the new CCC. If 11 or more stand then there will be an election. The new Crail community council will meet on 1st October and be chaired by one of our Fife councillors until they decide roles.

Councillors Reports

Cllr SD – Jet Ski Launches:

- Following the complaint made by a visitor to the village about jet skis, he has contacted the harbours team to ask what regulations are in place regarding using the harbour to launch them. He was informed that jet skis fall under the definition of a "vessel" and are treated the same as any other user under the byelaws and therefore are able to use the slipways and navigate through the harbour areas as long as the byelaws aren't broken.
- The Lead Harbour Master will monitor the issue raised and will check in with harbour users on a regular basis regarding any instances of jet ski use and any inappropriate behaviour resulting from this to monitor the situation. If there are members of the community with concerns regarding behaviour, they should either call the Lead Harbour Master or email the date, time, nature of the occurrence to the Harbours@fife.gov.uk so a record of such occurrences can be kept.

Crown Estate Funding:

Since 2019, new arrangements were established to allow coastal communities to benefit from the net revenue generated by the Scottish Crown Estate marine assets. The funding is to be used for expenditure that specifically benefits coastal communities with individual local authorities making decisions on the funding of projects and being transparent and accountable to their communities and others for the expenditure.

Projects can request funding for up to £40,000 and should focus on community priorities, the priorities of Climate Action Fife and meet at least one of the following investment priorities:

- Environment enhancement;
- Emissions reduction/removal of waste;
- Jobs;
- Tourism;
- Skills development;
- Diversification projects;
- Investment for a community purpose;
- Climate change adaptation.

The deadline for applications is Monday, 4th of September 2023 and to request an application form, please email community.investment@fife.gov.uk

Parks & Open Spaces Consultation:

Fife Council wants to know about the quantity, quality and accessibility of outdoor space in Fife for those under 18. This survey will help us decide what opportunities and aspirations there are for open space and play areas. It will also allow us to remove barriers where they exist.

The consultation can be found at <https://www.fife.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-diaries/have-your-say-...-on-fifes-play-and-openspaces>.

Cllr FC – the Rotary club fund-raising coastal walk long version from Earlsferry and short version from Anstruther both terminate in Crail on 4th September so expect an influx of walkers that day.

Eligible people should have been contacted about winter 'flu jabs by now

Cllr AH -

The Waid Academy full-time head teacher post has now been advertised with the expectation that the successful candidate should be in place for the start of the January term.

- The road sign at the roundabout in front of the Golf Hotel is dangerously corroded. Fife council want to remove it immediately then commission a replacement leaving no sign for several months. She has asked if they can instead strengthen the existing sign until the replacement is ready. A spokesman for the Crail Traders association says that the proprietor of the Golf Hotel would probably prefer for the sign to be removed immediately and not replaced as it detracts from the frontage of the only A* listed building in Crail. DG commented that the sign had been depicted in a TV program some years ago as one of the worst examples of road sign placement. Cllr AH will ask Fife council to hold fire on this pending a meeting of the traders and others to discuss what and where any sign should be located.
- Council housing – apparently the average length of time for a Fife council house to remain empty between one tenant leaving and another being allocated is 53 days. She has asked that this be improved given the shortage of rented housing generally in Fife.
- The Common Good consultation – it is important that we all take time to read the proposals and make comment on them – feeding back to her any concerns.

AOCB

- Scottish Water have still not come back with proposals for siting of water dispensers.
- Rural homes burden – Cllr SD will send the document to the enquirer.
- Cycle rack locations at Beech Walk park, the eastern end of Nethergate and by the railings at the Co-op were chosen but nothing has happened – Cllr FC to chase up.
- paddling/crabbing pool is once more fully draining – this is to be discussed at CCP meeting on Tuesday 29th. The proposed solution is to do a community asset transfer then CCP can apply for funding to do a full repair. Failing that John Rodigan is a useful contact for tidal pools and was very helpful to Pittenweem and Cellardyke.
- The wire cage around the navigation light at the harbour has collapsed and has been referred to the harbour authority.
- The hatch over the sewage tanks at Roome Bay below the Doocot was found open again by CM (and also reported to Crail Museum) who immediately put barriers in place and contacted Scottish Water emergency helpline – Scottish water did come and close it but need to be pressed to effect a permanent solution to this recurring problem before some child falls in and drowns. (action CM)

The meeting closed at 20:40.

Date of next meeting : Monday 2nd October 2023 – 7:15pm in Crail Town Hall for new council.

For Action:

- Gravel slope between Kirk and Kirk Hall requires a site visit and proposed plan of action (Cllr AH)
- White lining and 20mph repeaters/roundels on St Andrews Road and entry from Anstruther (Cllr FC)
- parking issues at the harbour (Cllr AH)
- Trees in Marketgate – arborist (Cllr SD)
- overnight parking of campervans in Nethergate – signs (Cllr SD)
- sewage tanks/Scottish Water (CM)
- potential tourism map for harbour (CM/DJ)