

**Minutes of meeting of Royal Burgh of Crail & District Community Council
Monday 29th April 2024 in Crail Town Hall at 7.30pm**

Welcome and apologies.

Chair Max Taylor (MT), Andrew Purves (AP), Linda Sneddon (LS), Fiona Budd (FB), Catriona Mann (CMA) Colin Morrison (CM) Jacquie Salkeld (JS)

Attending Cllr Alycia Hayes (Cllr AH), Robbie Blyth Fife Coast & Countryside Trust (FCCT)

And 26 members of the public including Dennis Gowans (DG) for CCP.

Apologies - David Jerdan (DJ), Jenni Brittain (JB), Corps (Cllr FC), Cllr Sean Dillon (Cllr SD)

Minutes of meeting held on 24th March 2024 were approved.

Coastal path & coastline damage – Robbie Blyth, Fife Coast & Countryside Trust

Reiterated the informal coastal path between Kingsmill and Roomebay has multiple ownership. However it is a right of way. Not adopted by Fife Council (FC) so not an FC responsibility. A stakeholder based factorage long term approach suggested where the various stakeholders contribute to a factorage scheme and engage an appropriate contractor to maintain. However, the initial restoration, repairs and hardening will incur significant cost.

Proposed to set up a scoping working group to examine the options and costs. CMA will lead. CCC to consider seed funding for incidental costs.

Action Summary

Reinstallation of damaged and missing signs Cllr SD –

An inspector has visited Crail to assess the incorrectly installed gateway signs at the entrances to the village. The necessary repairs are to be included in the next round of sign replacements in the East Neuk which is currently being put together.

Damaged bollard at Beech Walk to be reinstated – Cllr AH

On schedule to be completed week of 6th May

Drain Clearing & flooding – Cllr SD

After complaints about the incomplete drain clearing, I have requested that council officers rearrange for drains on Rose Wynd, Marketgate North and St Andrews Road to be cleaned. I have yet to receive a date for this to be carried out, however, as soon as I do, I will inform the Community Council.

Entrances to Marketgate North - Cllr AH

Work has started on the path. Remaining area to be put forward for funding at next Area Committee meeting in May.

Sleepers at harbour beach – Cllr SD

The council is aware of the need to replace these sleepers, however, there are currently significant staffing issues in the Floods & Coastline team which mean it may be some time before these are replaced.

Town Hall clock CCC would really like it fixed. – Cllr SD

There appear to have been some crossed wires regarding the necessary repairs to the clock tower. The work carried out before Christmas was to replace the windows, not to resolve the ongoing structural issues with the tower. However, while the scaffolding was up, a preliminary structural survey was carried out and this recommended that initial works should be carried out to wire brush the metal fixings in the tower to allow the worst of the fixings to be identified and replaced. The survey further recommended that in the longer-term, once wire brushing had been done, that a detailed invasive survey be undertaken to identify the root cause of the failing metal fixings and come up with a strategy to mitigate against further issues. This may identify further repairs to be carried out.

I have been advised that it is difficult to put a timescale on when the clock will actually be operational due to a number of variables including the potential requirement for listed building consent. Officers anticipate, but cannot guarantee, that the initial works may take approximately 4-6 months. Thereafter, we would again appoint the specialist contractor to review and advise if the area may be considered safe again, and clock maintenance may be resumed, or whether further works are required. I have requested to be kept apprised of any further progress and will share any information with the Community Council in due course.

Objection to SPEN retrospective planning application – DJ

Drawings being made by SPEN for submission to Planning. Public will be able to comment in usual way via Planning portal once submitted.

Removal of spoil at cemetery car park - Cllr AH *Spoil Removed*

Funding for primary school playground – Cllr AH

FC claim no funds available. FC suggest fundraising by school. AH has objected on the basis parents should not need to fund school maintenance. Pending.

Chairman's Report 29th April 2024

Complaints received regarding permanent dip/pot hole on High St opposite Penman's.

Cllr SD - I have received several complaints regarding the state of the High Street outside Penman's. Having spoken with officers, they have arranged for a trial hole to be dug to investigate potential subsidence below the road which is believed to be the cause of the damage. Once this has been carried out, a plan will be put together to deal with the root cause and repair the road.

Treasurer's Report

No transactions to report

2024 Accounts to be submitted at next meeting

Update – Crail Community Partnership (CCP)

Levelling up funding application submitted for improvements to Community Hall. Major effort by four people to complete on time. Notification of result expected end May.

CCP working on Asset Transfer application process, at request of FC, for extension of car parking area at Beechwalk Park -

Support of CCC requested - **Supported**

Items for Discussion

Ground Developments Limited (GDL) Airfield Redevelopment Amendments

GDL's revised proposals were considered. There clearly emerged a majority view that the proposed access provisions were unwelcome, were significant in character, required further detailed consultation with the Crail community, and that the community should express its opposition to them; it was also noted however that no mechanism exists within the planning framework for the views of the community to be expressed. The proposals can be seen at <https://link.eastne.uk/planning>

These new proposals present new information about access, and about the consequences of that access, including destruction of the Scouts area, and major changes to traffic flow at and around Wormiston, with no evidence presented of alleviation of potential traffic problems caused by access to the site via Marketgate and Balcomie Road, the major source of concern around the original proposal. As far as we can ascertain there has been no consultation with either land owners or users about the proposal, with changes being dependent on landowners agreement at some future point.

These proposals constitute a major and significant change in the existing proposal. Under Section 32A Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 if there is there is a significant change in the description of the development for which planning permission is sought, the Planning Authority are not to agree to the variation, and a new proposal should be submitted. Such a new proposal would be subject to the full range of public consultation, allowing those people who are affected by the new proposals to make representations, and would of course be subject to the normal range of statutory consultations. Circular 3/2022 reinforces the point that if the planning authority considers the variation would result in a substantial change in the description of the development, they are not to agree to it.

It is clearly an unsatisfactory situation that significant changes to an existing planning application can be made without any capacity for community views to be expressed.

Proposed for CCC to formally object to the above - **Supported**

Further, the following was suggested:

1. Members of the community who object to these changes should write to the case officer scott.simpson@fife.gov.uk expressing their concerns, and emphasising that these

proposed changes represent a significant change in the application, and the planning authority should therefore require a new application.

2. Emails should be copied to Ken Gourley CEO Fife Council,() and to the Ward Councillors (cllr.alycia.hayes@fife.gov.uk, Cllr.Sean.Dillon@fife.gov.uk and Cllr.Fiona.Corps@fife.gov.uk)
3. In addition, concerned members of the community might also write to Willie Rennie MSP (willie.rennie.msp@parliament.scot) expressing their concerns that such a significant change should be proposed without any public consultation.

Crail Common Good Fund (MT)

Reiterated that CG assets belong to FC. However there are issues with the accuracy of the register of artefacts.

Harbour/Harbour Beach (CM)

Working group (WG) has met at the harbour and beach to consider the current state. Maintenance and general tidiness are still areas of concern. However, some tidying has recently taken place and there is an undertaking by some harbour users to keep the harbour tidy on an ongoing basis. There is evidence of loose rocks overhead and land slip at the West end of the beach. The 'gasworks' area has also received a recent major tidy up although there it is still showing signs of decay. There are household blue bins left within the harbour area which regularly cause problems when blown over and often on to the beach. Parking and traffic management remain a significant issue and the new signage has made do difference.

Going forward:

1. Follow up and monitor maintenance and tidiness - WG
2. Install a "Danger Loose Rocks Overhead" warning sign on bank at West end of beach - Cllr AH
3. Have the blue bins removed (to the relevant properties) - Cllr AH
4. Discuss with FC why Harbour Bye-laws are not fully enforced (e.g. Parking control, general tidiness, follow up on non-payment of harbour dues) - Cllr AH
5. Work with FC Tourism to integrate harbour and beach into Tourism strategy - WG
6. Resolve access to Gasworks area for Community amenities such as shower, changing, beach storage, sauna(?) etc. - WG

Community Speed Watch

Request by Community Police for endorsement of the above scheme by the CCC. Concerns were raised of volunteers being singled out and threatened and examples where this had occurred were given. It was felt by the meeting that the Police were effectively devolving their responsibility to the public inappropriately. It was stated that in surveys of speeding in built up areas it was often the residents that were culpable and so likely to know the volunteer speed watchers which can lead to confrontations. It was felt that traffic calming measures and speed cameras are more effective methods of achieving compliance.

Request for endorsement by CCC - **Not Supported**

Note: the current 20MPH limit trial is due to end in September of this year. Consideration of what will be put in place is timely.

Common Good Fund Application

Bowling Club application - Supported

Fife Councillors Reports

Cllr AH -

It is generally presumed that the East Neuk is an affluent area but there are pockets of deprivation. Rural poverty is often hidden and in Anstruther the average number of children and young people living in poverty is 20% whereas the Fife-wide average is 17%. Also 30%+ of pupils have additional support needs. Transport links are a challenge. It is difficult for children seeking to attend vocational training in-person at Fife College and other institutions. There are community buses available but no drivers for them.

AOCB

- Member of the public asked if there was awareness of the Knotweed at the beach harbour bank. *Agreed needed to be investigated - Cllr AH*

DONM – Mon 27th May 2024 – Crail Town Hall 7.30pm

Action List

Reinstallation of damaged and missing signs still outstanding - Cllr SD

Damaged bollard at Beech Walk to be reinstated – Cllr AH

Drain Clearing & flooding still incomplete– Cllr SD

Entrances to Marketgate North - *Funding*, Cllr AH

Sleepers at harbour beach – Cllr SD

Town Hall clock – still to be fixed. – Cllr SD

Objection to SPEN retrospective planning application – DJ

Complaint letter to SPEN – DJ

Funding for primary school playground – Cllr AH

Knotweed at Harbour beach - Cllr AH