

Crail Community Partnership SCO 49189

Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, 5th August 2025, 19:00, Community Hall

Attendees: Sarah Morrison, Dennis Gowans, Neil McKay, Neil MacGillivray, Aleks Scholz, Colin Morrison, Chris Broome, David Jerdan, Will Cresswell

Apologies: Mark Rogerson, Max Taylor

The Board acknowledged the excellent work by former Trustee John Freeth who sadly passed away in July 2025 - he will be missed in the community.

Minutes of meeting held July 1st: approved (minutes provided by AS)

Finances (NMG): The records for the Community Hall indicate that the hall is gradually becoming more viable. Further checks on the numbers for the hall are planned. The Co-op funding for the playground has not been claimed yet and is still on our books. The Trustees confirmed that the final report for last year's numbers are in order, which will be submitted to OSCR over the coming weeks.

Airfield matters (NMK): We heard an update on the listed building applications lodged for two buildings on the airfield, which are currently pending. Some objections from the community have been submitted. The overall problem here is that these applications raise the same issues that have been discussed in the framework of the previous larger application which was rejected.

Fife Plan and Action programme (SM): There are no news to report from the Action programme that was submitted earlier this year. We are now in the process of recruiting help for the implementation. For that we would like to involve existing members, acquire new members, and canvass the other community organisations in Crail. As part of that process, we will organise a 'Community Opportunities Summit' on October 25th, 10am to 1pm, in the Community Hall. The first step is to inform the existing members - a communication will go out within the next week.

DG explained that we have received an invitation from an organisation named Community Land Scotland which is meant to support community land owners. They ask us to host an event as part of a Community Ownership Festival. The proposal was made to align this event with our summit in October. We discussed the plans for these events a bit more in detail.

Along those lines, DJ reminded us that we still have an opening for a co-opted Trustee, suggestions welcomed.

Community Hall (DG): The sustainability project continues - a Common Good application is in process to acquire the equipment to assess heat losses in buildings. Further sustainability events similar to January are in planning, continuing the effort led by John Freeth. Several weddings are already booked for next year, at prices in the range of 2500£. Some funds transferred from the Crail Food Festival to the Crail Festival may be used to acquire chairs for the hall. A further plan is to build a storage space at the back of the hall. DG suggests to apply for funding from the Ribbonfield Trust for the cinema equipment in the hall, to widen the scope of the cinema events in the hall.

Land maintenance and acquisition:

WC gave an update on the tree planting plans. In autumn we want to plant further thousand trees to fill gaps in the current populations, another few thousand in next spring. As a summary, about 3000 trees have been planted in spring, which means the plan to reach 10000 is well underway.

The issue of the leakage of the Kilminning pond was raised - at this point we don't know yet to what extent the low water level is due to the drought over the summer.

CB gave an update on the acquisition of Fife Ness Muir. All funding is available, the process is now with solicitors.

Regarding the harbour, DG and DJ had an online meeting with representatives of Fife Council, regarding the Common Good property adjacent to the harbour, commonly known as 'Old Gas Works'. There may be advantages in leasing the property, instead of taking on ownership. Fife Council are conducting surveying work for the area. There is some uncertainty about whether or not the wall at the back is part of the title for this property. In any case, more work is required to figure out the next steps for this property. Specifically mentioned was the removal of an old refrigeration unit. CM informed us about various smaller developments around the harbour, including the replacement of the notice boards.

There is nothing new to report for Roome Bay, Denburn Wood, St Andrews Road, and West Quarry Braes. Also, there is no news on the car park extension at the Community Hall, a project that is currently on hold until we have identified the employee to lead the fundraising.

In this context, DG reports that no suitable person has been found to fill the available position that was advertised in July. We only have funding available until March 2027, as confirmed by Fife Council. A new attempt to recruit applicants who can help with fundraising will be started in late September.

Projects in the wider community:

DG gave an update on the developments around the Kirk building. A subgroup from the CCP will meet with the Kirk Session to exchange information on possible ways forward. The goal is to retain the building for the community. There is a deadline in June 2026 to formulate a plan, if not, the building will be put on the market in 2027. A different CCP subgroup had a call with DTAS who are providing support for communities in similar situations. A DTAS representative will visit Crail to aid further discussions.

DJ spoke about the funds from the windfarm, which will be distributed through a body called Foundation Scotland. For the five communities in the East Neuk, around 50000£ are made available. Anstruther and Crail would like to spend money on establishing a Community Development Officer who can help with fundraising. Other communities may have different plans. The communities need to decide by the end of the month what they would like to do with the funding.

DG mentioned in passing that we received very supportive feedback from DTAS for our online presentation, and our work in the Community Hall.

No updates are available on the Coastal Path and the sea defences at the bottom of Nethergate.

AOCB:

We briefly discussed a query about possible support for an under-8 football team in Crail. The membership database has been transferred to Membermojo and is now up and running.

The next meeting planned is for October, Monday 6th, in the Community Hall. We will not have a conventional Board meeting in September, but we may have an online meeting instead. The review of CCP policies is scheduled for September.