

Crail Community Partnership SCO 49189

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 4th November 2025, 19:00, Legion Hall

Attendees: David Jerdan, Sarah Morrison, Dennis Gowans, Neil McKay, Neil MacGillivray, Aleks Scholz, Maggie Laird, Chris Broome, Will Cresswell, Mark Rogerson

Apologies: Max Taylor, Colin Morrison

Minutes of meeting held October 7th: approved (minutes provided by AS)

Finances (NMG): The Treasurer is now content with the accounts, after a careful and thorough review of all positions. We discussed the various restricted funds for ongoing and past projects. We agreed to use the balance currently showing for Roome Bay and for Denburn Wood to increase our reserves and thereby our liquid assets. The remaining restricted funds still need to be either spent or moved to reserve.

Airfield matters (NMK): The two outstanding planning permissions are for the cinema and gym, for listed building consent and the actual planning application. Most of the current debate is on the latter. The decision will happen at a meeting tomorrow. The planners have given support of the application, providing a report that has been examined by our local experts. The report is not satisfactory and disregards arguments made during the recent appeal of the masterplan. A press release has gone out on that matter as well, on behalf of CCC.

Community Summit and Action Plan (SM): The Community Summit last Saturday was successful in terms of getting the local community groups together, we also counted about 50-60 members of the public visiting. We did not receive any new membership applications, but other organisations did. The energy in the room was phenomenal. Our local MP came and spoke to all groups. Based on all of this, we considered making this a recurring event, and we have been offered funding for this as well. As a reminder, the community event was driven by the needs arising from the Action Plan; we now need to go back to the plan and consider the next moves. The Board thanks SM for her efforts in pulling the event together.

Fundraising (DG): We heard an update on the various outstanding funding applications for community causes that the Partnership is involved in. We just submitted a bid for DTAS funding, which would be for the development worker over three years. This may be affected by the Scottish elections in May 2026. We have also just applied for funding from the Ribbonfield Trust for cinema equipment for the Hall, with the idea that the cinema will be named after the Trust. DG explained that we could also apply for core funding as an organisation, from various funders, apart from specific causes. This could lead to improvements in Trustee training. We also have applied for funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund to pay for a business plan and feasibility study for the Kirk building.

Community Hall (DG): The work on the improvements in the hall is continuing. The stratification fans and the secondary glazing are currently being installed. DG reported an unprecedented overheating issue in the hall, perhaps testimony to the improved insulation. The DTAS Facilities Manager Advisor visited the Hall on Monday and provided very useful feedback on the building condition and operations. The report and checklist has been circulated and will provide very useful guidance for the next improvements and for legal necessities. Overall the Advisor was complementary of the overall condition of the building. The project to run infrared imaging for the community (the 'Crail Community Heat Team') is getting a bit closer to getting started.

Land maintenance and acquisition:

Another about thousand trees are going to be planted on Saturday the 15th, in Bow Butts and Kilminning (WC). The ponds in Pinkerton have seen some improvements over the past month. The path improvement in Pinkerton is still in the future (CB). Fly-tipping in Bow Butts has been noticed and needs to be remedied. We were promised that the problematic willow in Denburn Wood will be cut down within the next two months (DG). No news is reported on the projects for Roome Bay, the Hall carpark, and West Quarry Braes.

We were reminded that we perhaps should have a discussion with the owner of the strip of land that is between St Andrews Rd and the Common Good property. Access through this strip would be necessary for future plans (DJ). The Fifemuir acquisition is still with the solicitors, or with Fife Council, but the status is unclear (CB).

DJ and SM met with a Fife Council representative (Shaun Crosby) at the harbour. The building seems to be solid in substance, albeit full with debris and with an enormous refrigerator unit. For us the next step is an assessment of the liabilities and preparing a business plan for which funding may be available through the EDF. No decision needs to be made at this point. DG reports that the Preservation Society is going to try to replace the Barking Shed at the harbour. There is also an initiative to work on interpretation boards around the harbour.

Projects in the wider community:

The process of keeping the Kirk building for community purposes is underway. As an organisation, we want to register an interest in the building to prevent it from going to the open market. The process was explained in detail by SM and DG. We could register interest in the Kirk following a legal procedure; this hold would hold for five years. The owner of the building would have an opportunity to require us to become engaged during that period. The process requires a level of polling in the community, specifically a petition with minimum 15% response rate. If the CCP is taking this route, the organisation would also have to buy the property. What this would entail in the end, in terms of cost and liability, was briefly discussed. We discussed the extent of the involvement of the Partnership, which needs to be a topic of future meetings. At this point we agreed to ask to be formally approved as a suitable organisation for taking on the building, which does not commit us going further.

The coastal path improvement parallel to Nethergate is led by CCC, letters are being sent out to property owners.

Publicity:

We discussed a story on the Community Summit for Crail Matters. Also, we may try to send more regular positive updates to members through Membersmojo, combined with asking for feedback and encouraging engagement.

AOCB:

We briefly discussed the impending planning application for the former Garden Centre. The plans will be on display on November 15th in the Community Hall.

ML asked about disclosure of details regarding future employees and Trustees, perhaps through a checklist. SM wants to follow-up on that.

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 1st, in the Community Hall.