

Crail Preservation Society
Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 10 October 2023, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Crail

PRESENT: Dennis Gowans (Chairman), Kelsey Jackson Williams (Secretary), Tamsin Sullivan, Sandy Young, Kevin Thurlow, Liz McMahon, Peter McMahon.

1. No APOLOGIES were received.

2. MINUTES of the Committee Meeting of 20 June 2023 were approved as read.

3. OFFICERS' AND SUB-COMMITTEES' REPORTS were given as follows:

- Liz McMahon gave the **Membership Report**. There are currently 103 members. Automatic renewal reminders will be sent to annual members at the end of November or beginning of December. Notices and articles will be placed in *Crail Matters* in the run up to the renewal period. E-mails/letters will be sent out to Life Members encouraging donations in December.
- Peter McMahon gave the **Treasurer's Report**. It has been a comparatively quiet year with less expenditure than previously. There is a £24 discrepancy in the accounts which is currently being investigated. While the society overall is £56,807 in the green, there is a shortfall of £8,115 in the restricted fund category. He proposed that this deficit be written off to balance the accounts going forward. DG observed that project reports would need to be prepared for the now-completed Mercat Cross and Lumsden Monument projects. It was agreed that a new set of restricted and designated categories based on current projects would be established for the coming financial year. The only restricted funds in hand now are £1,500 from a prior grant for work on Denburn Park.
- Dennis Gowans gave the **Planning Report**. There has been welcome progress at the Watch House after many delays. The Local Place Plan has been recently reviewed and the draft version will be made available for public comment and discussion in November. It was agreed that the society should put in a formal objection to the proposed airfield development which DG would lead in preparing. SY queried whether the proposed North Crail development was still live. Progress, if any, is unclear.
- Kelsey Jackson Williams gave the **Website Report**. The website is currently in need of updating and KJW will action this going forward. It was agreed that the *Crail Matters* pieces planned for the coming months will also be posted on the website.
- Sandy Young gave the **Doocot Report**. The most recent work has been completed and is looking fine. It has been suggested that more recent cleaning of the roof

should aid in preventing streaking on the sides. DG noted that Steven Tilbrook will be undertaking training in November that will qualify him for maintenance and removal of organic matter on the doocot as well as the kirkyard monuments and Mercat Cross. Funds continue to come into the donation box including the equivalent of £1.80 in ten Malaysian notes. PMcM queried what sum should be allocated from unrestricted to designated funds for ongoing doocot maintenance. It was agreed that ~£5,000 would be a sensible sum. DG noted that investigation is ongoing concerning a card reader for donations and suggested that SumUp might be the best option.

- Dennis Gowans gave the **Lumsden Monument and Kirkyard Project Report**. The architect will provide a proposal for new work within the kirkyard next week. Steven Tilbrook, as noted above, should be able to provide fungicide support going forward.
- Dennis Gowans gave the **Mercat Cross Project**. The project is complete and the finances will be wrapped up later in the year. Cars continue to interact with the bollards, which now require cleaning, and there has been one complaint of someone falling over a bollard.

4. The ANNUAL REPORT for the financial year 2022-23 will be prepared on a smaller scale than in the past. The OSCR minimum will be prepared by November and a membership and other reports will be added in time for the AGM, but it will not be printed in the same numbers as in past years.

5. Dennis Gowans reported on DENBURN PARK. The sheep have now been permanently removed. The St Andrews University Meadows team, who have already adopted the West Braes area, report that the field is too large for their equipment but proposed that a farmer might be able to clear it and make hay from the result. An initial interview with a farmer was inconclusive, however. A Fife Coast and Countryside Trust specialist has recently examined the field and suggests that it would be feasible to hire adequate machines for a reasonable price which could be run by volunteers. The aim is to do this within the next month as part of the initial clean-up of the field.

It has also been suggested, following on from the above meeting, that the existing orchard be substantially expanded to Balcomie Road and the culvert be opened. The area from Miramar to Triangle Park would then become a meadow area with accessible gates and picnic benches.

6. Dennis Gowans also reported on DENBURN WOOD. There are two trees - a willow and an elm - which need to be removed, but further investigation reveals that these trees are on Crail Common Good land rather than land owned by the society. Fife Council would therefore be responsible for these removals.

7. Small Projects and Updates:

- The Kirkyard Brochure will be held over pending discussions with *Crail Matters* and the Community Council.
- The matter of the CPS Archive will also be held over.

8. AOCB: It was agreed that the museum address would be the society's sole postal address going forward.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28 November 2023. The AGM will be held on Tuesday, 23 January 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsey Jackson Williams
Secretary
10 October 2023