

Crail Preservation Society
Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 3 May 2023, 7.00pm
Community Hall, Crail

PRESENT: Dennis Gowans (Chair), David Jerdan (Hon. President), Kelsey Jackson Williams (Secretary), Peter McMahon (Treasurer), Liz McMahon (Membership Secretary), Derek White, Sandy Young, Kevin Thurlow, and four ordinary members.

1. APOLOGIES were received from Penelope Henderson, Paul Hutchison, Jude Gallon, and Dawn Black.

2. MINUTES of the AGM held 4 May 2022 were approved as read, Anne Black proposing and Derek White seconding.

3. Dennis Gowans gave the CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. The annual report is now finished and the independent examination of accounts was completed on Monday. It has been a major year for the CPS with the largest annual turnover since the doocot project. The final inspection of the Lumsden monument was completed by the architect earlier today to the satisfaction of all concerned. Likewise, the Mercat Cross project has also been brought to a successful completion. Obtaining VAT relief on both the Lumsden and Mercat Cross projects has proven particularly helpful for the Society as has the fortuitous inscription on the Cross which ensured its eligibility for the DCMS Memorial Grant Scheme.

The doocot continues to be a feature of increasing prominence in guidebooks and other material relating to the East Neuk and the Coastal Path, but it is in need of cosmetic tidying and repair. This will be undertaken in the coming year.

The sheep field should have been cleared by 23 March, the tenants having been given the full two years of legally-required notice. This has not been done and the Society's lawyer is following through with the next appropriate legal steps.

An amazing amount of work has been done in Denburn Wood over the past year. Considerable sums have been spent on clearing up the long-term damage from Storm Arwen and the honey fungus-infected willow is due to come down in the coming months (at a cost of £3,636). A small planted area, including snow drops, has been added to commemorate Kathleen May.

The new membership software (Membermojo) is now active and has been successful to date, though with a significant learning curve for the chair and the membership secretary. There are currently 55 life members and 46 annual members. Dennis noted that the new software had also substantially eased the challenges of electronic communication with the membership.

4. The ANNUAL ACCOUNTS were tabled due to the absence of the outgoing treasurer. Derek White reported that there was nothing significant to draw the meeting's attention other than the sizeable net deficit (though he noted that money has subsequently been received to balance this). The accounts were approved, David Mann proposing and Sandy Young seconding.

5. This was followed by the ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2023-2024:

- The current chair, secretary, treasurer, and membership secretary were (re-)elected and approved by the floor. This was approved with Kevin Thurlow proposing and Anne Black seconding.
- The remaining ordinary members of committee will be Jimmy Aird, Dawn Black, Kevin Thurlow, Tamsin Sullivan, and Sandy Young. They were likewise unanimously (re-)elected.

Thanks were minuted to Paul Hutchison for his extensive service to the CPS, particularly for his role in leading the Mercat Cross project. Likewise, thanks were minuted to Jude Gallon for her work as membership secretary and for managing the peak membership year associated with the Crail Kirkyard flyer initiative.

And finally, thanks were minuted to Derek White for his thirteen years of service to the Society, including eight years as treasurer. He has generously volunteered to mentor Peter McMahon in the new role. In recognition of his service, he was unanimously elected an honorary vice-president of the Society.

6. AOCB included a comment from the floor objecting to the "tidyification" of Denburn Wood and particularly the removal of ivy from the trees which was compared to the cutting down of the major trees in the Wood. It was suggested this was due to mistaken prejudice against ivy. Anne Black observed that the work which has been done has made it possible for elderly and less mobile residents of the village to once again enjoy the Wood.

David Jerdan concluded with thanks to Dennis Gowans for his fine work chairing the Society and managing its many projects. He wished Peter McMahon all success as treasurer and thanked the secretary for his role in the Society.

Liz McMahon commented on the need for a growing membership, particularly amongst younger inhabitants of the burgh, to ensure the Society's future. A discussion ensued concerning the relative importance of subscription income for ensuring the Society's works and it was noted that increasingly grant funding was the main source of income for substantial projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Jackson Williams
Secretary
3 May 2023