



Crovie Preservation Society



Chair's Report

Reflecting on the past year, it has been a period of significant transition and achievement for the Crovie Preservation Society (CPS). From formalising our legal structure to completing vital infrastructure repairs, our collective efforts have ensured the continued protection and enhancement of our unique village.

Charity Governance

A major landmark this year was the formal conversion of the CPS into a **Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)**, effective October 13, 2025. This transition provides a more robust legal framework for our future operations as a modern charity.

Although the majority of the heavy lifting to gain this status happened last year, the change has come with its own workload. This success has obviously created a series of additional tasks this year that have been primarily administrative but, nevertheless, important in relation to the charity's governance.

Strategic Activities

- Our strategic activities have been dominated by attempts to explore the possibilities of a **"Crovie Coastal Resilience Project"**. Growing from the work done around plans to renew the concrete bridge.
With permission secured from the Crovie & Gardenstown Estate this opened opportunities for the charity to seek funding for more ambitious multi-phase projects. These can tie the repair of the bridge into surveys to support the preservation of our sea defences and related infrastructure. We are proactively working with Aberdeenshire Council to bid for funds to support this project.
- The breach of the seawall revealed some underlying and complex issues that challenge the parameters of the charity's scope and the limits of our remit. There have therefore been significant discussions around the possibility of parallel or related organisation that deals less with preservation and more with day-to-day maintenance or repair. The CPS has approached a number of external parties to look at the means and processes that may allow such a separation of "church and state". This is an ongoing project.

Projects Completed

- **Emergency Seawall Stabilization:** In response to a significant seawall collapse, we implemented a 3 phases plan - **Phase 1:** Immediate emergency stabilization of the seawall. **Phase 2:** Substantial structural repairs to the breached sections. **Phase 3:** Final reinforcement. This was successfully started using the Fordyce Trust funds, completed and resolved through a further 3 phases with the owners of No. 36 having generously agreed to fund Phase 2 of the seawall repairs. Members gave the go-ahead for the CPS to fund the remaining cost to resolve the repair.
- **EV Charging Stations:** Two dual-outlet 7kW chargers are now operational in the Middle car park. They are now fully operational and are listed on national networks like Zapmap and Octopus Electroverse, providing an important modern amenity for residents and visitors.
- **Legal SCIO Conversion:** The transition to a SCIO is now complete, ensuring our governance is fit for purpose.



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Ongoing activities

- **Village Amenities:** We have initiated a cleanup of the parking areas to manage "barra" (wheelbarrow) storage, in an attempt to secure temporary space while exploring communal barrow options, which may help enable us to support and preserve the uniqueness of our "barra" culture.
- **Digital Presence:** A new CPS website is currently in development, featuring project updates, a community blog, and streamlined donation links to better engage with members, residents and visitors alike.

Funds Applied for and Raised

Our financial efforts this year were highly successful, thanks to a combination of institutional grants and private generosity:

- **The Fordyce Memorial Bequest Trust:** We are incredibly grateful to the Fordyce Trust for awarding us **£18,600** to fully fund Phase 1 of the seawall repairs. This was made possible through a formal presentation to the trust and vital support from the Community Council.
- **Energy Saving Trust:** We secured a grant of **£22,513.20** to fund our green energy initiative, specifically the installation of EV charging points.
- **Private & Community Funding:**
 - Direct community donations from members and local events raised over **£3,500**.
 - Creative events such as the village calendar project and the art exhibition at No. 57 who both contributed a percentage of sales to the CPS - over **£1,500** to our funds.
- **Unsuccessful & Pending Applications:** Although an application to a fund, run by Airbnb, was unsuccessful it produced content that can be applied to other funds. We have submitted a bid to the **Coastal Communities Challenge Fund** and are actively exploring further streams through **Aberdeenshire Council**.

Partners and Collaboration

The scale of our achievements this year is a testament to the strength of our partnerships and any progress is deeply tied to the relationships we maintain with external stakeholders, such as:

- **Crovie & Gardenstown Estate:** Permissions were gratefully received to progress work on renewing the concrete bridge.
- **The Fordyce Memorial Bequest Trust & Community Council:** Their collaboration was essential in securing the initial emergency funding.
- **D Turnbull (Contractor):** Our lead contractor for the technical and physically demanding work on the seawall reconstruction.



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- **Aberdeenshire Council:** While the Council will not fund the repairs directly, they remain a key partner to coordinate with for sourcing and applying to potential future coastal defence grants.
- We maintain an active link with the **King Edward and Gardenstown Community Council (KEGCC)** to represent Crovie's interests on local and regional issues.
- **Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA):** Providing strategic funding, organisational, management and development advice.
- **Crown Estate Scotland:** We remain in ongoing dialogue with the **Crown Estate** regarding the long-term safety and maintenance of the pier.
- **Technical Partners:** We collaborated with **SSEN, Jorro, and the Energy Saving Trust** to deliver our green energy infrastructure.