



Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting held on

Monday 25th November 2024, 730pm

Virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at The Victoria Hall

Present

Community Councillors: Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chairwoman, Alan Plampton (AP) – Treasurer, Alan Rycroft (AR), Nigel Shapcott (NS) and Andy Thurgood (AT) – Vice Chair.

Youth Member: Allan Munro (AM)

Highland Councillor(s): Sarah Atkin

Member(s) of the public: Sheila Currie on behalf of CCDT (SC)

Minute Secretary:

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from Claire Fraser.

PS, AT, SC, AM, NS and AP were all present from The Victoria Hall.

AR and Cllr SA attended online via Microsoft Teams.

2. Declarations of Interest

No changes to declarations since meeting of 26th October 2020

3. Approval of previous minutes, 28th October 2024

The minutes were approved by NS and seconded by AP

9. Any Other Business (brought forward by Chairwoman)

Cromarty Community Development Trust

Update given by Sheila Currie:

Seashore Hub now situated at Cromarty Campsite via Moray Firth Coastal Partnership – may move however to a different location.

Andy attended first **OPEN** board meeting. Was a success – plans are to host these quarterly.

Two things that came from this meeting:

- 1) wider engagement with the community. Agreed that we should host an open meeting in the new year which CCDT are happy to be involved with. All agree both parties should work together and find the best approach.

- 2) CCDT are looking to recruit someone as events coordinator – part-time, one year position. Has come about due to the falling apart of all the community events in the town (Gala, fireworks etc). Advert to go out in the new year.

East Church Hall

No update to provide – still waiting for common good/The Highland Council to move things along. SA will chase this up as it is all taking too long and the building is just going to deteriorate without anyone using/maintaining it! **Action - SA.**

Next meeting

2nd December at Matt's house.

Alan P then provided an update on the Black Isle Place Plan, in particular the governance board and discussion opened.

C&DCC donating snow shovels and gritters to campsite – Paige expressed thanks to Julie, John and Rory for their help gritting the roads around the campsite.

Minute secretary note – Sheila left the meeting 8pm.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 28th October 2024

1. (4.1 – Little movement with THC on TMP and 20mph in urban areas until 2025.) **On hold.**
2. (4.2 – To speak to Wanda re. redesign of Cromarty Sign). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
3. (4.3 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC (more recent reports)). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
4. (4.4 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
5. (4.5 – To confirm when funding from Stagecoach has been received). Still ongoing! **Action – AP.**
6. (4.6 – To follow up the youth mentoring program with Dom post exams). **Action – KM**
7. (4.7 – Public information notice to be prepared re. social housing). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
8. (4.8 – Meeting due with Ingrid at THC re. replacing equipment in Victoria Park). **Action – PS.**
9. (4.9 – To catch up with Kari re. email to J Nightingale about Pirates Graveyard). **Action – PS.**
- 10.(4.10 – Who's responsible for Cromarty sign at bus shelter? - meeting with SA to be arranged). **Action – PS.**
- 11.(4.11 - To speak to Denis (resident) re. hedge options for the park). Ongoing. **Action – KM**
- 12.(4.12 – Stakes to go in at The Hugh Miller Monument, and posters put up to stop contractors mowing/maintaining area). **Action – KM**
- 13.(4.13 – To speak to Ingrid and John at THC re. use of weed killer in the town & maintenance of the graveyards – meeting with SA to be arranged). **DISCHARGED – meeting has been held.**
- 14.(4.14 – To discuss later the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). **Action - ALL.**

- 15.(4.15 – Public meeting to be held re. parking byelaws around Cromarty (include alongside Place Plan meeting)). **Action – ALL.**
- 16.(4.16 – To see if Kari is willing to be involved in tourism portfolio). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 17.(4.17 – Meeting re. Townlands Park to happen with SA/Ingrid). **Action – PS.**
18. (4.19 – To follow up with Ian Moncrieffe at THC re. state of Farness Rd). Ongoing. **Action – SA.**
- 19.(4.20 – To discuss recruitment for TVH committee). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
- 20.(4.21 – Potential sub-committee to be created re. Freeport etc (long-term project)). **Action - AT.**
- 21.(4.22 – Continue communication with CGU/Highland Broadband via sales director Joe Scott). Waiting response from JS (to follow up as no email received) but residents are now starting to receive their ‘go live’ dates. Continue to be voice of the community. **Action – AT.**
- 22.(4.23 – To contact waste management re. the oil spill kit that was dropped off to TVH). **Action – SA.**
- 23.(4.24 – To arrange a separate meeting re. noise monitoring). **Action – ALL.**
- 24.(4.25 – To recruit litter picker volunteers for 2025 season). **Action – AP.**
- 25.(4.26 – To gather ideas to celebrate 50 years of community councils (in 2027))! **Action – ALL.**
- 26.(4.27 – Finance and location of additional defibrillator @ Townlands to be sought). **DISCHARGED – See portfolio’s report.**
27. (4.28 – To follow up on items still outstanding with THC after meeting regarding town maintenance). **Action – AP/AT.**
- 28.(4.28 – To pass on details re. terra tracking to help identify responsibilities). **Action – SA.**
29. (4.29 – Rota being prepared for dog-bin emptying for 2025 season. Enough volunteers for the rest of 2024). **Action – AP.**
- 30.(4.31 – SA to check if there’s any preventative action we can take re. dogs in the park). **Action – PS.**
31. (4.33 – To speak to Stagecoach, SA and acting rector of Fortrose Academy re. the continuing bus lateness). **Action – PS.**
32. (4.41 – To speak to SA re. Nigg pier and see if she has any additional comments/suggestions). **DISCHARGED.**
33. (4.42 – Follow up with SA re. urgent road repairs required at Farness). **DISCHARGED** (further action point)!
34. (4.43 – To contact planning on behalf of C&DCC re. access to Well Lane). Update provided at meeting (based on our response from terra tracking). Don’t think we can do anything further without taking legal advice (which we won’t do). To reply to residents with our findings. **DISCHARGED.**

35. (4.44 – To contact Rory @ Port of Nigg re. the owner of Nigg Pier). Rory unsure but spoke to Cromarty resident and have been given a name. PS to ask if resident has contact details for this person incase we need to make contact. **Action – PS.**
36. (4.45 – Contact Nigg & Shandwick CC to involve them in our discussion re. the pier). Ongoing. **Action – NS/AP.**
37. (4.47 – To speak to Peter R re. this years remembrance event and then invite Angus Watson (Deputy Lord Lieutenant) to attend. **DISCHARGED.**
38. (5.1 – To speak to Allan M re. gritter with puncture to see if he needs anything to sort it). **DISCHARGED.**
39. (8.1.1 – To feedback queries re. BIPP and report back). **DISCHARGED – see portfolios report.**
40. (8.1.2 – To speak to resident re. organising noise monitoring from their house (as it's empty for extended periods). **Arrangements made – DISCHARGED.**
41. (8.1.3 – To follow up Andy's queries re. speed etc @ Shore Street with roads department before CDCC put in a formal complaint). Site meeting held with John Stewart on 13th November 2024. **DISCHARGED.**
42. (9.1 – To prepare advert regarding vacant minute secretary position). **DISCHARGED.**
43. (9.2 – To go back to contacts and advise we will take their best offers re. the snow sweeper)! Snow sweeper now sold – **DISCHARGED**

5. Youth Issues

School bus

Has been better, not arriving late but arriving about 3 minutes before the bell still isn't enough time for those that need it to report to Breakfast club! AM says the time the school says they should be dropped off at is 836am. All agreed this still isn't much time as the first class is now 845 am. Problem between the time it takes to get to school and the time school starts that needs to be rectified!

Townlands

Was a discussion on Facebook about residents of Townlands coming together to share the maintenance work that isn't currently being done by THC. PS diverted to SA who confirmed that she is meeting with a resident on Friday about how they can work together to improve Townlands Park as a whole (resident had very good ideas and SA was keen this would create a positive relationship).

Tim Morris (Association of British Ports)

SA mentioned this to AM as Tim had mentioned he was keen for the youth to be involved in the discussions surrounding Freeport etc. SA suggested it might be a good idea for him (or someone) to come to the school and discuss with the children what it's all about with the aim of improving their understanding of the goings on in their local area. AM confirmed he thought this would be a good idea. SA and AM to speak in more detail offline. **Action - SA/AM.**

Gritters

One of the gritters has a chain off and AM can't get it back on. AP to contact Vitek to have this fixed. **Action – AP.**

Thanks were expressed to Allan for all of his hard work in community. AP emphasized that AM is in charge and if there is anything eh wants or needs or if there's anything in the community that needs to change let us know and we will support him.

No further comments and AM left the meeting at 815pm.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and accompanying notes (**Appendix A & B**) were prepared by AP and circulated prior to the meeting.

Movements this month: paid out for new defibrillator pads as required and also sold snow sweeper.

Toddlers/playgroup movement – some fundraising done and surplus takings added from the pot. The biggest problem at the moment is getting someone to keep this group running. Cromarty Care Project are supporting the group with financial backing. We are aware however that there are funds built up that could be used instead.

AT asked re. money from Stagecoach and the length of time it's taken to receive our repayment. AP is working on chasing it with the right person – a historical issue seems to have slowed it down.

There were no further comments.

7. Victoria Hall (VH) Report including Youth Café

The Victoria Hall Report (**Appendix C**) that was prepared by AP, plus the Youth Café Powerpoint presentation prepared by Fraser Thompson (**available on Cromarty Live**) were circulated prior to the meeting.

AP confirmed there's not much to report this month.

Victoria Hall:

Very busy at the hall – lots of things happening. Backdoor being replaced as it's rotting. Seems to be keeping itself ticking over. AP requesting quotes for repairs/replacement at the moment but THC may also carry out the maintenance.

After the meeting Nige emailed round the following re. the insulation quote we've received for TVH:

'Dear All

Just to make sure this is recorded.

My information is that this method of insulation may seriously degrade the building in time. In fact because of the risk of structural degradation in houses some mortgage companies are not providing loans on properties with this type of insulation unless it is removed. The problem appears to be lack of ventilation to allow moisture to naturally escape. Please note that this is a recent development (2024) and follows the date of the estimate in 2023.

Nige'

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 **Portfolio Reports:**

Find us on 

www.cromartylive.co.uk

Prepared by Claire Fraser – January 2025

Portfolio Reports prepared by AR, NS, AP, PS and AT (**Appendix D-H**) were circulated prior to the meeting.

Nige:

Black Isle Swimming Pool:

Suggests they drop this issue -

AP and PS confirmed that in a BICC meeting it was confirmed by someone that the original terms were that the funds should be released to another swimming pool if nothing comes of their efforts for a new one on the Black Isle. Therefore, all members agreed no further action.

Cromarty Harbour Trust:

Colin Dickie is to retire in just over a year. In the terms and conditions of the trust it must be the Community Council that find a replacement. We need to start this search **now**. Add to Agenda until a replacement is sought. Need to ask CD for a job description. **Action – NS.**

Reeds Loop Path:

Confirmed the repairs done appear fine at the moment. Aware that the residents of Clunes House have also carried out their own repairs.

Kari Magee intends to do a survey of the full path soon (per AP) as the original person who carried out repairs to the bridges last year, was to return for more maintenance which hasn't happened yet. Will ask him to do all the maintenance that's required when he comes back.

Alan:

BICC/BIPP (Black Isle Community Council/Black Isle Place Plan):

Jointly expressed at meeting that we (as a community council) need to be involved with the consultation process on the scheme of establishment in a very concrete way. We need to know who to approach and how we can get involved in this because the whole sustainability and funding of community councils has got to be considered as part of this process. SA confirmed that Alison Clark would be the person to talk to. AP to get in touch on behalf of BICC. **Action – AP.**

AP sought confirmation from members of C&DCC that the BICC can speak on our behalf with regards to the above. **All members agreed.**

NS asked when the governing board is being formed? AP confirmed ASAP. Job specifications should be going out in December and recruitment should hopefully have happened by January/February.

Paige:

Asked for an update on Farness – SA confirmed it should be coming to ward business so should be able to provide more information soon.

No further comments, already discussed via actions points.

Alan R:

Police Scotland

Has finally identified a Schools Liaison Officer (Constable Robin Brown) who asked if he should also take on the role of Community Council Liaison Officer to which AR confirmed YES. Contact is seeking

permission to do this with Police Scotland. AR is hopeful he can then set up a coffee/tea meet up with him before Christmas – which both parties are keen for.

AP and SA suggested he could just meet with BICC as one, rather than each one individually. AR confirmed he only spoke to him about Cromarty in the interim as he mentioned that he visits Cromarty regularly as it was, but would put this suggestion forward once a meeting has been set up.

Andy T:

Noise monitoring

Port Authority meeting in December - not aware of any noise complaints, seems to be quite quiet just now with not much work going on (probably ahead of the Christmas break).

Road Traffic Management

Attended a meeting with Julie at Cromarty Campsite and John Stewart from the roads department at THC to discuss the speed on the road alongside the site. THC confirmed that the particular road isn't actually on his inspection schedule (Campsite all the way down to the Royal Hotel). Whilst on site at least 80% of cars were over the speed limit (and most not even breaking until they are past the first set of houses). They agreed that he suggests the signage be moved back so warnings appear earlier to those entering the town (by about 500 S/B 100 yards). May also potentially put down some speed restriction measures. John to prepare a report after meeting and request permission from THC. All members agreed the potholes on that road also need maintained/road resurfaced.

SA requested that the local Councilors receive the report too. AT to follow up on this. **Action – AT.**

NS sent a 'what 3 words' location to Ian Moncrieffe at THC re. a loose/missing drain cover near to Clunes House/The Bowling Green and this has not yet been actioned. AT suggested he send it to John Stewart instead. AT to pass the contact details to NS. **Action – AT/NS.**

Final comments were regarding the missing 'welcome to Cromarty' sign. Had asked JS how to replace this – is this the opportunity to get one whilst he's putting in a request to move the current signage. JS to add it to his report.

There were no further comments on members' portfolios.

8.2 The Highland Council:

Main subjects:

- 1) Asset rationalization
- 2) Housing challenge/crisis

Comments re. housing from SA..

Albyn Housing:

There is a call out for sites and aware Albyn are being very slow on the uptake of the sites in Cromarty. SA said they can include her on the correspondence if this would help at all. AP has confirmed we are well overdue a response from them so we should absolutely chase them up. **Action – AP.**

Short term lets licensing:

Feedback on this implication by THC seems to be mixed. 'There appear to be some loopholes in the legislation and it is not retrospective but **Badenoch and Strathspey** members are glad there is now something in place to protect landlords. From an officer perspective, the Black Isle is an area of

interest for this policy. SA thought this would be something for the Place Plan board to pursue as a project.

Other comments..

- Fortrose Academy now has a permanent rector which she's delighted about. This should provide some stability for the parents, teachers and students attending (which is very important).
- SA attending a meeting with Ferintosh Community Council and THC tomorrow re. participatory funding tomorrow (26th November). NS asked about this as it is something CDCC have been trying to get involved with for a number of years now! How do we initiate it? Wait to see what comes out of the meeting tomorrow and SA should know more.
- Townlands meeting (as mentioned earlier) happening this week
- Raddery House CAT – is coming to Housing & Property Committee at the end of January (Cllr Atkin is Vice-Chair of that Committee.)
- Approached by John O'Groats Trail asking for a letter of support which C&DCC confirm they also received and replied to.

No further comments or questions.

8.3 Correspondence Received:

John O'Groats Trail requested a letter of support which we received on Wednesday and PS confirmed she replied as deadline was Friday.

Further correspondence received from a local resident re. funding for Cromarty Cinema as the request to Port of Nigg for some 'community funding' was denied as the community benefit is deemed elsewhere and the funds are all utilised already. The residents were requesting a letter of support from C&DCC and also CCDT. Members agree that the bigger picture is what comes under 'community benefit' and this will be established once the BIPP has been established. AT to reply to resident with our comments. **Action – AT.**

9. Any Other Business (continued..)

Visitor levy consultation

C&DCC can release the consultation but it's not up to us to respond – it's for businesses. They have until February to respond.

There were no further comments or questions.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 27th January 2025 at 730pm

Meeting ended at 930pm.

APPENDIX A
Agenda Item 6
Treasurer's Report Notes

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** still reflects the £150 planning fee STILL to be repaid by Stagecoach. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **AMOUNTS PAYABLE** still reflects £4.50 p&p costs to possibly be repaid (will be w/off at year end if not paid) from our Paypal account for a publications sales overpayment, by an overseas customer, £200 that is to be used on a Primary School project possibly towards new goalposts (ex OG donation). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND** reflects proceeds from the sale of the donated snow sweeper. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **CROMARTY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND** reflects donations for two sets of replacement pads. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
23/11/24

APPENDIX B
Agenda Item 6
Treasurer's Report

Statement of Financial Position at 26th October 2024				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 29/09/24</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 26th October 2024		13,274.63	-101.88	13,376.51
Paypal Balance as at 26th October 2024		4.50	0.00	4.50
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		150.00	0.00	150.00
Amounts Payable		-204.50	0.00	-204.50
Total Net Assets at 26th October 2024		£13,224.63	-101.88	£13,326.51
		£	£	£
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2024		1,596.69	0.00	1,596.69
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		10.04	-41.88	51.92
		1,606.73	-41.88	1,648.61
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2024		211.75	0.00	211.75
C&DCC Amenity & Event Funds	£			
Community Amenities Fund	1,328.18		-100.00	1,428.18
Community Event Funds ex Bonfire/Gala/S&D	5,073.84	6,402.02	0.00	5,073.84
Community Resilience Fund		336.10	0.00	336.10
Cromarty Live Fund		0.01	0.00	0.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,856.05	0.00	1,856.05
Net C&DCC Reserves		10,412.66	-141.88	10,554.54
Designated Community Funds				
Open Gardens Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Gluren bij de Buren Fund		125.26	0.00	125.26
Toddler Playgroup Fund		1,438.29	0.00	1,438.29
Cromarty Rising Fund		1,248.42	40.00	1,208.42
		£13,224.63	-101.88	£13,326.51
Alan Plampton 26th October 2024				

APPENDIX C
Agenda Item 7
Victoria Hall Report

1. **Newsletter** Draft circulated last month was distributed to all Regular Users. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Bookings** The busy winter season with regular user bookings giving us a busy diary. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Repairs & Maintenance** Nothing new or major to report. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Sheddie** Gritters now down, serviced and ready to use. SEN application for renewed funding of our Community Resilience Fund was successful! £4,250 to cover a 5 year period until 31st March 2029. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
5. **Youth Cafe** Latest monthly report is maybe attached. **ACTION – Information only**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
24/11/24

APPENDIX D
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS
ALAN RYCROFT

Police Liaison

I have finally made contact with the officer, whose current responsibilities include the schools' liaison role. He believes it would be sensible to combine that function with the community liaison one, and he has agreed to request permission from senior officers to take on the contact we seek. Having informed him that I have returned from my break in England, I now hope to meet up with him soon – ideally before Christmas – in order to reinstate regular updates from *Police Scotland*

APPENDIX E
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS
NIGEL SHAPCOTT

HC Core Path report- Reeds Loop Path, Lady's Walk, 100 Steps

Reeds Loop Path (shore part) walked on 24th November. The temporary repairs have held up with the recent storms. Suggest that handrails be put up either side of the narrow bridge near the steps as it gets icy and seems to retain it.

100 Steps No change.

Highland Local Access Group Meeting - Unable to attend meeting 18th October, alternative dates were offered but critical individuals were unable to attend on the dates offered, thus the dates were changed and I was unable to attend..

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

No report as the harbour standard activities as it is in winter mode. However Colin has provided us with notice that he will be resigning in March 2026 and informs us that C&DCC have an important role in filling that position according to the "rules".

Black Isle Swimming Pool

Suggest that we drop this item. Decision please.

Cromarty Care Project Update for C&DCC – end November 2024

- 1) **Winter Warmth Payments** will be advertised shortly. We are asking people to make fresh applications this year to ensure that only applicants who are resident in the Community Council area apply, and that our records are up-to-date.
- 2) **Larder cupboard** – the cupboard containing foodstuffs, which is accessible to the community, is beginning to show signs of wear. We have approached the Black Isle Men's Shed and they are very enthusiastic about custom designing and building a replacement for us. Discussions are ongoing. We will fund this from our Bank of Scotland second year funding for core costs.
- 3) **Funding for Larder stock** – you will have noticed in the November newsletter that we have negotiated funding from Foundation Scotland, which means that their grant will begin in February 2025 and run until January 2026. We are delighted to have the security of full funding up until then.
- 4) **Parent and Toddler Playgroup** – CCP have offered to provide funding to the Playgroup to cover the costs of engaging 'play leaders' on a monthly basis up until September 2025, as well as replacement toys and equipment. This will be funded from our Bank of Scotland second year funding for core costs.
- 5) **Change of Trustee roles** – as mentioned previously, the role of Secretary is being handed on to Jane Bentley. She will provide monthly updates to C&DCC from next month. Alison Seller will focus on funding applications as well as reporting to OSCR.
- 6) **Monday Lunch Club** will continue up until Monday 23rd December and re-convene in January.
- 7) **Classic Film Club** – will only show one film in December, but return to two films per month in the new year.
- 8) **Intergenerational Panto** for the over-60s and the primary school - Dec 5th in VH.

- 9) **Sharing experience** - We were approached by Avoch's sharing shed team, who were keen to know how we went about organising a storage shed for our community larder. We were happy to signpost and pass on our experience.

APPENDIX F
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORT
ALAN PLAMPTON

1. **BICC** Please find attached the notes/minutes from the latest meeting on 11th November 2024. Members are asked to endorse the proposal that the BICC will represent C&DCC in consultation discussions with the Highland Council over the Scheme of Establishment Review and the need for sustainable financing of Community Councils. **ACTION – Discussion and decision whether to approve and/or ask questions**
2. **Housing** No further updates from Albyn Housing re CM01. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Events** Christmas tree to be delivered on 2nd December. Installation to follow delivery. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Defibrillators** New pads now fitted to Fire Station and Hall units. Following the tragic news from Lucky2BHere, we are delaying the ordering and siting of the Townlands unit. This also fits in with delays to the Cromarty Arts Trust plans at the Stables. It is hoped the order will be placed pre Christmas. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 24/11/24

BICC Meeting held at Cromarty Victoria Hall (CVH) on 11th November at 7.00 p.m.

CCs in attendance - Avoch x1, Fortrose x2, Killearnan x2, Conon x2 and Cromarty x2.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Knockbain. Members wished to express their best wishes to John Stott as he deals with difficult personal challenges and look forward to him being able to 'get back in the saddle'. John, we are keeping it warm!
2. **The Notes/Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd September 2024** (circulated) were agreed and approved as a correct record of that meeting.
3. **Feedback Report** on Members' responses to the Becky Richmond drafted paperwork (attached to these notes/minutes for the purpose of record), had only received one written set of comments, from Cromarty. Cromarty had discussed and agreed the draft documents and were 'happy to agree and support the BICC's decisions as recorded, apart from 2 queries (see below). Members present from Fortrose, Killearnan, Avoch and Conon Bridge confirmed that their Members had all seen and discussed the drafts and were also 'happy to agree and support' them as decisions made by the BICC. However, after further discussion, all agreed that a redraft in the 'OBI Director Role Description' should read as follows:

Terms of Appointment and Commitment Required

Directors are appointed for an initial term of 3 years and are eligible to seek nomination to serve a further 2-year term, after which they must retire from the Board. Community Council Members are appointed for the duration of their time in office and must step down from membership of the Board in that capacity if they cease to be a Community Council Member and/or no longer reside in one of the Black Isle Community Council's geographical areas. You will be required (as drafted)..

This will also require that the word 'Elected' is replaced by 'Community Council' in paragraph 9 i) of the 'BICC and the Local Place Plan Process to Date'.

Both changes are to allow for the nomination of any existing Community Council Member (Elected, Co-opted, Associate or even Youth Member) and not just the Elected Members, if they reside in a Black Isle Community Council geographical area.

The other query raised by Cromarty was in the 'OBI draft Terms of Reference October 2024', under the 'Working methods/ways of working' paragraph 1 'Rules and Procedures....', where it was thought that the 3rd and 4th points seem to contradict, or confuse, each other. Because surely the OBI will decide whether a 'community organisation's objectives progress the outcomes of the Plan and thereby whether they are a suitable organisation to support and/or engage with. Therefore the 3rd point would restrict the OBI making that decision.

This query is to be referred back to Becky Richmond for reconsideration.

Apart from these points, all BICC members present agreed to support the drafts.

4. **BILPP progress and recruitment drafts** could not be considered owing to the absence of Becky Richmond (Ferintosh).

However, BICC had received a further suggested nomination, from Conon Bridge CC, for the role as a Community Council Member Director of the OBI. Details had already been circulated to all the BICC members. The nomination of John Bruce was discussed and all members agreed that his name be included as the fifth BICC nomination. Members also referred to how this meant that our five nominations now gave a good geographical spread which gave better representation for all the Black Isle communities.

5. **Any Other Business**

The subject of the Bank of Scotland decision to re-introduce bank charges on Community Accounts (ex-Treasurer Accounts), which would affect many CCs and charitable groups, was discussed. All agreed this was going to have a detrimental effect on the CCs' ability to be sustainable. This led to a 'healthy' discussion about the lack of financial resourcing provided by the Highland Council and how this had to change, especially if their 'commitment to community empowerment' was to be anything more than words.

This subject of discussion then included localised 'Community Benefits' and how they could, but didn't, help ALL the Community Councils in the Highlands. It was agreed that the BICC approach the Highland Council and strongly request that we be included in the whole process of the 'Scheme Establishment' review, but that this be at a substantive level so that CCs can discuss how they need to be financially resourced in the future or not survive. A similar discussion with those organisations who should be providing community benefits, must also be demanded and that the BICC working together should command more 'attention' both on community benefits and the resourcing of CCs.

As a result of our discussions at this and recent meetings, all Members agreed that 'post BILPP' it was essential that we get organised to meet these challenges. To commence this process we would circulate, to members, the original Helen B/Avoch draft Terms of Reference proposals (with any suggestions BR may make) and use them to create a voice that can represent the whole Black Isle.

6. **Date of Next Meeting** was to be decided once we have heard from Becky, so that we can progress the business not discussed under 4. above and to reconfirm that the draft recruitment proposals do not have a need for financial support (e.g. advertising costs), at this stage.

The meeting finished at 8.10 p.m. and all members were thanked for their attendance and continuing support/enthusiasm of the Black Isle.

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS
ANDY THURGOOD

Meetings attended

I attended a site meeting with John Stewart (JS), THC Roads Inspector, and Julie Macrae of CCDT, to discuss road condition and traffic calming adjacent to the website. A very positive meeting, that agreed a broad approach to address the issues, in principle. The role of JS is to inspect and report back. He does not hold the authority for the decision making and forward programme of works, but has identified himself as the primary contact for Roads related issues for our community. During the visit, it was observed that approximately 80% of traffic was non-compliant with the mandated speed limit.

Correspondence

On-going communications with Joe Scott at Highland Broadbands. Many residents now have installation dates for late December, early January. Some remedial works have been undertaken, and some await completion.

Noise and other nuisance from the Firth

I have no awareness of any 'official' noise complaints this month. I have liaised in the community for the use of a vacant property to facilitate more effect noise monitoring by the Highland Council.

Andy Thurgood
23/11/24

APPENDIX H
AGENDA ITEM 8 – PORTFOLIO REPORTS
PAIGE SHEPHERD

<u>Planning</u>	No New planning applications this month
<u>Fortrose Academy Bus</u>	No incidents of the bus being late in November
<u>Gritting</u>	Allan (Our Youth Member and Head of Gritting) has been valiantly out in the cold weather to keep out paths gritted. We also want to extend our thanks to John, Rory and Julie at the Cromarty Campsite who have agreed to grit the triangle at Bayview and the campsite itself. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the gritting so if this is something you think you could get involved in please do let us know
<u>John O Groats Trail</u>	We have had correspondence from Kenneth at the John O Groats trail who have asked for a letter of support for the appointment of a trail development manager who will be responsible for the maintaining and overseeing of the trail between Dornoch and Inverness and oversee the development of an alternate trail which will run from Munloch through Fortrose and onto Cromarty before taking the ferry across to Nigg. I have sent this letter of Support and have asked Kenneth to keep us up to date with developments.
<u>Well Lane</u>	An update on well lane has been provided and will be discussed at the meeting tonight.