

Cromarty and District Community Council

Draft minutes of meeting held on

Monday 26th August 2024, 730pm

Virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at The Victoria Hall

Present

Community Councillors: Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chairwoman, Alan Plampton (AP) - Treasurer, Andy

Thurgood (AT) – Vice Chair and Nigel Shapcott (NS).

Youth Member: Allan Munro (AM)
Highland Councillor(s): Sarah Atkin (SA).

Member(s) of the public: Tim Morris (TM) and Stuart Creswell (SC) from Associated British Ports (ABP)

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser (CF)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from Alan Rycroft (Member)

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

CF attended online via Microsoft Teams.

2. <u>Declarations of Interest</u>

No changes to declarations since meeting of 26th October 2020

3. Approval of previous minutes, 26th June 2024

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by AT

9. Any Other Business (brought forward by Chairwoman)

Associated British Ports

Tim Morris (group head of corporate communications) opened the presentation, introducing themselves to the group.

Discussion started – as we are the voice for the local community they want to work with us. Advised they have 21 ports across the UK and NI. They have access to the land next to Global Energy & their new cabling plant – they have the options to the land title (which includes the beach). They want to add to what's already here.

ABP is a UK business owned by 5 large pension corporations (2 of which are Canadian).

TM then passed to Stuart (SC) – Senior Scottish Manager. SC confirmed he has been heavily involved in community councils in the past (for this company) and he was in charge of running the Ayr and Troon ports for years. Presentation continued with discussion between members and TM/SC.



They are not looking to be in competition with Global/PoCF - are looking for ways they can add something additional. Feels there is a job for everyone!

All members confirmed we support the *growth* but would appreciate up front communication, in particular where concerning issues such as:

- Noise
- Shore Power
- Employment
- ETC!

SC confirmed that Southampton Port is the first of their ports in the UK to have shore power. Aberdeen and Montrose also use it. Advised it's a massive topic and is largely discussed across the board.

All agreed that communication needs to continue and they confirmed they will return to another of our meetings later this year to provide an update.

TM also confirmed that he would be keen to touch base with our Allan to discuss the future and how they can involve the youth.

The presentation ended at 2030pm. TM and SC left the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 26th June 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). Action AP.
- 6. (4.7 Source of funding required for emergency resilience training). New application submitted to SSEN. Action AP.
- 7. (4.8 To follow up the youth mentoring programme with Dom post exams). Action KM
- 8. $(4.9 \text{To contact Lyndsey at THC to clarify some points regarding housing qualifications for social housing poster). Ongoing. Action PS.$
- 9. (4.10 To speak to THC re. replacing equipment in Victoria Park). Ongoing. Action PS.
- 10.(4.11 To catch up with Kari re. email to J Nightingale about Pirates Graveyard). Action PS.
- 11.(4.12 PS to follow up with SA re. Cromarty sign at bus shelter (who's responsible?)). Meeting to be arranged. Action PS.
- 12.(4.13 To speak to Denis (resident) re. hedge options for the park). Ongoing. Action KM
- 13.(4.14 To discuss with AP where shouldn't be mowed at the Hugh Miller Monument so stakes can go in, and posters put up to stop contractors). Action KM



- 14.(4.15 To speak to Ingrid and John at THC re. use of weed killer in the town & maintenance of the graveyards). Action PS
- 15.(4.16 To discuss at a later date the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). Action ALL.
- 16.(4.17 Public meeting to be held re. parking byelaws around Cromarty). Will be included alongside Community Place Plan meeting. Action ALL.
- 17.(4.18 To seek a volunteer to lead dog-fouling portfolio via social media). Discharged.
- 18.(4.19 To see if Kari is willing to be involved in tourism portfolio). Ongoing. Action PS.
- 19.(4.20 To go back to Sheila re. our comments on the positions of CCDC vs CCDT). Discharged.
- 20.(4.21 To arrange a meeting re. Townlands Park with Ingrid @ THC). Meeting to be arranged via SA. Action PS.
- 21.(4.22 Rector of Academy to be asked to keep record of Stagecoach). On hold.
- 22.(4.23 Awaiting a reply from Ian Moncrieffe at HTC re. Farness Road). Meeting to be arranged with SA to discuss small HC roads. Action PS.
- 23.(4.24 To follow up with Highland School Transport contact at THC re. the continuous difficulties with the timings of the Cromarty to Fortrose bus). **Discharged.**
- 24.(4.25 To discuss recruitment for TVH committee). Ongoing. Action CF.
- 25.(4.26 Potential sub-committee to be created re. Freeport etc (long-term project)). Action AT.
- 26.(4.27 Awaiting response re. Community Payback Scheme to utilise it for street cleaning around the town). See Paige's report to continue to utilise the service. **Discharged.**
- 27.(4.29 To be the communicator for the residents with CGU/Highland Broadband). Ongoing. Action AT.
- 28.(4.30 To find a regular bus-taker from Fortrose Academy to keep note of delays). See Youth Issues is being organised via Allan Munro. **Discharged.**
- 29.(4.31 To contact waste management re. the oil spill kit that was dropped off to TVH). Ongoing. Action SA.
- 30.(4.33 To arrange a separate meeting re. noise monitoring). Action ALL.
- 31.(4.35 To look into how C&DCC can apply for funding to enable our own contactors to do work required around the town!). Various names have been given, will discharge. **Discharged.**
- 32.(4.36 To recruit litter picker volunteers ASAP). Ongoing. Action ALL.
- 33.(4.37 To gather ideas to celebrate 50 years of community councils (in 2027))! Action ALL.
- 34.(4.38 Discussions continue re. finance and location of additional defibrillator @ Townlands). See portfolio report finance required. Ongoing. Action AP.
- 35. (4.41 Awaiting guidance from THC re. what's their responsibility and what should fall to C&DCC to maintain around the town). Action AP.



- 36. (4.43 Rota being prepared for dog-bin emptying in town). Ongoing. Action AP.
- 37. $(5.1 \text{To follow up with THC re. grass cutting as certain areas are now so long cars can't see children round corners /has become hazardous). Action <math>- \text{SA}$.
- 38. (6.1 To write to The Open Gardens committee to thank them for their recent contribution). **Discharged.**
- 39.(7.1 To circulate note from Stagecoach re. not parking in the bus stop to hall users). **Discharged.**
- 40. (8.3.1 To write to Dom to thank him for his contribution to C&DCC). Discharged.
- $41.(8.3.2 \text{To email SA re. dogs in the park and see if there's any preventative action we can take). PS to meet with SA. Action PS.$
- 42. (9.1 LA to send public consultation and recruitment information re. Cromarty fire service to us for members to share/distribute). Not received can't reach Louise. Needs followed up. Action PS.
- 43. (9.2 To contact Julie @ CCDT re. community regeneration fund). Discharged.
- 44. (9.3 To review/update document re. differences between CCDT & C&DCC returning amended version to Matt/Sheila ASAP). Same as 4.20 above. **Discharged.**

5. Youth Issues

School bus continues to be late arriving at Fortrose Academy. PS asked Allan to keep records of this (even a text message) and we can prepare a report and pass the information on to The Highland Council/Stagecoach. Action – PS/AM.

Allan asked re. the football goals on the links as they were removed by THC (via C&DCC) due to being damaged/a health and safety risk. Advised that the development trust were taking on the funding of the goals so PS to follow up with them. Action – PS.

Alan P asked Allan to prepare a schedule of events re. the gritting and when we/they need to start prepping for the winter. AM will report back with a plan. Action – AM.

There were no further comments.

AM left the meeting at 2045pm.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

AT confirmed that £1k was paid to The Harbour Trust (donation from the Open Gardens)

Also confirmed that we're still chasing the £150 repayment from Stagecoach re. the bus shelter costs

Final thing discussed was re. various Cromarty 'guidebooks' and 'leaflets' etc in stock (sold mainly via The Post Office) and these will run out in the next couple of years. Do we need to think about replacing these or should we put the 'funds elsewhere'? Something to think about.



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**) and a breakdown of the Summer Programme were circulated prior to the meeting.

Victoria Hall:

AP confirmed he's in touch with new contact at THC re. TVH maintenance and so far the relationship is really positive and they seem to be very helpful.

Has acquired lots of community assets from a resident who's leaving the town, including splash and dash memorabilia (all were going to be thrown away). To be displayed around the hall.

Highland Broadband are offering free broadband at the hall (looking to improve their relationship with the community). Goal to make the hall a 'Community Hub'. Has managed to negotiate a deal with BT to end the contract but doesn't want to sign up with HB as Cromarty & District don't appear to yet be receiving a service – already pushed back three months.

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolio Reports:

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

Andy:

AT reported that he had received an email from a community resident earlier in the evening, who had sought opinion from the in-house solicitor at Environmental Rights for Scotland, regarding application of discretion in the decision making of THC planning process, specifically with regards to Nigg East Quay and the Cable Plant. In these applications, planning was passed, without review of core environmental documentation, and a background of repeated environmental complaints. AT to write to Councillor Atkin for escalation to the Northern Planning Committee, to clarify the planning process, and the moral application of a discretionary decision in these situations. Action – AT.

Nige:

Black Isle Swimming Pool:

Has come to light that all the funds that were raised have now been donated to The Puffin Pool. Discussion opened, everyone as equally as shocked about it (but in no way feeling the Puffin Pool aren't 'deserving' of the funds). Can't believe the funds could be accepted by The Puffin Pool legally when they were raised for another project – still trying to find some answers.

Paige:

Housing

Confirmed she is to attend a meeting with Albyn housing on Thursday pm – will report back. David Stewart from CCDT and our AP will also be present.

Planning



AT commented on the planning application shown on Paige's report re. Bellevue as it wasn't on the weekly list sent round by THC, and he has been unable to access any documents on the planning website (CF then tried to access to no availability). To contact Craig Simms (named planning officer) with the questions we have. Action – AT.

Community Payback Scheme

Sent someone to cut back the hedges at the entrance to the graveyard. Looks like we will need to clear up the waste but all members agree we should continue to use this service for other jobs in the town. AP confirmed the 100 steps is almost impassable. PS to follow this up. Action – PS.

SA recommends speaking to Jane Young @ THC – is very knowledgeable re. applications and will be able to guide us with the best method of receiving funds for more maintenance work to be done around the town. SA to pass contact details to us. Action – SA.

C&DCC are to identify exactly what needs done but all members agreed it'll be useful to involve her (even if just to apply more pressure on THC).

There were no further comments on any of the portfolios.

8.2 The Highland Council:

SA sent notes to CF ahead of the meeting – nothing else to add. See **Appendix I**.

8.3 Correspondence Received:

Nothing received.

9. Any Other Business (continued..)

There was an email sent round by AP a few days prior to the meeting inviting us to attend a 'Community Wealth Building Focus Group' on 29 August 2024. Was to be discussed at tonight's meeting but we ran out of time. Will discuss offline.

There were no further comments or questions.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 30th September 2024 at 730pm

Meeting ended at 10pm.



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 Stage-coach and some publications income not yet received in the bank. FOR INFORMATION ONLY
- 2. AMOUNTS PAYABLE still reflects £4.50 p&p costs to possibly be repaid from our Paypal account for a publications sales overpayment, by an overseas customer, £200 that is to be used on a Primary School project (ex Open Gardens donation). £1,000 donation to 2024 Open Gardens from Global Energy, paid out to the Harbour Trust. FOR INFORMATION ONLY
- **3. SURPLUS/DEFICIT TO DATE** reflects the costs so far this year ahead of receiving the annual THC maintenance grant, which has been applied for. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
- 4. GLUREN BIJ DE BUREN reflects historic internet costs paid. FOR INFORMATION ONLY
- **5. COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** reflects the latest funded cost of the Reeds Loop Path maintenance and donations. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
- 6. TODDLER PLAYGROUP FUND reflects takings less monthly hall hire. FOR INFORMATION ONLY
- 7. CROMARTY RISING FUND reflects donations received from General Public. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Alan Plampton 25/08/24



		£	£	£
Net Assets		_	Movement	at 24/06/24
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 25th August 2024		12,915.10	-780.16	13,695.26
Paypal Balance as at 25th August 2024		4.50	0.00	4.50
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		160.00	-30.00	190.00
Amounts Payable		-204.50	1,000.00	-1,204.50
Total Net Assets at 25th	August 2024	£12,875.10	189.84	£12,685.26
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st Apr	il 2024	1,596.69	0.00	1,596.69
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		-370.15	-20.85	-349.30
		1,226.54	-20.85	1,247.39
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2	2024	211.75	0.00	211.75
C&DCC Amenity & Event Funds	<u>£</u>			
Community Amenities Fund	1,548.18		23.49	1,524.69
Community Event Funds ex Bonfire/Gala/S&D	5,073.84	6,622.02	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		1,803.71	0.00	1,803.71
Net C&DCC Reserves		10,200.13	2.64	10,197.49
Designated Community Funds				
Open Gardens Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Gluren bij de Buren Fund		125.26	-76.80	202.06
Toddler Playgroup Fund		1,381.29	-66.00	1,447.29
Cromarty Rising Fund		1,168.42	330.00	838.42
		£12,875.10	189.84	£12,685.26
		112,073.10	109.04	112,003.2

APPENDIX C Agenda Item 7 Victoria Hall Report

- Bookings Positive activity during the summer has kept the Hall busy. ACTION Information only, no action required
- 2. **Repairs & Maintenance** New YC mosaic mural has now been installed and was unveiled at a YC summer programme event in July. THC has a new Housing and Property who is now looking promisingly at various external maintenance issues. Fingers crossed. **ACTION Information only, no action required**
- 3. **Sheddie** All the old Events equipment and signage now stored in the Sheddie. **ACTION Information only, no action required**
- 4. Youth Cafe The 2024 Summer Activities report is attached. ACTION Information only

Alan Plampton - VHMC 25/08/24



APPENDIX D AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS ALAN RYCROFT

Police Liaison

My *Police Scotland* contact is in the process of seeking the (currently vacant) position **Area Deputy Commander** at Dingwall and therefore, if he is successful, one of his new responsibilities will be to control and oversee local police liaison with the community, which will hopefully enable a significant improvement in the very patchy service we have experienced of late. Further information to follow, once it becomes available.



APPENDIX E AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS NIGEL SHAPCOTT

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

<u>Reeds Loop</u> Path is scheduled for mowing shortly when weather allows. As reported before, the path is now reopened and is in use with notices saying take appropriate care. The path is showing some wear and tear due to poor weather but is still being used.

<u>100 Steps</u> See above. Following our meeting with CCDT we have produced a 1st draft of a generic grant proposal for significant path maintenance using ChatGPT. No change.

<u>Highland Local Access Group Meeting</u> - As reported before- here has been an announcement for grant applications on 17th June, deadline 17th July. 57 of about 100 grants were reviewed and later discussed by Team Meeting on 21st August . Start date 1st September and finish 28th February 2025.

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

Please refer to the Chatterbox for a long article on the Cromarty Harbour.

The season is moving along with ferry services, Ecoventures, work and leisure activities as normal. The weather has not been particularly favourable, with a few exceptions.

Big news is that the East Pier repair work has been funded and tenders have been received.

A new Trustee, Jamie Stone, has been recruited ("shanghaied" is the normal term for recruiting volunteers in Cromarty).

The Cromarty Boat Club is planning the Crane-out for 4th October, subject to weather and closely involving the Harbour Trust.

Black Isle Swimming Pool

What a turnup, this perhaps explains why we were not able to contact the BISPF. The Inverness Courier 4th July, Hector MacKenzie:

DONATIONS from a determined decades-long campaign for a Black Isle swimming pool are set to benefit another worthy Ross-shire cause after the plug was pulled on the project.

While the bid to secure the facility in Fortrose accumulated £60,000 in donations, the Black Isle Swimming Pool Foundation (BISPF) has finally abandoned the project "with great regret".

Donations received from the people of the Black Isle have now been passed over, in accordance with its statutory duty as overseen by both the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and Companies House, to Puffin Hydrotherapy Pool (PHP) in Dingwall.

Cromarty Care Project (CCP) - Alison Sellar

The Larder

We have been awarded a grant toward stocking the Larder from the Corra Foundation (£2,000). We are awaiting confirmation about another funding application. Also, we've just received a huge donation of foodstuffs from the Masonic Lodge.

Lunch Club

Will resume at the Fishertown Inn from the first Monday in October.

Seagull Trust Cruises

We have only participated in one cruise this season – lack of interest, unfortunately.

Classic Film Club

Has been showing one film per month over the summer and will return to two per month from September. We are currently awaiting confirmation about two funding applications.

CAB – AS will be getting in touch with Alan Plampton to review.



APPENDIX F AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORT ALAN PLAMPTON

- 1. BICC Terms of Reference for the BICC group have been agreed for the BICC to be able to take the lead in BIPP governance. Next meeting on 3rd September to agree person specifications for BIPP Governance Board members and the process of selection. ACTION Information, no action required
- 2. Housing Paige and I to meet with Albyn Housing and Cromarty Development Trust on 29th August 2024. ACTION Information only, no action required
- **3. Events** £1,000 Open Gardens donations have been paid to the Ross & Cromarty RNLI and the Cromarty Harbour Trust. **ACTION Information only, no action required**
- **4. Defibrillators** a further funding source has still to be confirmed to cover all costs of the proposed Townlands unit. **ACTION Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 25/08/24



APPENDIX G AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS ANDY THURGOOD

Meetings attended

I attended the Port of Cromarty Firth Community Councils Liaison meeting on 11th July. POCF have appointed a new Chief Executive, Alex Campbell (replacing the retired Bob Buskie). POCF are in the process of establishing a Noise Management Framework with the Highland Council. The POCF Annual Public Meeting will be held online on Thursday 26th September. Sponsorship from POCF to Cromarty cause this cycle include £5k to the Youth Café, and £3k to the Harbour Trust.

Correspondence

I had email correspondence with Julie Macrae concerning hands-on support from a Townlands resident to support civic improvements – generally tidying, painting etc. I made multiple attempts to phone the contact, and left messages without a response being received.

The generally tidiness of the town has arisen in conversations with folk generally, and feeds into the larger situation with regards to scope and programme of works that are undertaken by the Highland Council, in this regard. Once this is understood, a forward local strategy can be determined.

Noise and other nuisance from the Firth

No nuisance identified since the last report.

Andy Thurgood 24/08/24



APPENDIX H AGENDA ITEM 8 – PORTFOLIO REPORTS PAIGE SHEPHERD

Planning	Subdivision into three dwellings	
	Bellevue House Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA Ref. No: 24/03176/LBC Received: Mon 22 Jul 2024 Validated: Fri 16 Aug 2024 Status: Under Consideration	
	Alterations to roof, internal alterations	
	The Denny 2 Denny Road Cromarty IV11 8YT Ref. No: 24/02774/LBC Received: Thu 27 Jun 2024 Validated: Thu 18 Jul 2024 Status: Under Consideration	
	Alterations and erection of extension to house	
	The Denny 2 Denny Road Cromarty IV11 8YT Ref. No: 24/02773/FUL Received: Thu 27 Jun 2024 Validated: Thu 18 Jul 2024 Status: Under Consideration	
Town Maintenance	I have been in contact with the community payback scheme regarding trimming the entrance to the graveyard at the bottom of the deny. Work has been undertaken. Is this something we could utilise as parts of the town are becoming unruly.	
Open Gardens	Big thanks to Open Gardens for their donation of £750 towards an additional town defibrillator.	

APPENDIX I AGENDA ITEM 8 – THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL COUNCILLOR SARAH ATKIN

Dear All,

I do have updates on school transport and grass cutting.

- 1. School Transport: I suggest a similar system to that proposed last year where one person/parent takes responsibility for communicating late arrivals on a weekly/ basis to Caro Munro at the transport team. Stagecoach can be cc'd into these emails. This would build up a body of evidence that could force a discussion about contractual obligations etc. Without consistent evidence, nothing can be done. I've been in touch with Caro Munro and they're happy for this approach to be revisited again. It's definitely easier than multiple, random emails and is more likely to be noted and filed.
- Grass Cutting: Scott Duncan (Amenities) wasn't aware of complaints from Cromarty. However, he's fine about direct contact from the CC. He's proactive and very keen to engage with communities. A good guy. He's also trying his best with such a reduced budget and team.
- 3. Funding for jobs around Cromarty: I was thinking that initially, the Ward Discretionary budget can help but that's not a long term solution. The wider issue of 'partnership' and almost 'co-delivery' is being advanced by Ferintosh and a paper of examples where this has worked well is with Alison Clark (senior officer) and might be presented/discussed at Communities and Place (but don't quote me on that.)

See you Monday.

Cllr Sarah Atkin (June 2024)

