



Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting held on

Tuesday 28th April, 7:00pm

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; Nigel Shapcott (NS); and Alan Rycroft (AR)

Youth Member:

Highland Councillor(s): Morven-May MacCallum (MMM)

Minute Secretary: Joanna Rose (JR)

Member(s) of the public:

1. Welcome & apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Youth Member Allan Munro and Orlagh Maciver.

The meetings continue to be recorded via Microsoft Teams – Online AR, OM and NS – and the rest were present in the hall.

2. Declaration of Interest

No changes since the last meeting.

3. Approval of previous minutes – 30th March 2026

Minutes were amended and approved by 1st AT and 2nd by AP

4. Youth Issues

Nothing to report this month. Buses are still running on time.

5. Cromarty Community Development Trust

PS: To speak to MH regarding the gritting, will update once know more. **Action PS**

PS to ask MH if he would like their newsletter on the Cromarty Live website. **Action PS**

Tractor Run- Wanted the links but the open gardens have it, so been advised to contact Matt to see if can come to some agreement.

6. Matters Arising from previous minutes – 30th March 2026

One Drive – PS and JR are going to see if we can get access over to the CDCC email address for OneDrive. **Action PS & JR**

Action Points – Add Add a date column to action points. **Action JR**

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report and accompanying notes plus the DRAFT year-end financial statements (**Appendix A, B & C**) were prepared by AP and circulated prior to the meeting.

7.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- for the year to 31st March 2026 attached, these are subject to audit. Have very minor adjustments to those draft figures presented at the last meeting.

7.2 **COMMUNITY DEFIB FUND** — reflects new donations for replacement pads at Fishertown Inn.

7.3 **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND** – reflects the monthly emergency resilience Centre's new VOIP landline and power backup.

7.4 **CROMARTY RISING FUND**- reflects a small extra payment for the internet costs.

There were no further comments from members

8. Victoria Hall (VH) Report including Youth Café

The Victoria Hall Report (**Appendix C**) was not circulated as business was going on in background, plus the Youth Café Report (**via** email) was circulated prior to the meeting.

8.1 Finances – All ok; review of the fees shall happen post 31st March. An increase will be required.

8.2 Repairs – Flat roof repairs AP needs to have a chat with Ricky Cheng regarding the 15-year agreement on the license; he will keep us updated, and he will copy in MMM to all emails.

Action AP && MMM

8.3 Boiler- is corroded, leaking and needs repair. Awaiting an HC decision on what happens next, either a repair or a replacement. No response yet from HC. **Action** AP

There were no further comments from members.

9. Replacement Chairperson for Cromarty Harbour Trust

9.1 PS to speak to Loren regarding the job spec and advertisement. **Action** PS

10. Portfolio reports

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

Nigel Shapcott

Hoolie- 11am - 4pm on the 4th May at the Harbour,

Reeds Loop- Reeds Loop Path (shore part) All in all, it is still in a functional state. I have met with Philip Waite (Environ Development and Active Travel, Highland Council) to discuss both the Reeds Loop path and the 100 steps. "100 steps" temporary repairs have started by the HC Ranger. A group has started work on planning, with starting points being previous work which has been done on surveying and pricing. **Action** NS

Local Access Group- The announcement of Community-Led Local Development Fund occurred today. The small grants pot opens on 28 April 2026. This is a single-stage application process operating on a rolling basis. First approvals are expected by mid-May, and then on an ongoing basis until the fund is fully allocated. I have just (28/04/2026) sent an email to ourselves (C&DCC), the Development Trust, Victoria Hall, Cromarty Care Project, Cromarty Harbour and the Cromarty Museum. **Action** NS

Andy Thurgood

Meeting- I attended meeting on 7th April, 150 turbines to be built over 3 years
Sponsor the ferry for the April and May for next 5 years.
25% down on staffing.

No noise complaints received since last complaint on 11th April 2025.

One Cromarty – No response from groups about a volunteer to do a feasibility study.

Alan Plampton

Affordable Housing- Awaiting full survey.

Defibrillators- Following my meeting on 1st April with Dot Ferguson, a way ahead was proposed for the Townlands Park installation. This involved the C&DCC making a funding application, to the CRF, for the match funding on the installation cost and to cover the revised THC Streets and Lighting costs (now received). This application draft is to be shared with Dot Ferguson and Lynn Bauuermeister before submission.

BICC -will hold its next meeting in May. It is hoped that this meeting will resolve the differences that currently exist over agreeing a BICC Terms of Reference.

Paige Shepherd

OBI – 1st meeting of the full board was held on the 14th of th April. Good meeting and discussions. NS and PS speak to SA regarding housing going forward. **Action PS/NS**

Ferry- April update from Dougie from the ferry. Easter weekend very busy which is good news. Another busy weekend, this one passed but has been quiet in the week. There will also be some new staff working on the ferry this season. Dougie is going to come to us if there are any issues

Planning- Craighead wants our support; email and be polite.

Alan Rycroft

Police Liaison

Still can't get anyone from Police Scotland – have contacted Chief Inspector David McAlpine for a response. MMM has kindly escalate the issue. No local liaison officer at present.
1 incident in Cromarty- been sent to PF.

11. The Highland Council

Stagecoach- Late bus penalty received.

Learnie Red Rock- Tree falling to be happening, and Forest & land Scotland was wondering if we were wanting to be involved. PS to send Ronan Taylor contact details, as he was the Black Isle Mountain Biking Contact.

Tore- Not a great response from Transport Scotland with concerns. Email Ian Moncrieff with what we would like to see in future. MMM to follow up roads department.

MMM was thanked and left at 8:07pm.

12. Correspondence Received

Nothing to report this month.

13. Any Other Business

There were no further comments and no other business.

14. Date of next meeting

Monday 25h May 2026 at 700pm.

The meeting ended 8:50pm

APPENDIX A

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** for the year to 31st March 2026 are attached. These are subject to audit and have very minor adjustments to those draft figures presented at the last meeting. The Treasurer’s report figures reflect movement across a year end, which slightly complicates the usual movements that are presented. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND** reflects new donation for replacement pads at Fishertown Inn. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND** reflects the monthly Emergency Resilience Centre’s new VOIP ‘landline’ and power back up. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **CROMARTY RISING FUND** reflects a small extra payment for their internet costs. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
27/04/26

APPENDIX B

AGENDA ITEM 7 TREASURER’S REPORT

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting				
Held on Monday 28th April 2026				
Agenda Item No 7 - Treasurer's Report				
Statement of Financial Position at 27th April 2026				
	£	£	£	
Net Assets		Movement		at 29/03/26
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 27th April 2026	11,005.08	-374.74		11,379.82
Paypal Balance as at 27th April 2026	0.00	0.00		0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance	0.00	0.00		0.00
Amounts Payable	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total Net Assets at 27th April 2026	£11,005.08	-374.74		£11,379.82
	£	£		£
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2026**	848.30	-479.89		1,328.19
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date	-182.43	177.64		-360.07
	665.87	-302.25		968.12
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2026**	211.75	0.00		211.75
C&DCC Amenity & Event Funds				
Community Amenities Funds	4,944.37	0.00		4,944.37
Community Resilience Fund	1,641.04	-9.99		1,651.03
Cromarty Live Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00
Community Defibrillator Fund	1,461.58	-60.00		1,521.58
Net C&DCC Reserves	8,924.61	-372.24		9,296.85
Designated Community Funds				
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	125.26	0.00		125.26
Toddler Playgroup Fund	656.79	0.00		656.79
Cromarty Rising Fund	1,298.42	-2.50		1,300.92
	£11,005.08	-374.74		£11,379.82
** Subject to Audit				
Alan Plampton 27th April 2026				

APPENDIX C

AGENDA ITEM 8 — VICTORIA HALL REPORT

Awaiting report

APPENDIX D

AGENDA ITEM 10 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS

ALAN RYCROFT

Police Liaison

The formal Police Scotland Ward 9 report for March 2026, which I have circulated, refers to an arrest on 7 March 2026, following allegations of assault, vandalism and public indecency in the Townlands Park area of Cromarty, and states that a report is being sent to the procurator fiscal.

Having still not received any response from *Police Scotland's* Inspector Jack at Dingwall, regarding my repeated

requests for clarification on the question of a local police liaison officer, Cllr Morven-May has kindly made efforts to escalate this issue for me. I have also written a letter to Inspector Jack's line senior officer, Chief Inspector David McAlpine, and I attach a copy of that letter herewith. I await further developments.

As there is no current local liaison officer in post, no relevant information has been received

APPENDIX E

AGENDA ITEM 10 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS

ALAN PLAMPTON

1. BICC will hold its next meeting in May. It is hoped that this meeting will resolve the differences that currently exist over agreeing a BICC Terms of Reference. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

2. Affordable Housing Sub Committee has received no further update to the report presented at the last meeting. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

3. Defibrillators Following my meeting on the 1st April with Dot Ferguson, a way ahead was proposed for the Townlands Park installation. This involved the C&DCC making a funding application to the CRF for the match funding on the installation cost and to cover the revised THC Streets and Lighting costs (now received). This application draft is to be shared with Dot Ferguson and Lynne Bauwermeister before submission.

ACTION – Information only, no action required

Alan Plampton 27/04/26

APPENDIX F

AGENDA ITEM 10 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS

ANDY THURGOOD

Meetings attended

I attended the Port of Cromarty Firth Community Council Liaison meeting on 7th April. Items covered at the meeting:

HSEQ

- A review of the 2025 statistics: 8 noise incidents noted.. A new Good Practice Guide has been produced for Port Users on noise management.
- Since the last meeting PoCF have now added data LTIFR and TRIFR injury data to their analysis.
- Preparation is underway for the Eider and Tern breeding season, with tern rafts to be deployed shortly.
- It was reported that dolphin population is steady at 230 individuals.
- Fastmove' - a joint desk-top' feasibility study/project on dual-fuelling of vessels, using ammonia, has been completed.

Business Development

- Inchcape offshore wind work scope is underway.
- Onshore windfarm marshalling is expected Q2.
- There are 4 rigs currently in the Firth; 2 are expected to depart this quarter.
- Two large leases for multi-year onshore storage are in negotiation.
- Cruise season commenced 6th April:
- 95 ships booked.
- Cruise workshop held for local businesses.
- Duck trail being launched, and maps reprinted.
- Independent operators have produced a Code of Conduct.
- Cruise Levy position is not finalised by Scottish Government.

- Green Freeport Update - **CEO Calum MacPherson has resigned.**

Phase 5 Update (West Quay)

- Final Investment Decision (FID) is delayed.

- No new timelines yet.

Marketing & PR

- Community sponsorship projects have benefited Cromarty Youth Cafe, Invergordon Rowing Club and Invergordon Museum. There are a couple of applications in the system that are still to be processed.

- The Duck Trail (see Cruise item above) launches later this month.

- The PoCF April Fools Day film appears to have been well received.

- An emergency response exercise was successfully completed, and highlighted through their media channels

Q&A

- I asked about the relationship with the new owners of Port of Nigg; Joanne Allday replied that their relationship was good.

A Port of Nigg Community Councils Liaison meeting is scheduled for 28 th April.

Correspondence

None received this month.

Noise and other nuisance from the Firth

Last reported incident remains 11 th April 2025.

Projects

No further response from member groups of One Cromarty of a volunteer to do a feasibility study on a mechanism for group communications and document sharing.

Andy Thurgood

27/04/26

APPENDIX G

AGENDA ITEM 10 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS

PAIGE SHEPHERD

Paige's Report April 2026

Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	Installation of rooflight, enlargement of existing rooflight and siting of bike shed
	Seabank 45 Shore Street Cromarty IV11 8XL Ref. No: 26/01406/FUL Received: Thu 02 Apr 2026 Validated: Mon 20 Apr 2026 Status: Under Consideration

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	<p>Installation of rooflight, enlargement of existing rooflight</p> <p>Seabank 45 Shore Street Cromarty IV11 8XL Ref. No: 26/01407/LBC Received: Thu 02 Apr 2026 Validated: Mon 20 Apr 2026 Status: Under Consideration</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	<p>Alterations to ground and first floor fireplaces to fit wood burning stoves</p> <p>Wellington House Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA Ref. No: 26/01382/LBC Received: Tue 31 Mar 2026 Validated: Wed 22 Apr 2026 Status: Under Consideration</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	<p>Repair works to roof, attic modifications, installation of wood burning stove</p> <p>Wellington House Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA Ref. No: 26/01383/FUL Received: Tue 31 Mar 2026 Validated: Thu 09 Apr 2026 Status: Under Consideration</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	<p>Erect agricultural building</p> <p>Davidston Farm Davidston Cromarty IV11 8XX Ref. No: 26/01307/PNO Received: Fri 27 Mar 2026 Validated: Fri 27 Mar 2026 Status: Decided</p>
OBI	<p>The first meeting of the full OBI board took place on the 14th April. The meeting was held in two halves. Firstly an introductory session and the second part was how we take various aspects of the plan forward. Nige and I plan to meet with Sarah regarding housing going forward.</p>
Pot Holes	<p>https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/road_faults</p>

School Bus	No issues reported for the school bus
Cromarty Ferry	April update from Dougie from the ferry. Easter weekend very busy which is good news. Another busy weekend this one passed but has been quiet in the week. There will also be some new staff working the ferry this season. Dougie is going to come to us if there are any issues

APPENDIX H

AGENDA ITEM 10 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS

NIGEL SHAPCOTT

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

- Reeds Loop Path (shore part) All in all it is still in a functional state. I have met with Philip Waite (Environ Development and Active Travel, Highland Council) to discuss both Reeds Loop path and the 100 steps. “100 steps” temporary repairs have started by the HC Ranger. A group consisting of Phillip Waite (HC), Pat Haynes, Liz Broumley and myself have started work on planning, with starting points being previous work shihc has been done on surveying and pricing..
- Highland Local Access Group - The announcement of Community-Led Local Development Fund occurred today. The small grants pot opens on **28 April 2026**. This is a single-stage application process operating on a rolling basis. First approvals are expected by mid-May, and then on an ongoing basis until the fund is fully allocated. I have just (28/04/2026) sent an email to ourselves (C&DCC), the Development Trust, Victoria Hall, Cromarty Care Project, Cromarty Harbour and the Cromarty Museum.
- Ross and Cromarty Local Access Forum at Dingwall Chamber Tuesday 21 April 2026. Approved meeting minutes will be available on line shortly and I will include the link in my next portfolio report.

Cromarty Care Project

- Scottish Government Household Hardship Fund. We have now paid out the entire award of £6,450 to 25 households. This represents a payment of £150 per child to a total of 43 children/dependents.
 - Summer Café The first of 8 Summer Cafés has taken place at the school today. A great wee intergenerational project!
- Highland Good Food Partnership – We were approached by them to renew our membership and update. We have asked them to remove the Sharing Larder from their Food Map, given the problems we’ve been having from out-of-towners, and they have agreed to do that. They were also very keen on the Summer Café and have asked us to share our experience with other members

- We've also passed on their details to the Development Trust, since community growing is a part of their remit.
- Meals Delivery Service - We're still looking for volunteers to deliver meals locally (in collaboration with Black Isle Cares) BIC have been canvassing locally and have found a great deal of interest from potential recipients.

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

- Hoolie runs from 11am - 4pm on 4th of May(see poster below), the Cromarty Boat Club will open their toileting facility and provide access to power if needed.
- Shed construction is now all but finished - there are some Highland Council conditions to meet. The plan is to tidy the area up before the Hoolie.
- Pontoon reboarding has been approved by HC and will start shortly.
- Harbour full again with waiting list - this, again, evidences appetite for using the harbour.
- The Boat Club Crane-In date was changed to 17th April, because of weather conditions, traffic for the ferry used the Links that day.