



# Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved  
Minutes  
28/06/21

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021, 7.30pm**  
via video link due to Covid-19 restrictions

## Present

**Community Councillors:** Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chair, Alan Plampton (AP) - Treasurer, Peter Ratcliffe (PR) - Secretary, Kari Magee (KM), Gregor Fox (GF) – Youth Member, Tilly Grist (TG) – Youth Member & Nigel Shapcott (NS).

**Youth Representative(s):** N/A

**Highland Councillor(s):** - Cllr Craig Fraser (CF)

**Member(s) of the public:** - N/A

**Community Council Minute Secretary:** Claire Fraser

1	<p><b><u>Chairman's Welcome &amp; Apologies</u></b></p> <p>PS welcomed everyone to the video meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from Teagan Young (TY) – Youth Representative.</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interests</u></b></p> <p>2.1 Declarations unchanged from meeting of 26th October 2020.</p>	
3	<p><b><u>Approval of Previous Minutes, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021</u></b></p> <p>3.1 The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by NS (subject to a couple of minor edits in relation to spelling).</p>	
4	<p><b><u>Matters Arising from previous minutes, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021</u></b></p> <p>4.1 (4.1 Continue to discuss how to further shorten meeting times with new Minute Secretary). <b>Discharged.</b></p> <p>4.2 (4.2 To continue to discuss the neighbourhood questionnaire re. Townlands parking areas being white lined). <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>4.3 (4.3 Follow up with THC contact re. Community Pay Back Scheme). <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>4.4 (4.4 Await response from THC re. TMP proposals as previously minuted). Despite CF intervening, still no response. KM to contact Diane Agnew for advice as Ward Manager. <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>4.5 (4.5 To continue to discuss redesign of the Welcome sign for Cromarty). <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>4.6 (4.6 Data on Cromarty Live website to be updated). <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>4.7 (4.7 To chase THC planners re. permit for new track at Farness). <b>Discharged.</b></p> <p>4.8 (4.8 Await response from THC re. waste to be removed at Whitedykes). Still no response. KM to take more photos and re-submit via THC website. <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>(cont..)</p>	<p><b>CF &amp; FT</b></p> <p><b>CF</b></p> <p><b>KM</b></p> <p><b>CF &amp; FT</b></p> <p><b>AP, PR etc</b></p> <p><b>KM</b></p>

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4.9	(4.10 Await to see if work carried out to fencing at Reeds Loop is adequate, or if we will need to bring this up again). To continue to discuss how to action the request to partition off the field at Reeds Loop to prevent the free roam of livestock on a public walkway (see more detail in <b>Agenda Item 8</b> ). <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>ALL</b>
4.10	(4.11 To chase quotes for free-standing hand sanitizer units). Quotes received – average £250 per unit. AP to go back and request one unit to trial outside Allan Square Toilets with the potential to purchase more if needed. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>AP</b>
4.11	(4.12 Await response from Rory Gunn @ GEG re: Advanced Manufacturing Facility) Freeport status). Environment Impact Assessments will be conducted once the proposal is submitted to The Scottish Government (TSG) and TSG have provided guidance to all the stakeholders on how to proceed. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>KM</b>
4.12	(4.13 Await response from architect re. drawings of links bus shelter proposal). Drawings received and have been sent on to THC & Stagecoach. This is to allow the bus shelter to be moved along slightly to prevent it being hit by the buses. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>CF</b>
4.13	(4.14 To follow up on further training for Cromarty 1st responders). PR sent email to David Rodger asking for an update. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>PR</b>
4.14	(4.15 Regular meetings still ongoing to provide CCs with local weekly covid updates). <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>CF</b>
4.15	(4.16 Await final decision from THC re. pump track, ahead of finalising funding). <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>GF, AP &amp; NS</b>
4.16	(4.17 Finalise dog bin rota and prepare local map detailing location of all bins). The town refuse bins are being used, as is shown on the bin stickers (apart from some occasions). Map complete and sent to members for info. Further organisation required. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>PR</b>
4.17	(4.18 Await results from plumber re. water supply to Sheddie). Not urgent just now due to the warmer weather. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>AP &amp; NS</b>
4.18	(4.19 Confirm dates with Di Agnew re. previous letter in respect of omission of charging points). <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>PS</b>
4.19	(4.20 Awaiting appropriate officer to respond from THC re. survey of the Links shrubbery as haven for lots of wildlife). <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>CF</b>
4.20	(4.21 Confirm removal of signs that were erected in error by PoCF. Planning permission required first.). Signs to be removed imminently – PoCF didn't know this hadn't been done! <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>PR</b>
4.21	(4.22 To discuss further re. music event proposal for 2022, need to come to a decision very soon. JN left decision in hands of C&DCC). JN will not give approval unless the C&DCC enter into formal agreement with organisers. Even so, he's likely to receive strong opinions from the community that might influence his final decision. Meeting arranged with organisers for Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2021. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>ALL</b>
4.22	(4.23 Follow up any concerns from residents re. dog fouling in the community). <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>PR</b>
4.23	(4.24 Respond to THC re. the contractor to repair damaged steps at the start of The Ladies Walk). <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>CF</b>
4.24	(4.26 Discussion ongoing with THC re. one way system for the upcoming election). <b>Discharged.</b>	

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4.25	(4.27 BITT – apply for funding for extra toilets in Cromarty ahead of upcoming tourist season). Not to do with C&DCC. <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.26	(4.29 To discuss offline re. gritter maintenance). Gritter maintenance discussed in more detail in Agenda Item 8 below. <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.27	(4.30 Await response from Gordon Adam re. IMFDP comments that were submitted in March 21 (not yet accepted). Still not accepted, however, the planner highlighted that comments would only be rejected in very specific circumstances. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>KM</b>
4.28	(4.31 To circulate submission on behalf of the community re. IMFDP to members). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.29	(4.34 Send minutes from 2003 to NS outlining previous project details as previously minuted). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.30	(4.37 To chase response from CF/THC re. Byelaw as requested by CDT). Seeking advice from THC. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>PS</b>
4.31	(8.2.1 Speak to resident re. surveyors used for recent works done to Harbour, to see if services can be utilised for major works to 100 steps). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.32	(8.2.2 Look into further funding to cover costs for above (will be partially funded by C&DCC)). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.33	(8.2.3 Application to be done separately via BIT for funding via the ‘Paths of Black Isle Scheme). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.34	(8.2.4 Arrange volunteers for further tidying up of the 100 steps. Proposed date is Sunday 2nd May 2021). Complete – please see report. <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.35	(8.3.1 Await response from The Development Trust for funding re. Reeds Loop fence repairs). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.36	(8.4.1 To seek confirmation as to who at PoCF that is of ‘higher authority’). Not yet identified. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>KM</b>
4.37	(8.4.3 Speak to THC Environmental Department re. providing noise measuring equipment). Complete – please see report. <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.38	(8.4.4 Investigate potential costs of purchasing noise monitoring equipment via C&DCC). Awaiting feedback from THC re. recent noise monitoring and discussions with GEG and PoCF. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>KM</b>
4.39	(8.5.5 Contact Nigg & Shandwick CC re. their views on IMFDP). Contact made and views included – will maintain contact. <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.40	(8.6.1 To respond to Cllr Adam letter to Police Scotland with full support of emergency speed limit appeal). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.41	(8.7.1 Arrange funding as a contribution towards running costs of additional toilets required (Highland Comfort Scheme). BITT. <b>Discharged.</b>	
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4.42	(8.8.2 Recruit volunteers to help with litter collection around the town). Town refuse bins mapped, further email to send out but needs methodology. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>PR</b>
4.43	(8.8.3 Litter Survey results to be emailed to DB re. posting on C&DCC Facebook page. Also to add to website). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.44	(8.10.1 Seagull Nuisance guidance from THC to be circulated and included on Facebook plus website). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.45	(8.10.3 Article prepared by CF re. weed killing to be published on C&DCC Facebook and website). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.46	(8.11.1 To approach JN re. addition of signs to the South Sutor re. no overnight camping/fouling). <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>PR</b>
4.47	(8.11.2 To approach JN re. applying for a grant from THC for a composting toilet). BITT have taken this further with THC. <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.48	(8.11.3 To respond to resident re. the dirty camping at top of South Sutor). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.49	(9.3 To discuss how to get information out to residents re. buying electricity out of hours (via the Youth Cafe)). Investigate how to create an out of hours service (Co-op in Fortrose supplies electricity, so is always available until 10pm). Estelle at Post Office is willing to open for emergency electric but would like an alternative solution, so she's not contacted 24/7. AP to put on website and see what the residents think. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>AP</b>
4.50	(9.4 Respond to residents querying re. not posting draft minutes to website). <b>Discharged.</b>	
End		
<b>5</b>	<b><u>Youth Issues</u></b>	
5.1	Fraser Thompson (FT) was commended for all power point presentations that were circulated prior to the meeting.	
5.2	NS asked TG and GF about the mental health in the youth of Cromarty, if they were aware of any struggles, that we could perhaps help with. TG and GF advised that the clubs reopening had helped a lot and mentioned that Fortrose Academy also try to help those in need. PS suggested that TG and GF email her should they be aware of anything of concern, that they would like to raise confidentially.	
5.3	Avoch and Killen Community Council would like Youth Members to join their committee. AP to put the Chair of A&KCC in touch with GF and TG and they can discuss this further.	
End		
<b>6</b>	<b><u>Treasurer's Report</u></b>	
6.1	The Treasurer's Report Notes ( <b>Appendix A</b> ) & Treasurer's Report ( <b>Appendix B</b> ) were prepared by AP and circulated prior to the meeting by The Minute Secretary.	
6.2	AP mentioned that the 'defibrillator tin' at The Cromarty Bakery has been emptied, and it contained £60. There are three in Cromarty, one at The Arms, one at The Royal, and as mentioned, one at The Cromarty Bakery.	
End	There were no further questions and AP was thanked for his reports.	

<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p> <p>7.5</p> <p>7.6</p> <p>7.7</p> <p>7.8</p> <p>7.9</p> <p>7.10</p> <p>7.11</p> <p>End</p>	<p><b><u>Victoria Hall Report including Youth Café</u></b></p> <p>The Victoria Hall Report (<b>Appendix C</b>) that was prepared by AP and presentations that was prepared by FT (as mentioned in <b>Agenda item 5</b>) were all circulated prior to the meeting by The Minute Secretary.</p> <p>Work has now finished at The Sheddie. There are new fixings in place for summer storage of the Gritters, and the free space this will create will be used by the Trikes.</p> <p>C&amp;DCC and VHMC must decide when to re-open the hall. It must be policed and cleaned between each let (can't be left to the tenant to do, as may not meet VH standards/be Covid compliant).</p> <p>Re-opening the hall would also mean that hirers would have to have their own Track &amp; Trace and there are different forms they'd have to fill out for hiring the hall, in addition to new, online risk-assessments.</p> <p>Before a decision can be made, we must calculate the Physical Distance Based Capacity (PDBC) to see the <u>maximum</u> number that can attend a booking (i.e. a group fitness class or on a larger scale, a wedding), based on guidance. Note that although The Scottish Government (TSG) rules mean that the number of attendees at a wedding is rising, this does not mean that the event can be held in The Victoria Hall if the PDBC does not allow. AP and PR will do the calculation over the next few days, to see what the limit will be.</p> <p>Suggestions were made that no use until 28<sup>th</sup> of June at the earliest, when we drop to Level 0. During July, we will allow some use by The Youth Café (as a trial for policing each booking), and if all conditions have been met, we could potentially re-open from 1 August 2021.</p> <p>AP suggests that we <b>try</b> and make it work, however TSG rules change weekly so overall, the final decision will depend on what they suggest. <b>All members</b> agreed that this is a lot of work to expect volunteers to do and are aware that <b>ALL</b> communities will be having this issue.</p> <p>CF is going to email a contact at THC for guidance, as all agreed that if nothing is done, the halls are going to close. If nothing further, then he will contact Kate Forbes. AP to send HTSI advice and links to all Members to help CF before he contacts THC.</p> <p>AP, CF and PR to discuss further once guidance received, and PDBC calculation has been carried out.</p> <p>The last thing to mention is that the Youth Café is going from strength to strength and has just been awarded more funding from The Middleton Trust.</p> <p>There were no further comments. PS offered to help AP as and when he needs it, and AP was thanked very much for all of his hard work.</p>	<p><b>AP &amp; PR</b></p> <p><b>CF &amp; AP</b></p> <p><b>AP, PR &amp; CF</b></p>
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>(cont..)</p>	<p><b><u>Members' Reports</u></b></p> <p><u>Portfolios</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Portfolio Reports prepared by NS (<b>Appendix D</b>), PR (<b>Appendix E</b>) and KM (<b>Appendix F</b>) were circulated prior to the meeting by The Members.</li> </ul>	

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8.2	<u>Gritters</u>	
8.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to organize someone to regularly maintain the Gritters. NS suggested a young resident of Cromarty, already repairing bikes (and with the relevant certificates) could be asked (or someone similar). GF advised that, the particular person in mind already has multiple jobs, and all members were aware he would be going to Uni in September so this might not be the most ideal candidate.</li> </ul>	
8.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claire had seen on Facebook that another resident was starting his own business on The Cromarty Harbour, servicing and maintaining bikes, so put his name forward. Claire to send contact details to Nige so he could make contact.</li> </ul>	CF & NS
8.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NS to write a discretionary fund as finance is needed to ensure the servicing can be a continuous expense. AP advised there is a small budget available already, so servicing doesn't need to wait for the funding to be approved.</li> </ul>	NS
8.3	<u>Reeds Park Loop</u>	
8.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cattle on Reeds Park Loop have been an on-going problem for a number of years. JN will not be pro-active with the tenant about the free roam of the livestock. All members aware that NS has put a lot of work into the funding to repair the fences as the walkway needs to be secured, for the public's safety. Members discussed how JN could be forced to repair the fence (we should not have to fund it).</li> </ul>	
8.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KM sure that where-ever she has lived in the past (albeit not in Scotland), the public right of way is the priority. KM to look into this further, and the laws in Scotland to see where we stand as a community, and who's responsibility the fence repairs would be. All members agreed that we should be highlighting the legal obligations to JN/the tenant.</li> </ul>	KM
8.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All members agree that even by raising concerns about the livestock to the SSPCA hasn't been effective, so perhaps the next port of call is to contact the Police.</li> </ul>	
8.3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As Reeds Park Loop is a core path belonging to THC but is situated on JN's land, NS suggested we approach THC lawyers. CF to email a contact at THC right away for further information on this, and to see what our options are.</li> </ul>	CF
	There were no further comments regarding portfolios from members and all were thanked for their efforts and work done to date.	
8.4	<u>Highland Council</u> - Cllr Craig Fraser	
8.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>THC disposed of a discarded fishing net. Trying to maintain close working relationship with Katrina as she always empties the bins when we request it. PR agreed, she has been very helpful to C&amp;DCC over the last few months.</li> </ul>	
8.4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The light outage that was report at the start of May has been fixed.</li> </ul>	
8.4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various complaints received regarding grass cutting in both The Victoria Park and Townlands Park. These have been escalated to relevant authority at THC.</li> </ul>	

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8.4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CF mentioned that he is disappointed with THC. They are 50% down on staff and this results in the work always falling back on volunteers, who already have more than enough to do (as already mentioned in <b>Agenda item 7</b> above).</li> </ul> <p>There were no further comments and CF was thanked for his continued support of the C&amp;DCC and the local community.</p>	
8.5	<b><u>Correspondence Received</u></b>	
End	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No correspondence received that hasn't already been passed on.</li> </ul>	
9	<b><u>Any Other Business</u></b>	
9.1	<b><u>Trees for the Queen's Jubilee</u></b>	
9.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence via Facebook re. tree planting for the Queen's Jubilee. PS to look into to see if it's of benefit to the community.</li> </ul>	PS
9.2	<b><u>Speed of traffic</u></b>	
9.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various comments made re. speed of traffic on roads in the town.</li> </ul>	
9.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourists are visiting the town now and are frequently using the road to The South Sutor. However, quite often they are travelling at a speed that is too fast for the condition of the road. Members questioned if warning signs could be put up to warn them of the state of the roads, the idea being that they should help to slow traffic down. C&amp;DCC aware that the road up to 'Sutor Coops' is maintained by THC, but after that it belongs to John Nightingale. CF to email Ian Moncrieff at THC about this, to see what action can be taken, if any.</li> </ul>	CF
9.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further comments were made on the speed and noise of a particular vehicle driving through Cromarty. At least three nights a week over the last month noise complaints have been raised. Emails have been sent to Road Traffic Management and no engagement is coming back. KM and PS to look into this further, to see if can identify where the noise is coming from, and how the C&amp;DCC can then act on the complaints.</li> </ul>	KM & PS
9.3	<b><u>Newsletter</u></b>	
9.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has become obvious that the newsletter is not being read by residents, either because it is not being shared wide enough, it's not engaging enough, or they just aren't interested.</li> </ul>	
9.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NS questioned if a 'Cromarty in 2 minutes' news brief/video bulletin could be recorded, alongside the newsletter. Members agree that this might be more interesting than a long article that folk need to read. AP to speak to the Newsletter team to see if this is something they would consider alongside the publishing.</li> </ul>	AP
9.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>All members</b> required to think of other ways to communicate local news to residents before the next meeting. VHMC notice board could be used, as an additional place to display information (would act as a halfway point). AP to organise this.</li> </ul>	AP
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9.3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Post Office is also becoming too busy and can't always display the information we request. Members agreed that we could look to use the C&amp;DCC Noticeboard instead (next to The Shop). DB and AP to arrange this.</li> </ul>	<b>AP</b>
9.4	<u>Litter Picking</u>	
9.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PR now has a team of 6 volunteers for the litter picking around the town. A leader is still to be decided on. CF asked PR to add his name to the list of volunteers.</li> </ul>	
9.5	<u>East Hall</u>	
9.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident approached the C&amp;DCC re. the use of the East Church Hall. TCDT pointed them to us, or THC. All members agreed that it wasn't in the control of C&amp;DCC. All under the impression that it's up to Highlife Highland. The C&amp;DCC do fully support the use of the East Church Hall however.</li> </ul>	
9.5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was also noted that the nursery, and the pre-school are re-locating from the East Church Hall to other premises.</li> </ul>	
End		
10	<b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b>	
10.1	Next Ordinary Meeting, <b>Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 @ 7.30pm via Whereby video conference.</b>	
	PS thanked <b>everyone</b> for attending and the meeting concluded at 21.24pm.	





# Cromarty and District Community Council

## Summary of Matters Arising & Action Points - Next Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Reference	To whom allocated	Notes
4.2	Craig & Fraser T	To continue to discuss the neighbourhood questionnaire re. Townlands parking areas being white lined
4.3	Craig	Follow up with THC contact re. Community Pay Back Scheme
4.4	Kari	Contact Di Agnew (Ward Manager) re. TMP proposals as previously minuted (due to no correspondence from THC).
4.5	Craig and Fraser T	To continue to discuss redesign of the Welcome sign for Cromarty
4.6	Alan, Peter, Gregor, Tilly and Claire	Continue to update the data on Cromarty Live website
4.8	Kari	Re-submit new photos to THC re. waste to be removed at Whitedykes.
4.9	All	Continue to discuss how to ensure the fence at Reeds Loop is partitioned off, to prevent roam of livestock on a public walkway.
4.10	Alan	To request one free-standing hand sanitiser unit, as a trial, with the potential to purchase more if successful.
4.11	Kari	Environment Impact Assessment to be conducted once the proposal re. Advanced Manufacturing Facility at GEG has been submitted to TSG. KM to maintain contact.
4.12	Craig	Bus shelter proposal forwarded to THC & Stagecoach. Await response.
4.13	Peter	Further email sent to David Roger re. further training for Cromarty 1 <sup>st</sup> responders
4.14	Craig	Regular meetings still ongoing re. weekly covid updates
4.15	Gregor Nigel & Alan	Await final decision from THC re. pump track ahead of finalising funding
4.16	Peter	Dog bin rota has been finalised, further organisation required.
4.17	Nigel & Alan	To discuss with plumber the water supply to Sheddie once summer is over
4.18	Paige	Confirm dates with Di Agnew re. previous letter in respect of omission of charging points
4.19	Craig	Awaiting appropriate officer to respond from THC re. survey of the Links shrubbery as haven for lots of wildlife
4.20	Peter	Signs to be removed by PoCF imminently
4.21	All	Meeting with Smilie Music (organisers of event proposed on links during 2022) scheduled for 1 June 2021. To be discussed further by members.
4.22	Peter	Respond to residents when issues re. dog fouling in the community are raised (continuous).
4.23	Craig	Organise contractor to repair damaged steps at the start of The Ladies Walk
4.27	Kari	Response still to be received from Gordon Adam re. IMFDP comments, submitted in March 21 (not expected to be rejected).
4.30	Paige	Seeking advice from THC re. Byelaw as requested by CDT.
4.36	Kari	Identify who at PoCF that is of 'higher authority', as we might need to contact them re. the noise in the firth.
4.38	Kari	Awaiting feedback from THC re. recent noise monitoring and discussions with GEG and PoCF
4.42	Peter	Volunteers arranged for litter pick up. Further email to be sent out but needs methodology.

4.46	Peter	To approach JN re. addition of signs to the South Sutor re. no overnight camping/fouling.
4.49	Alan	Investigate how to create an out of hours service when electricity needed after the Co-op in Fortrose closes. AP to put on website asking for resident feedback.
7.5	Alan & Peter	To calculate the PDBC of the Victoria Hall
9.2.2	Craig	To email Ian Moncreiff at THC re. the condition/speed on the road at The Sutors.
9.2.3	Kari & Paige	To identify the source of the noise driving through Cromarty late at night so C&DCC can action the noise complaints
9.3.2	Alan	To discuss with The Newsletter team re. preparing a video detailing/sounding out the words of the monthly newsletter.
9.3.3	Alan	To use the VHMC notice board in addition to The Post Office
9.3.4	Alan	Look into the use of the C&DCC noticeboard, as The Post Office is becoming too busy
	COVID 19 items from Minutes 30.11.20	C-19 Matters Arising can only be dealt with after restrictions are lifted.
4.7	Alan C-19	Report back on request for information re: discrepancy of ownership records for Hugh Miller Monument
4.8	Alan C-19	Arrange for refresher resilience training workshop for the C&DCC when appropriate
4.9	Alan C-19	Report back on progress of the change of Bank of Scotland Mandates after lockdown
4.11	Alan C-19	Revisit discussions with C&DCC sub-committee Events groups once current situation eased
4.12	Craig C-19	Report back on HC response ref the repairs required urgently on the Davidston to Farness Road

## Cromarty & District Community Council Ordinary Meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

### Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** shows amounts owing for reclaimable online Covid-19 meeting costs. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND** shows that the balance has been increased by impressive donations collected in the Bakery ‘tin’.  
**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **CROMARTY LIVE FUND** has now purchased credit to ‘mail’ the Newsletter for approximately 6 months. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** for period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are now audited, and should be approved at the AGM preceding this meeting. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton  
28/05/21

**Agenda Item 6**  
**Appendix B**

<b>Cromarty &amp; District Community Council Meeting</b>				
<b>Held on Monday 31st May 2021</b>				
<b>Agenda Item No 6 - Treasurer's Report</b>				
<b>Statement of Financial Position at 28th May 2021</b>				
		£	£	£
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 23/04/21</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 28th May 2021		13,545.21	-69.65	13,614.86
Paypal Balance as at 28th May 2021		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		50.79	0.00	50.79
Amounts Payable		0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Net Assets at 28th May 2021</b>		<b>£13,596.00</b>	<b>-69.65</b>	<b>£13,665.65</b>
		£	£	£
<b>Represented by:</b>				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2021**		2,077.44	0.00	2,077.44
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		-16.50	-68.50	52.00
		2,060.94	-68.50	2,129.44
Community Amenities Fund		21.19	0.00	21.19
Emergency Resilience Centre Fund		87.66	0.00	87.66
Covid-19 Resilience Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 28th May 2021		78.75	0.00	78.75
Gritting Fund		809.52	0.00	809.52
Cromarty Live Fund		25.13	-60.00	85.13
Community Defibrillator Fund		63.85	58.85	5.00
<b>Net C&amp;DCC Reserves</b>		<b>3,147.04</b>	<b>-69.65</b>	<b>3,216.69</b>
<b>Community Event Funds</b>				
Bonfire Night Fund	2,272.14		0.00	2,272.14
Gala Fund	4,215.73		0.00	4,215.73
Splash & Dash Fund	126.00		0.00	126.00
Open Gardens Fund	6.86		0.00	6.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06	6,822.79	0.00	202.06
<b>Designated Community Funds</b>				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00
Monday Lunch Club Fund		422.75	0.00	422.75
Cromarty Rising Fund		1,853.42	0.00	1,853.42
		<b>£13,596.00</b>	<b>-69.65</b>	<b>£13,665.65</b>
Alan Plampton 28th May 2021				

## **Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

### **Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report**

1. **Repairs & Maintenance/Sheddie** Work to the surrounds of the Hall's Sheddie will have been completed by the meeting, to improve access for both the CCP's Trikes and the Emergency Resilience equipment. Various repairs are awaiting attention following more damage to the roof by ball retrievers. The small goals will be moved to the Links once the Highland Council has finished refitting the Park goalposts and stop their use as ladders. One of the toilet windows has been smashed by a ball despite the metal protection grille. The security lights, that were vandalised, remain unrepaired and now the cover on the Sheddie Keysafe has been pulled off. Add to this the need for a replacement kitchen door to the Park, which has a rotting base, and someone took off its weather bar and put it on the roof! **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Youth Cafe** Attached is the latest Report, with attachments, from Fraser, the Assistant Youth Worker. Activities are in full swing as we prepare for the Summer Programme.  
**ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Hall Bookings/Reopening Plans** The Election booking eventually went smoothly once all the necessary protocols and precautions were put in place. This was a useful exercise in understanding what will be necessary for the Hall to reopen. In addition we are taking guidance from the HTSI (Highland Third Sector Interface) as to how we might be able to reopen the Hall. Obviously Scottish Government decisions will impact this whole process but it is clear that the previous welcoming, flexible way we rented out the Hall is a thing of the past. This will not be popular news in our Community or with our hirers, but it is the 'Hall Keeper', in our case the VHMC on behalf of the C&DCC, which is responsible for not only establishing clear guidance as to what is required, but also to make sure that a hirer follows that guidance. In other words we are 'liable'. Some minor elements can be passed on to the hirer, but it will always be our responsibility to make sure that these have been performed adequately. These requirements make no allowance for whether the Hall is run by volunteers or paid staff. Health & Safety is the priority and cannot be ignored.

What does this mean for the Victoria Hall?

#### OBLIGATIONS

- A. We have to ensure that the way we run the Hall has to keep people safe and stop the spread of the virus.
- B. We have to ensure that use of the Hall is in line with all Health Protection guidance.
- C. We have to ensure that all users of the Hall follow and practice the guidance that we establish for the use of the Victoria Hall.

## WHAT MUST HAPPEN

- A. We have to calculate the PDBC (Physical Distance Based Capacity) for the Hall based on all users maintaining the required social distancing (currently 2m).
- B. We have to complete a full Venue Risk Assessment of the Hall, which will include the PDBC, how the space will be used, how entry and exit points will be used, what cleaning routines are required, what gaps between lettings are needed, what signage is required and, given the extended closure of the Hall, what health considerations need to be addressed (e.g. required building repairs, water supply hygiene etc.)
- C. We have to create a completely new Booking Form to reflect all aspects of the Venue Risk Assessment results. This new Booking Form will require all hirers to accept all the Hall's guidance and responsibilities for ensuring the delivery of this guidance by all users. All hirers will be required to complete their own Risk Assessment that covers their particular activity or event and to submit this to the Hall with the Booking Form. The Hall will then hopefully confirm that the booking's risk assessment conforms to all the Hall's requirements. Currently all users of the Hall will be required to wear face masks, except when consuming food/drink and for medical exemption reasons.
- D. The cost of cleaning between lettings will be added to the hire cost.
- E. The hirer will be required to keep accurate Test & Protect records (details to be supplied) with verified contact details. We will be required to make sure the hirer is following the conditions of hire and terminate the booking if this is not the case.

## PROPOSED PRACTICAL TIMETABLE

- A. As soon as possible, calculate the PDBC for the Hall.
- B. Accept that there is little point in reopening the Hall before we are in Level Zero (currently planned for 28<sup>th</sup> June). Too many restrictions, for indoor use, before then.
- C. Use July (post 28<sup>th</sup> June) to trial Youth Cafe bookings in support of their Summer Programme (all as per WHAT MUST HAPPEN above).
- D. From Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August restart bookings (all as per WHAT MUST HAPPEN above).

All the above to be monitored by the VHMC on a weekly basis, reporting back to C&DCC on 28<sup>th</sup> June to review, update and confirm/alter this timetable.

## **ACTION – INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

Alan Plampton - VHMC  
28/05/21

**Agenda item 8**  
**Appendix D**

**Portfolio Report to C&DCC- Nigel Shapcott, for Meeting 31st May 2021**

**Cromarty Harbour Trust**

- Ferry arrived on Saturday 29th May, service will start 1st June
- Further work required on Seaton's Mole to repair recent pointing

**Cromarty Care Project**

- Community Larder- still used frequently. It's use reflects that of others in the Black Isle.

**Cromarty and Community Development Trust- please see statement at end of document.**

- The CCDT encourages young people to participate and invites individuals to contact us to apply to a Directorship or other project roles- any offers?
- Campsite
  - Still looking to recruit interested people in the Campsite project
  - Started site clearance on 17th May. Tree felling was stopped on 24th due to a nesting bird- this will be completed at the end of the nesting season.
  - Tender documentation is now out
  - Still negotiating with HC over compensatory planting of felled trees (number of pitches).
- Townlands Barn
  - Gin- Sutors Gin has expressed an interest in the Barn as part of the development of a Cromarty Gin brand- talks are ongoing- community consultation will be pursued before any agreement.
  - Housing – ongoing
- Reeds Loop- shoreside path.
  - A proposal has been submitted to NatureScot to restore the path. CCDT has been notified of success. Negotiations are ongoing with the contractor on the start date.

**Black Isle Partnership meeting-**

- Please see minutes of May 4th Meeting at the end.
- The meetings apparently are a two weekly timeframe now, minutes of the meeting on 18th have not yet been approved for circulation. Much time was spent discussing the A9 safety issue, reported on elsewhere. The applications put in for grants to NatureScot. Phil Waite (Highland Council Outdoor Access and Long Distance Route Manager) was now training 17 Highland Rangers and that these folk would be hoping to get local volunteers to provide backup and local colour.

**Gritting**

- Gritting - I recommend that we engage someone local to maintain the gritters otherwise the service will not be able to run reliably over next winter. I suggest we apply for a Ward Discretionary Grant to do this. The time is now, - DISCUSS
- Sheddie - modifications to hang the gritters will allow summer use of the Sheddie by the Trikes. Thanks to Alan for this.



- Sheddie - Victoria Hall Committee and Cromarty Care Project are sponsoring additional paving to make access to the Sheddie “mud free”. Thanks to the Victoria Hall Committee and Cromarty Care Project. Update: This is scheduled to be finished 31st May.

#### Notes: Ready for Tourist Arrivals

- 100 Steps- a C&DCC proposal has been submitted to NatureScot for restoration of the 100 steps, 14th May.
- Toilets- submitted by Black Isle Tourist Team with HC. Deadline for the NatureScot grant envisaged to cover this is 14th May.
- Reeds Loop- shoreside path. As CCDT report.

#### Road Safety

- A9. Two meetings were held 18th and 25th of May and as a result pressure is being put on the “Scottish Roads” people to install appropriate speed limits at the Munloch Junction and the Tore Roundabout. Peter Ratcliffe is following up trying to obtain the following information: conclusions/slides/participants list.

#### **BIP Minutes 4th May**

#### **Black Isle Partnership (BIP)**

#### **Zoom Meeting 1000 4 May 2021**

**Present:** Gordon Adam (GA) (host, Highland Councillor and BIP), Julian Paren (Minute taker and BIP), Martin Sherring (Transition Black Isle and Highland Good Food Partnership), Becky Richmond (Black Isle Tourism Team), Neil Cameron (Resolis CC), Anne Phillips (Rosemarkie and Fortrose CC and Rosemarkie Amenities Association), Jon Palmer (Chair BIP), Nigel Shapcott (Cromarty Development Trust), Jennifer Barclay (Highland Councillor), Peter Ratcliffe (Cromarty CC), Helena Macleod (Kessock Kindness and Residents Association of North Kessock), Diane Agnew (Ward Manager, Highland Council), Vanessa Halhead (BIP), Jill Stoner (Cromarty Cares), Sheila Currie (Transition Black Isle), Alison Petch (Culbokie Community Trust), Hannah MacSween (Muir of Ord Hub), Megan Mackenzie (Black Isle Cares), Helen Robinson (Rosemarkie and Fortrose Trust).

#### **Agenda 2. Waste and funding application for Waste project (Martin Sherring (MS), Transition Black Isle and Highland Good Food Partnership)**

MS introduced the proposed Lottery Bid application from Keep Scotland Beautiful that had been already discussed with Transition Black Isle, the Highland Good Food Partnership and the Black Isle Tourism Team. The aim was to parcel up a Highland-wide bid perhaps for £1.5 million to provide facilities comparable with the Central Belt. Groups from Skye and Lochaber had expressed interest.

After an initial light application had been well received which included some local Black Isle support, the time had come to plan the bid in greater detail. Three strands had been identified. 1/ Food waste which MoO Food were the main instigators, 2/ Waste caused by single-use plastics especially in the hospitality sector, and 3/Waste caused by the turnover of clothing related to fast fashion and to increase the availability of pre-loved clothing often benefitting local charitable causes.

MS had come to find out which organisations at the Community level would give some time to see this area developed locally in addition to Transition Black Isle and the Black Isle Tourism Team. If successful the funding could attract a part time staff member for the Black Isle or a full-time post if Inverness was included.

Jon Palmer suggested that unless louder voices prevailed, the Black Isle might deserve a tenth of the funding worth £50k a year for three years.

Becky Richmond (BITT) said that BITT had agreed to join a Black Isle Waste Working Group to create the best case for funding, and nominated Rose Grant and Anne Phillips. It was noted that Sarah MacDonald Taylor was combating waste through her team at Chanonry Point, but was not so far aware of all the bid details.

Becky reminded all that the Community Councils should not be excluded from a Waste Group as they had good contacts in the community.

Gordon Adam said he would send MS (for the Working Group) contact details of the chairs of the Community Councils.

#### **ACTION GORDON**

Vanessa Halhead enquired whether there would be education materials funded in the bid to help people understand the Reduce element of Reduce, reuse, recycle.

MS confirmed that backyard waste was part of the programme. Care was needed to discover what actually made economic sense at the Community Level. Village scale digesters might be appropriate but staff funds as well as capital costs were incurred and the viability was not clear. MS highlighted the successful approach of MOO Food that at a Community scale was combining growing schemes with cooking training and food waste appreciation. MS noted that although Inverness City had a dedicated food waste collection service from businesses, much of it ended up in landfill.

VH asked if Zero Waste shops where bulk items were sold without plastic wrappings were part of the bid. MS said this was absent from the first stage application.

Nige Shapcott mentioned a Volunteer Composting Project in Cromarty that had struggled even in a period of fine weather and people with time on their hands.

MS concluded the Agenda item, by requesting that anybody interested in participating in a Black Isle Waste Working Group should e-mail him or leave a message in the chat facility. He hoped a handful of people would emerge with experiences of past successes and failures. Together they would focus on a coherent Black Isle bid as part of the Highland-wide funding KSB were seeking.

#### **Agenda 1. Plans for a Wellbeing Week**

Jon Palmer said a Working Group was being formed for the Black Isle Wellbeing Week just four weeks away. JP urged those present to think of people who could volunteer to help –people who were not overcommitted like so many in the Tuesday Group!

**ACTION:** ALL. Consider approaching others to help plan the detail of a Black Isle Wellbeing Week.

JP argued that Wellbeing was central to all we do. In outline the proposals were that there would be three morning sessions. On Monday the focus would be on Young People, on Wednesday the focus on Befriending led by Helena Macleod, and on Friday the focus on Taking Care of Ourselves (including depression and bereavement) led by Patrick Mullery. Evening sessions on Tuesday and Thursday would be led by a number of active Black Isle groups and societies with virtual visits to events in their meeting areas. The plans were all subject to review by Highland and Islands Enterprise who would have to approve a change of funding direction within the area of Wellbeing. Jon and Helena were positive of an approval, but the outcome would be known within two days.

Helena Macleod said her sessions would be used to promote and launch a new Befriending Service for the Black Isle.

Jill Stoner said her Wellbeing concerns at the present were focused on its financial aspects with poverty really apparent and people needing practical advice. In addition, she sensed more fear coming out of the current lockdown than was experienced in the previous summer.

Helena Macleod that there was real anxiety in the community, especially the impact of tourists who were to be welcomed for the economic recovery of the area.

Helen Charley volunteered to be the Wellbeing representative for Cromarty Cares and enquired what the next steps were.

Jon Palmer announced there would be a Teams Meeting for the group on Friday. He saw the audience for the week being everybody and anybody on the Black Isle but including some who have a real understanding of wellbeing. Although the planning would be rushed, JP said it was a highly appropriate time to hold a Wellbeing Week. The week would be a first step in truly confronting what wellbeing means, and what practical steps could be taken to enhance wellbeing. JP said he was heartened to see the Cromarty trikes out again, and he had heard tell of how much some fresh air was appreciated by folk who were normally housebound. In conclusion JP said that if the week were only to involve 30-40 people it would be beneficial.

Alison Petch (Culbokie Community Trust) was worried that there was a polarisation in the week from the people who want help and support on Monday and Wednesday to a different audience on Friday. She was worried about folk being “pigeon-holed” in the thinking of the week, and drew attention to the importance in the language used to describe the sessions.

Vanessa Halhead said the Friday session had much broader appeal, but she hoped the week could be more upbeat, and for everybody to consider how they could make life so much better for other people.

Alison () asked for people to join the week’s activities and showcase what they offered the Black Isle in a positive way. She hoped groups outside of Cromarty would contribute to the programme.

JP said the Monday focus on young people had created one problem. Fortrose Academy was in an exam week, so he was seeing the opportunity to focus on Primary School age pupils.

Di Agnew said she could provide contact details for Head Teachers and also mentioned Fiona Richardson of the Mid Ross Community Partnership.

Becky Richmond mentioned The Sunday Club that was based in Cromarty that attracted children from all across the Black Isle.

Megan (Black Isle Cares) mentioned that children under five years old had benefited from a new group called The Black Isle Lockdown Babies.

Gordon Adam recommended a GP practice in Alness where Outdoor Activity was being prescribed as a treatment.

JP said he was looking forward to arranging a Teams Meeting on Friday for those who had so far joined a Steering Group for the Wellbeing Week.

### **Agenda 3. News from the Communities**

Helena Macleod (RANK). The Community Larder now has electricity and a Photo Opportunity was created. Communications are improving between the North Kessock community groups. HM is liaising with Becky Richardson on the NatureScot funding.

Hannah MacSween (Muir of Ord Hub) mentioned a wealth of activities concerned with Wellbeing, including practical sessions and taster sessions in yoga, walking, blogs, and Zoom sessions on mental health, relaxation, decluttering your house, neck stretches etc. MoO had produced leaflets and done some desk exercises in recovery planning. MoO would be starting up other events slowly as confidence built, and plans for events like outdoor picnics were planned for June/July.

Helen Charley (Rosemarkie and Fortrose Trust) reported that the public conveniences were still unopened and RAFT were doing their best to push for more progress.

Neil Cameron (Resolis Community Council) said he hoped to be better able to report on activities in Resolis in the future.

Alison Petch (Culbokie Community Trust) reported that the Active Travel Project in the village was ongoing with public briefings/consultations on-line and at the Culbokie Market. Tea/coffee and snacks were now available at the Culbokie Market, where the plans for the new village centre were displayed. The village had organised a Ferintosh litter pick, and 19 bags were collected and disposed of by Highland Council, for which many thanks.

Sheila Currie (Transition Black Isle) was thanked for the latest informative TBI newsletter that went to 300 recipients.

Anne Philips (FRCC) mentioned her involvement with the NatureScot/KSB Waste Bid and the ongoing discussions on traffic management along the promenade in Rosemarkie. She said that Scottish Water were removing the wire of the damaged gobions of the sea defences along the north side of Chanonry Point. FRCC were suggesting that in the face of a number of people entering the water at Chanonry Point, despite Danger signs in place, that there could be a bigger impact in installing two large red-flagged flag poles and notices to say that ebeetering the water between the flags was forbidden/dangerous. AP also said that areas for Community Growing were being investigated.

Jill Stoner (Cromarty Care) said the Community Larder is being used every day and that food deliveries to six households were ongoing. She mentioned that there had been a soft launch of the Trishaws/Trikes to benefit those who were otherwise mainly indoors.

Nigel Shapcott (Cromarty Community Council etc) said that Cromarty CC was reacting to excessive noise from activities at Nigg and Invergordon. This had led to some official semi-permanent recording of noise levels, but that there were no night-time measurements when noise affected sleeping in Cromarty. NS argued that the activities should be halted at night on noise abatement grounds. Di Agnew(Highland Council) said that HC were involved in the issue.

NS noted that a Green Recovery Fund had been approached for funding of remedial work on the 100 steps footpath up the South Sutor, and an early indication of some funding would allow work on the Reeds Park Loop to be started.

Becky Richmond (Black Isle Tourism Team) referred to the UK-wide Volunteers Week (June 1 to June 7) that was mentioned by Helena and spoke about voluntourism - a venture that is being adopted by the John Muir Trust and Nature Scot - Events are organised for visitors, whereby they are given a good walk / tour of somewhere in the morning and then in the afternoon they take part in a beach clean, path clearance, litter picking activity. This has worked successfully in Skye and BR felt that the Black Isle might lend itself to such ventures. See <https://volunteersweek.scot/>.

BR also mentioned that once the Nature Scot bid was complete then BITT would continue working closely with F&RCC to reform the Chanonry Point Advisory Group. She also expressed her disappointment on discovering that Phil Waite, the Access Officer had put in an application to Nature Scot, on behalf of a number of communities, for extra rangers and that despite constant requests from F&RCC for a dedicated ranger for Chanonry Point, no one at Highland Council had thought to consider the needs of the Black Isle.

GA informed the group that the Black Isle would be getting a part time ranger. BR expressed the view that this was not sufficient and that the Black Isle needed a full-time ranger to cover Chanonry and the top of the Soutor in Cromarty. Di Agnew accepted the argument that Highland Council must at the minimum provide one dedicated Ranger for the Black Isle to work with local volunteers.

GA reiterated that all information from the Chanonry Point Working Group should go to Phil Waite as he was well resourced and had 17 rangers to use efficiently.

BR mentioned the need for improving signage that was a theme of the NatureScot application, particularly in Fortrose and Rosemarkie area and also noted that part of the request from RANK was to seek funds for the lighting of the steps from the A9 lay-by down to North Kessock. GA said that

the lighting was already covered through a Town Centre Fund of Highland Council, which prompted BR to highlight that such communication did not appear to reach the people actually involved in the community.

Di Agnew said that a strong Community Council in the area it should have liaised with all the community groups, and this lack of communication was regrettable.

#### **Agenda 4. Black Isle Partnership AGM**

Jon Palmer reminded all interested to register for the AGM to be held at 1930 to hear particularly how the Chief Executive of Scottish Rural Action, Artemis Pana, viewed the Community interactions in the Black Isle along side those elsewhere in rural Scotland

The meeting ended at 1123.

#### Cromarty and Community Development Trust

Statement: WHITEDYKES CAMPSITE COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Cromarty Community Development Trust was formed in November 2017 to take forward various projects in the town that have been highlighted as priorities by the community of Cromarty: protecting the Townlands Barn, pushing to get new housing built and fixing the ferry slipways. The problem of more and more campervans using the links with no services was also highlighted as a huge problem and became more of an economic issue when Highland Council said the Links must be closed to overnight vehicles.

There seems to have been some confusion about the history of the development of the campsite at Whitedykes, which we would like to address. The project was pursued by the CCDT for two reasons. In the first place there had been considerable local concern at the number of campervans using the Links without any management. There were complaints of some of these visitors simply throwing their waste on to the banks down from Braehead. The Highland Council eventually insisted that the area be closed to motorhomes as it had become an unlicensed campsite without any facilities. That decision was taken by the council, not the CCDT. But there was another, more pressing reason the CCDT decided there should be an alternative for these motorhome visitors to use. Three years ago the CCDT was faced with a major challenge which had to be addressed immediately. The ferry slipways, particularly the one at Nigg, were in such a state of disrepair and decay that they would soon no longer be safe for the ferry to use. It was just a matter of time before they were condemned by the statutory authorities. The development trust agreed that it was crucial to the economic prospects of the town that a ferry continued to operate and, if possible, using a bigger and better equipped vessel. This was supported by a survey of local businesses. But it wasn't going to be easy. The slipways were owned by the Cromarty Estate, who had no plans to upgrade them but would not sell them to the CCDT. Ownership, we were advised, would have made it easier to win funding. In the end we were directed to the Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF). The council made the applications to this fund on behalf of community bodies, and officials made clear that an application for the slipways alone would have no chance of winning support. It would have to be part of an application which provided other new tourist facilities such as, what was by then a much-needed campsite. Without the campsite the slipways would not have been repaired, and we would have lost the ferry. We were awarded £300,000 for the two projects and raised another £150,000+ in match funding.

However in 2019, we faced a major crisis when VisitScotland officials administering RTIF tried to force the dropping of the slipways, leaving only the campsite and about £100,000. This could have led to the CCDT collapsing through insolvency as we had already hired/paid contractors. Only a major lobbying of the Scottish Government, led by our MSP Kate Forbes, saved us. The slipways were repaired and the ferry will shortly restart. But one of the major problems we faced from the start was a site for the campsite. We scoured the area for options. Inquiries were made about the daffodil farm, an area near the slipway and we even approached the chief solicitor to the Church of Scotland about the Manse field. To try to buy local agricultural land, even at the lowest market value, would have required a great deal of money, which would have taken a lot of time to try to raise. We didn't have time. The initial RTIF applications had to be submitted within months. So the only option was to try to get publicly owned land. The only suitable publicly owned land was beside the Whitedykes



industrial estate. The Community Empowerment Act 2015 made it easy for communities to take over land and buildings in public ownership through a community asset transfer (CAT), if it wasn't being used. This has been used by community bodies throughout Scotland, with the transfer price normally being set at £1 to make it easy for them. There was nothing mysterious or suspicious about the £1 purchase price and the land is now fully in community ownership. Initially the CCDT looked at using the area of land to the east of the industrial units, where the spoil from the primary school extension work was dumped. But we were advised against it, and there was also local concern. Indeed when it was decided to seek ownership of the scrub land at the industrial estate, the owner of the nearest property told a CCDT director that she was pleased and relieved the campsite would not be behind her house.

There have been suggestions that there was a lack of transparency about the campsite development. These are difficult to understand as the CCDT has given a monthly update on the progress of the project in the Cromarty Live Newsletter over nearly a 2 year period. It was discussed at an open public meeting, at the last three public AGMs, and there was some press coverage. We have also carried out 2 surveys of local residents and publicised the successful RTIF application widely. The planning application was advertised by the council and stakeholders informed in the normal way. Notices were put up at the site, telling people how to object. The CCDT subsequently tried to adapt the plans to address some of the points raised by the nearest neighbour in an official objection. There were a total of 6 support comments and one objection submitted. The Council planner considered that the proposal accorded with the principles and policies contained within the Development Plan and was acceptable in terms of all other applicable material considerations. Planning permission was granted on 26 November 2020. Originally the access to the site was to have been from the main road, but the council planning department insisted it be moved to share the access to the industrial units. The tree removal programme is in line with the guidance given by the council's forestry officer. The existing trees were not in a good state as they were self-seeded and too leggy to allow thinning. There is a replanting programme planned once construction has been completed, this will provide shelter and screening of the site from the west entrance to Cromarty. A protected species survey has also been carried out on the site before any tree felling took place. And for the avoidance of any doubt, there will be provision for waste disposal. In our survey of local businesses the findings were very clear - the local economy suffered severely when there was no ferry in operation and when campervans didn't have somewhere to park up. In our community survey we also found that one of the key concerns around campervans was the use of the links (which locals wanted kept free of vans for community use) and the lack of facilities causing huge issues with waste. The RTIF funding allowed us to find solutions to all of these issues.

On a final note, these projects will also create employment for locals. The ferry operator employs locals to run the service during the season and we hope to generate enough income from the campsite to employ a Manager/Town Officer who will manage the campsite and, if finance allows, oversee youth employment opportunities and carry out general maintenance around the town - another priority highlighted during our public meeting.

The Development Trust is a community trust made up of volunteers and we are grateful that a high percentage of people living in Cromarty are members and support the work of the trust. If you would like to contribute to the Trust in any way please email [cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com](mailto:cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com)

END

## CROMARTY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Portfolio Report – Peter K. Ratcliffe  
 Meeting:- 31 May 2021

Ref No.	Subject.	Action By	Comment
1	<b>Cromarty Ferry</b>	Peter Ratcliffe	Highland Ferries have publicized that the new start date will be 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2021.
2	<b>Dog Fouling</b>	Peter Ratcliffe	Ongoing. Will always be an issue, seemingly.  <b>Bins</b> - No change – Green bins being used as are specified by the Highland Council on their stickers. But also, local separate bins being used and emptied by locals. One of the red bin is being stored locally and will need to be re-erected. Have not sent out a new rota as yet., it seems to be operating as is but not in out of the way areas.
3	<b>Links &amp; Links Events Diary/ Beaches and Litter</b>	Peter Ratcliffe (Bookings)	Spreadsheet prepared. No current entries. Water Safety signs – new signs relocated but one post still in place. Email sent to PoCF. requesting removal of redundant post. The area in front of Bob Maclean’s where the old ice rink was is marked off by bollards, to allow the grass to grow? But still being used by cars.  Assessments made on Music Event – made available to C&DCC. Response from John Nightingale received. Further discussion by C&DCC ongoing.
4	<b>Nigg Liaison. Rig Noise &amp; Freeport Proposal.</b>	Kari Magee. / PKR ?	Report issued from Kari Magee.  Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal. Media reporting appears to be increasing.
5	<b>Gritting and Machine Maintenance</b>	Nigel Shapcott Peter Ratcliffe	Work activities on hold for the season.  Gritters now being stored by Nige.  Maintenance needed to the equipment for storage, being planned - Ongoing.
6	<b>Litter</b>		Regular contact made with Katrina Taylor – Highland Council.  Sutor bin monitored.  Additional litter collecting kit stored at The Sheddie. Have a number of volunteers. Emails sent thanking them and follow up email sent with information before starting. It needs a leader.



**Agenda Item 8**  
**Appendix F**

25 May 2021

C&DCC – Kari Magee

**100 Steps Project**

1. **Action.** The volunteers came out on Sunday 1 May to conduct a litter pick and clear away some of the overgrowth. Very many thanks to Shirley, Ellen, Kirsty, Hector and Torben for all their efforts. Although the litter pick did not turn up much litter, it did highlight the significant issue of human faeces in and around the car park area. This has been highlighted via Nigel Shapcott to Councillor Gordon Adams and options, including a composting toilet, are being considered. Another volunteer event will be organised in mid June, once the weather has improved.
2. **Planning recce.** Corrie Jeffery has asked that a recce be conducted for sites of interest or locations where outdoor activities such as drama or reading groups could be held. This will be conducted once the weather has improved and the information will be presented to both Corrie and the C&DCC no later than the meeting in July.

**Agenda Item 8**  
**Appendix F (cont)**

25 May 21

C&DCC

**Nigg Update Report**

1. **Nigg Energy Park – East Quay Development.** The dates for the test pile have slipped from May 2021 to 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.
2. **Nigg Energy Park – Rig Noise.** Recent rig noise has prompted a number of complaints as well as media interest. C&DCC contacted the Highland Council for guidance and was provided with an update regarding ongoing noise monitoring and a template for a noise diary.
  - a. **Noise Monitoring.** Noise monitoring has been carried out recently and the results will be discussed with the Port of Cromarty Firth and Nigg Energy Park. The Highland Council have agreed to share the results of the noise monitoring with the C&DCC once they are available.
  - b. **Noise Diaries.** No investigations will be undertaken without a noise diary/ nuisance record sheets. The template and guidance has been added to the C&DCC social media sites in order that the community can quickly and easily obtain and submit them to the Highland Council
3. **Nigg Community.** *Robert MacKenzie, a local farmer within the Nigg community is seeking local support to rezone some of his farm land from industrial allocation to mixed use for recreation and tourism in order that he can reinstate the golf course.* Robert MacKenzie has been contacted and made aware that the C&DCC wrote in support of the rezoning in their response to the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan.

**Agenda Item 8**  
**Appendix F (cont)**

25 May 2021

C&DCC

**Cromarty Foodbank**

1. **Action.** The Cromarty Foodbank has now closed. Posters will be displayed on the C&DCC social media sites to ensure that everyone is aware. All members of the community, who need a food parcel, should now contact the Highland Foodbank in Inverness by phone on 01463 717 630/ 07875 332 696 or by email on [foodbank.admin@blythswood.org](mailto:foodbank.admin@blythswood.org). If they are unable to travel to Inverness to collect the food parcel, the Highland Foodbank will deliver to Cromarty.
2. **Background.** The Foodbank was set up at the beginning of the pandemic amid concerns about the potential for loss of employment, income and food poverty. The team set up an email account, located a store and registered with the Trussell Trust. Over the course of 15 months, there have been no contacts made and no food parcels have been distributed. The Highland Foodbank therefore suggested that it would be best to close the Cromarty Foodbank and direct any residents to Inverness. Very many thanks to Shirley and Jill, who were on standby for the past 15 months.
3. **Concerns.** Trussell Trust figures provide the evidence base for Government policy. A drop in the use of foodbanks, potentially in favour of informal support mechanisms, is seen as 'proof' that Government policy is working and that the need is waning. I have discussed how we can capture the data about the informal support mechanisms but unfortunately, anecdotal evidence is not accepted.