



Cromarty and District Community Council
Approved minutes of meeting held on
Monday 25th October 2021, 7.30pm
via Whereby due to Covid-19 restrictions

Approved
Minutes
25/10/21

Present

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

Youth Representative(s): N/A

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

Member(s) of the public: - Coll Fullarton

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the video meeting.

Apologies received from Youth Member Gregor Fox (GF) & Youth Representative, Teagan Young (TY).

2. Declarations of interest

Declarations unchanged from meeting of 26th October 2020.

3. Approval of previous minutes, 28th September 2021

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by PR.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 28th September 2021

Minute secretary note – THC means The Highland Council.

- 4.1 (4.1 - To continue to discuss the neighbourhood questionnaire re. Townlands parking areas being white lined). **Ongoing. Action CF & FT.**
- 4.2 (4.2 - Follow up with THC contact re. Community Pay Back Scheme). **Ongoing. Action CF.**
- 4.3 (4.3 – Follow up re. TMP proposals as response received after complaint was unsatisfactory). Email sent, awaiting response. **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
- 4.4 (4.4 - To continue to discuss redesign of the Welcome sign for Cromarty). **Ongoing. Action – CF & FT.**
- 4.5 (4.5 – Continue to update the data on Cromarty Live Website). **Ongoing. Action AP, PR, TG & Claire.**
- 4.6 (4.6 – Requested photos of rats from Lisa MacKay to add to fly-tipping photos at Whitedykes and will resubmit). **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
- 4.7 (4.7 – Contact farmer (in writing) re. erecting fences at Reeds Loop). As funding application was missed, we should seek to contact farmer. Discussions also had re. pertaining a copy of the tenancy agreement, but we should go via the farmer first. **Ongoing. Action – PS.**

- 4.8 (4.8 – New automatic hand sanitizer units (x2) fitted in Hall. Outdoor one to await the new year). **Ongoing. Action – AP.**
- 4.9 (4.9 – Await guidance from the Scottish Government on the freeport/greenport proposals, before PoCF can conduct an Environment Impact Assessment). **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
- 4.10 (4.10 – No progress yet re. training for Cromarty 1st responders – in discussion with previous member). **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
- 4.11 (4.11 – Funding for pump track to be secured). Two funding applications covering total cost submitted. Awaiting news. **Ongoing. Action AP.**
- 4.12 (4.12 - Bins are continuing to be emptied and big bins continue to be used. To be monitored). **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
- 4.13 (4.13 - Plumber to review options during hall work re. outside water supply to Sheddie). Maintenance took priority, concerns for outside water source in winter remain. **Ongoing. Action – AP.**
- 4.14 (4.14 - Confirm dates with Di Agnew re. previous letter in respect of omission of charging points). **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
- 4.15 (4.15 – THC have been contacted re. the survey of the Links shrubbery and it's continuous maintenance). CF to chase. **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
- 4.16 (4.16 - Respond to residents when issues re. dog fouling in the community are raised (continuous)). **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
- 4.17 (4.17 - Organise contractor to repair damaged steps at the start of The Ladies Walk). **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
- 4.18 (4.18 – Hot spot areas identified, going to have to work with THC re. the Byelaw etc). **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
- 4.19 (4.20 – Noise report to be read in detail as there is a lot of technical data. No further complaints have been received). **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
- 4.20 (4.21 – Litter pickup equipment distributed, with additions kept in The Sheddie). **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
- 4.21 (4.24 – To write a discretionary fund as finance needed to ensure regular servicing of gritters). **Ongoing. Action – NS.**
- 4.22 (4.27 – Draft letter for local businesses re. current vacancies drawn up – to be distributed to members for discussion.). **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
- 4.23 (4.28 – Vacancies page on website can be updated once 4.27 has been drafted). **Discharged.**
- 4.24 (4.29 - To think of replacement for Gregor as he leaves for Uni in September). See AOB. **Discharged.**
- 4.25 (4.30 – Goalposts ordered and paid for, awaiting delivery. Funding agreed with THC). Goalposts have been delivered and should be put in place very soon! **Ongoing. Action – AP.**

- 4.26 (4.34 – Awaiting response from builder re. the estimate for bus shelter repair costs). CF to chase. **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
- 4.27 (4.36 – Apply for discretionary ward funding for HMM work, once the responsibility has concluded). Awaiting outcome of responsibility. **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
- 4.28 (4.37 – C&DCC decide how to proceed with bench for Martin Goswick). **Ongoing. Action – ALL.**
- 4.29 (4.39 – To contact THC re. regular maintenance for reeds loop/shore path). Cromarty resident has agreed to monitor this & reckons can be maintained with regular trims (£100 a trim). PS to contact Di and say we have this quote and ask if we should go ahead and accept. Note it's THC responsibility but if we can provide the funds/resources we just need funding. **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
- 4.30 (4.40 – To calculate figures for the maintenance of gritters/trikes to see how much funding is required). **Ongoing. Action – NS.**
- 4.31 (4.43 – Contact Di Agnew re. the repairs required to the equipment in The Victoria Park). The swings have since been returned and wood chip has been put down, the fencing however still needs to be repaired (and is quite serious). PS to contact Di Agnew about this. Worth mentioning how delighted everyone is with the new woodchips/return of the swings. **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
- 4.32 (4.45 – Awaiting answer from Sara Murdoch (Common Goods Officer) re. discrepancy of ownership records for HMM). Overtaken by discussions re. monument repairs. **Discharged.**
- 4.33 (5.2.5 – To discuss all points re. youth member with Wanda and report back to C&DCC). Youth member has been sought, see AOB. **Discharged.**
- 4.34 (7.2 – Work alongside Nature Scot re. the bats in The Victoria Hall to ensure maintenance continues safely). **Discharged.**
- 4.35 (10.1 – Apply for rural funding re. 100 steps/Reed Loops etc (on behalf of CCDT)). Deadline for application was missed. **Discharged.**
- 4.36 (10.2 – To re-visit in the new year re. our approach for requests re. large events in the future). **Ongoing. Action – ALL.**

5. Youth Issues

Minute secretary note – Agenda item 5 was discussed after AOB 9.1 once Coll had been appointed as Youth Member, to allow them to leave the meeting before it concluded (they both stayed to the end however).

PS asked Coll and Tilly if there were any matters they'd like to discuss.

- 5.1 Tilly advised that the October programme was very successful, and that rowing is to continue for a few more weeks (as long as weather allows)
- 5.2 Also suggested that now that Gregor has gone to Uni and has resigned as a youth member (see AOB), Coll should take on the pump track work with Alan. All members agreed this was a good idea and AP will contact Coll once funding has been secured. Coll is happy to be the main contact with Ronan.

Nothing else to report and PS thanked them both for attending and their comments.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

There were no further comments or questions, and AP was thanked for his reports.

7. Victoria Hall Report including Youth Café

The Victoria Hall Report (**Appendix C**) that was prepared by AP and The Youth Café Report, prepared by Fraser Thompson, was circulated prior to the meeting.

- 7.1 Cromarty resident is carrying out a risk assessment to see if the Fourways meetings can resume in the hall.
- 7.2 The bats have gone to sleep for now. The maintenance continues and a lot of money has already been spent.
- 7.3 There are a number of bookings not yet confirmed due to the works going ahead, plus a further number of booking requests that didn't follow through (complete booking) once they realise the work involved in track and trace etc.
- 7.4 AP to discuss existing financial module with Di Agnew in early 2022 to see if it is sustainable. **Action – AP.**
- 7.5 It was also noted that Community halls all over Highland are all having the same issues.
- 7.6 Youth Café – 2 more bits of funding have been received. 1 of which will allow 15 kids to go to the pantomime, and the other to support further families in the town.
- 7.7 The activities will continue outside as long as possible.
- 7.8 No one is aware of how the blue coin collection at Tesco is going, but it was noted by AP that Tesco are very forthcoming with funding, providing The Youth Café with regular, small amounts of money.

There were no further comments and PS thanked AP for his continuous hard work.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolios

Portfolio Reports prepared by NS (**Appendix D**), PR (**Appendix E**), AP (**Appendix F**), PS (**Appendix G**), and KM (**Appendix H**) were circulated prior to the meeting by The Members.

- 8.1.1 Small update received since AP's report was written: The East Church Hall is managed by Highlife Highland and leased by The Highland Council from the Common Good. There will be an update regarding this at the next ward meeting (which all community councils will be invited to attend). Meeting yet to be arranged.

- 8.1.2 KM's report provided a summary of the meeting she attended, with PS, where the new Black Isle Area Committee was discussed. There was then a full discussion on this matter with Members being unanimous in their disapproval of how Cllr Adam was ignoring the elected representatives of all the Black Isle communities and his resistance to accepting that there were conflicts of interest. AP and PS agreed to present Members feelings at the next BICC meeting on 4 November 2021. NS also added that he would be mentioning the same at the next BIP meeting being hosted by Cllr Adam. **Action – AP & PS.**

No further comments made. All were thanked by PS for their efforts and work done to date.

8.2 The Highland Council (Cllr Craig Fraser)

Minute secretary note – this section was discussed after Agenda item 3 as Craig had other commitments and couldn't attend the full meeting.

- There has been a report of rats in the town (Via Facebook). CF reported the problem to the council website and copied in the environmental chief executive officer (ECEO). Response received from ECEO says that pest controller is on his way imminently.
- CF suggested the link to report a problem to THC be moved to the Cromarty Live homepage. He knows how to access it but doesn't think it's as obvious to other residents. All members agreed this was a good idea. **Action – AP.**
- Hugh Miller Monument (HMM) railings. CF confirmed that they are owned by the common good (according to a map), and Alf Leslie. PR agreed the quote we received is a very good figure and we should go ahead with the repairs. CF is to organise Newhall Smiddy to carry out the work and to follow up re. funding with Di (it's likely the C&DCC will need to apply via a form). **Action – CF.**
- It was also confirmed that painting will be done in the New Year, as the weather will delay things if we start now.
- PS mentioned that nothing has been done re. the tree in Townlands Park that overhangs the sheltered housing. CF will chase this up (PS to send contact details on). **Action - PS/CF.**
- Hugh Miller's Institute – More information still needed from THC but the architects have been in. They are trying to combine this project with The Courthouse. AP mentioned to Di however as she was unaware of the issue, so she said she'll contact maintenance. CF to follow this up. **Action – CF.**
- Finally, CF noted that the maintenance of the trees at the burial ground needs to be followed up, but that there is also some ivy that needs to be pruned. CF said he's happy (with the help of members/other volunteers) to just get this done, but is aware (as per NS's comments), that ivy can do serious damage to structures, so we need to be cautious with its removal. To be arranged. **Action – CF.**

Thanks were expressed by all to CF for his continued support of the C&DCC and the local community. Craig left the meeting at 19.56pm.

8.3 Correspondence Received

Nothing received.

9. Any Other Business

Minute secretary note – 9.1 below was discussed after Agenda item 2 so we could include Coll amongst our discussions in the meeting and welcome him properly to the C&DCC.

9.1 Appointment of Coll Fullarton, Resignation of Gregor Fox.

- Coll proposed by Youth Services as an appropriate replacement for Gregor as Youth Member.
- All members accepted Coll's appointment, and Gregor's resignation.

9.2 Gritter maintenance.

- Cromarty resident that had been lined up to take this on, now can't commit due to being offered a full-time job. Another contact is potentially interested. NS to contact resident to discuss initial plans etc. **Action – NS.**
- If this falls through Claire can contact original resident again who was suggested in previous meetings (NS hasn't been able to get in touch with him as of yet).
- NS also mentioned that Corrie wishes to step down from volunteering/helping/over-seeing the trikes/gritting functionality. Aware that young resident is keen to take this on (and all members agreed we're very keen to get young persons more involved).
- THC have agreed to cover the public liability risk for another year, but they need to know the ages of those involved. This might cause an issue. AP/NS and Corrie to discuss offline and report back. **Action – AP/NS.**
- In the meantime, we should start a campaign to recruit volunteers. Claire will post on Facebook (to the Cromarty Noticeboard) and PS will share. **Action – Claire.**

There was nothing else to report and the meeting was concluded.

10. Date of next meeting

Next Ordinary Meeting, **Monday, 29th November 2021 @ 7.30pm via Whereby.**

PS thanked **everyone** for attending. Meeting ended at 21.07pm.

AGENDA ITEM A – TREASURER’S REPORT NOTES

Cromarty & District Community Council Ordinary Meeting – 25th October 2021

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

- 1. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (Surplus/Deficit for Year) for period ending 31st March 2022 to date reflects that we have received our Community Council Maintenance Grant for 2021 from the Highland Council.**

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Alan Plampton

23/10/21

AGENDA ITEM B – TREASURER’S REPORT

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting				
Held on Monday 25th October 2021				
Agenda Item No 6 - Treasurer’s Report				
Statement of Financial Position at 23rd October 2021				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 26/09/21</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 23rd October 2021		14,179.76	9.50	14,170.26
Paypal Balance as at 23rd October 2021		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		17.00	-59.50	76.50
Amounts Payable		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Net Assets at 23rd October 2021		£14,196.76	-50.00	£14,246.76
		£	£	£
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2021		2,077.44	0.00	2,077.44
Surplus/ Deficit for the year to date		458.07	-50.00	508.07
		2,535.51	-50.00	2,585.51
Community Amenities Fund		1,021.19	0.00	1,021.19
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 23rd October 2021		78.75	0.00	78.75
Gritting Fund		809.52	0.00	809.52
Cromarty Live Fund		25.13	0.00	25.13
Community Defibrillator Fund		90.04	0.00	90.04
Net C&DCC Reserves		4,647.80	-50.00	4,697.80
Community Event Funds				
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
Designated Community Funds				
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		953.42	0.00	953.42
		£14,196.76	-50.00	£14,246.76
Alan Plampton 23rd October 2021				

AGENDA ITEM C – VICTORIA HALL REPORT

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 25th October 2021 Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

- 1. Bookings and Opening** We are open! Following the initial September opening, when we encountered ‘teething’ problems, we opened for bookings on 7th October. Obviously this start is a cautious one with limited bookings from existing regular users and Cromarty residents only. The new booking form with event risk assessment seems to be working and hopefully getting users to understand all the challenges faced to restart. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 2. Repairs & Maintenance/Cleaning** The main bulk of repairs have been completed, although some remain outstanding. It is hoped that some funding will be forthcoming to soften the financial blow. The main fuse board has been upgraded and replaced and the new main energy efficient Hall lighting has been well received. The stage lights are still to be replaced with a more energy efficient solution. The male toilets have new replacement fittings to remedy extensive leaks. The external rotten kitchen fire door is still to be replaced. Security lighting (including the multi-court for after dark use) has been repaired. The new cooker has arrived. New cleaning protocols are working well with the caretaker returning from furlough. Automatic hand sanitisers have been fitted near to the front and rear entrances. Extra ones may also be fitted in other strategic areas. The First Aid kit now contains a no contact infrared thermometer for user use. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 3. Caretaker** The caretaker’s appraisal took place, and the post now operates as part of the new Hall cleaning protocols. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 4. Youth Cafe** The Latest Report attached, from Fraser, the Assistant Youth Worker.
ACTION – Information only, no action required

Alan Plampton - VHMC
23/10/21

AGENDA ITEM D – PORTFOLIO REPORTS (NIGE SHAPCOTT)

C&DCC Portfolio Report- N Shapcott- 25th October 2021

Cromarty Care Project

- Community Larder- Restarted in the last month (October), early reports are that it is being used.
- The Queen's Award for Volunteer Groups will be presented on November 4th. In view of the outbreak of COVID this will be by invitation only and deliberately kept small.
- The AGM will be on the evening of 1st November.

Cromarty Community Development Trust

- Campsite development- an application for minor revisions to the toilet block have been submitted to the HC Planning Department.
- Reeds Loop shore path renovation report 1- A final report has been written and will shortly be submitted; the delay is due to the report being submitted to the local press. A report on the work has been published in the monthly Cromarty Newsletter.
- Reeds Loop shore path renovation report 2- Grass trimming on both sides of the path has been completed under the auspices of C&DCC. Early discussions on future maintenance are in progress. This will hopefully lead to an application for long term maintenance- DISCUSS.

Gritting

- Agreement in principle for future maintenance and assembly of gritters to be confirmed by the Treasurer. A report has been submitted to the Chair and the Treasurer.
- Grant application- subject to the above being confirmed/resolved.
- A new coordinator for this coming winter is under discussion. Suggestion is a thank you note from the Chair to Corrie Jeffery.

Harbour

- Leisure craft have mostly been removed.
- The new mooring fingers have been removed, as planned, for the winter season in collaboration with the Cromarty Boat Club crane out.

AGENDA ITEM E – PORTFOLIO REPORTS (PETER RATCLIFFE)

Cromarty Ferry.

- Ongoing. But now it is Off Season.
- Ferry was running satisfactorily over the Summer Season, weather and tides permitting. Notice was given in advance for any changes, e.g. no cars when there is a low tide or stormy weather.

Dog Fouling.

- Ongoing.
- New rota not distributed yet. The red bins were/are located out of town area. But there are signs that the Town bins are still being well used, as requested by Highland Council signs.
- One red bin on the Reeds Loop Walk was now reinstalled. Many thanks to Jeremy Price for his assistance.
- Highland Council operatives are currently emptying these bins.
- The Red Bin that was located at the Bowling Green car park has been removed by Highland Council. I have requested that it be returned.

Links & Links Events Diary / Beaches and Litter.

- Ongoing.
- Vehicular access to The Links still partially closed and locked, by C&DCC decision.. However there are two removable stanchions at the Cinema end that can be removed at time of emergency to allow access, also there is more than one key to the padlock at the East End.
- There have been events for the Black Isle Tractor Charity Runs.
- The area in front of Bob Maclean’s house (old ice rink) is marked off by bollards to stop parking and let the grass grow.

Litter.

Communication with H.C. (Katrina Taylor) ongoing.

- Additional H.C. Operative comes to town to “top off” the bins and empty, most days of the week. He also carries out litter picking on the streets. (South Sutor also). – Ongoing.
- There are some “missing” bins, which was investigated. A number of bins have been rotated in location. (Ongoing)
- Photos have been taken on a regular basis of the litter bin contents in order to gauge the usage. It is found that the bins most used and overflowing, are due to local food and drink takeaways, evident campervan refuse, and other items. It is noted that there have been items from the beach also left at the bins for removal and uplift, e.g. tyres.
- The Bins most at issue are :-
 - The Harbour Area.
 - The Cinema Area.
 - The Bins (now 2) on Shore Street, in the vicinity of “Old Fish Store”.
- Proposal to be reviewed further is the use of Metal Enclosures as is done in places like Ullapool and Skye. But these would need to be sponsored locally, e.g. by local businesses. Needs to be planned and arranged for uptake. (Ongoing)
- Cromarty Litter Pickers – not up and running as a group yet, no volunteers for leading a group. Equipment has been distributed, some is on hold for use on other projects such as 100 Steps Project. Map was issued confirming where town bins are for offloading. There are a number of active individual litter pickers in the town.
- Additional equipment is stored in the Sheddie. Have received additional, yet to be distributed.
- Beach Litter – instances of uplift and removal.

Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport Proposal.

Main Report issued by Kari Magee.

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – ongoing.

Green Hydrogen Plant – planning and preparations continue.

PoCF – No recent virtual meeting, but there is one planned and announced for Thursday 28th October 2021 at 5:30pm.

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

Main actors are Corrie and Nige.

Work activities on hold for the season. Maintenance programme on equipment is under discussion.

Equipment is currently stored in “The Sheddie.”

Other.

Cromarty First Responders.

No further action taken regarding the required re-training, as I have been advised.

However, I have been advised that there is a new Training Co-ordinator, by name of Susan Ness, who has been in touch with the local appointees to organise updated training which is expected to start soon.

(Ongoing – no change)

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing. Also reported elsewhere here.

Issue at contention is that Highland Council do not want/intend to support these. Local intention is to continue using these bins with volunteers.

Dog waste is being dumped in town bins, which are collected on a Tuesday. All this waste goes to landfill.

John Nightingale Follow Ups.

No contact held recently.

Sutor Car Park.

Will we get the same numbers of incoming tourists next year?

No action ongoing at this time.

Are Cromarty Community Development Trust following up on this?

Craig Fraser Projects - 2021:-

Hugh Miller Statue Enclosure.

Craig has received painting quotation.

Gaelic Chapel.

Virtual Meeting held. Craig has raised and passed on the Land Ownership documents from Land Sassines, now under review.

E.V. Charging points.

Emails – Craig Fraser has raised the issue. Needs to be followed up.

Are CCDT following up with this issue?

Other Meetings.

Black Isle Communities Zoom Meetings – new schedule has been notified – bi-weekly. Open to other C&DCC Members.

AGENDA ITEM F – PORTFOLIO REPORTS (ALAN PLAMPTON)

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 25th October 2021

Agenda Item 8 – PORTFOLIOS

1. **Housing** No further developments re the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan. The independent arbiter, on the Daffodil Field appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission, has now received the requested documents from the Highland Council and his decision is awaited.

ACTION – Information only, no action required

2. **BICC Meetings** were held with HC representatives re the new Black Isle Local Area Committee. Details of proposals regarding the Committee's new structure are awaited for consideration by the next BICC meeting on 4th November, ahead of the proposed Area Committee meeting on 15th November. There are many areas for debate including the continuing resistance of Cllr Adam to accept that the Black Isle Partnership should not be involved due to their lack of democratic representation and conflicts of interest.

ACTION – Information only, no action required

3. **East Church Hall** The Highland Council trustees and the Common Good Fund have as yet not made any suggestions. Their proposals are awaited and they have been 'nudged'. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

4. **Hugh Miller Institute Meeting Room** The very obvious subsidence and damage to the building is still being considered by the HC/HLH, who manage the building. The meeting room is therefore not available, but the HC has anyway reconfirmed its guidance that all Community Council meetings should, for the foreseeable future, continue to be online. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**


5. **Community Events** The Cromarty Bonfire Night was cancelled as verbally reported.

ACTION – Information only and possible discussion

Alan Plampton
23/10/21

AGENDA ITEM G – PORTFOLIO REPORTS (PAIGE SHEPHERD).

Paige’s Portfolios

<u>Bus Services and Road Surfaces</u>	We have received further complaints regarding stagecoach buses. These have been submitted to stagecoach for a response.
<u>Planning</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="513 367 1355 474">• <u>Replace existing boiler with new pellet boiler, flue and pellet store</u>  <div data-bbox="563 512 1355 656" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"><p>The Old Manse Causeway Cromarty IV11 8XJ Ref. No: 21/04609/LBC Received: Tue 28 Sep 2021 Validated: Tue 28 Sep 2021 Status: Under Consideration</p></div>

AGENDA ITEM H – PORTFOLIO REPORTS (KARI MAGEE).

25 Oct 2021

C&DCC

Summary of Black Isle Conference Call 12 October 2021

1. **Overview.** A Black Isle area committee is necessary because Dingwall and Seaforth have asked to separate from the previous area committee, which also included the Black Isle.
2. **Black Isle Area Committee (BIAC) Role.** The area committee aims to provide a structure that will focus on issues specific to the Black Isle. Examples of potential issues include community transport, road safety, recreation facilities and local schools. There will also be a requirement to consider relevant reporting; for example, housing revenue reports, police and fire service reports. educational trust reports or coastal community fund reports.
3. **BIAC Organisational Structure.** The proposed structure is three Highland Councillors (currently Gordon Adam, Jennifer Barclay and Craig Fraser), two representatives of the Black Isle Community Council, two representatives of the Black Isle Partnership (currently including groups such as Community Development Trust, Black Isle Cares and Transition Black Isle) and two representatives of the Black Isle Parent Council (not yet formed). Only the three Highland Councillors would be empowered to vote. Points to note are as follows:
 - a. **Loss of local representation.** It was highlighted that reducing the community councils' voices from seven to two might lead to a loss of local representation and a deeper understanding of the issues facing certain communities.
 - b. **Over-representation of Black Isle Partnership (BIP).** It was highlighted that two representatives from BIP might be out of proportion with the size of the group they represent. Their inclusion might also lead to a decline in the relevance of the community councils, who are elected by the community and represent them across all issues.
 - c. **Multiple Points of Contact.** It was highlighted that multiple points of contact and routes into the committee might cause confusion, delay or poor communication and coordination; for example, how could issues be raised as effectively as possible without either being missed or raised multiple times; what criteria would be employed to ensure that the issues were Black-Isle wide or to prevent a situation of 'he who shouts loudest'; who would local communities contact and how transparent would the process be?
 - d. **Black Isle Parent Council (BIPC).** It was highlighted that this group, whose foundation appears to have been instigated by Gordon Adam, was not yet in existence. Later investigation suggests that, although a group email may have been sent about scope, objectives and membership, the information about the group may not have been received by Cromarty yet. This raises the potential issue of how representative the group might be.
 - e. **Future Structural Change.** The inclusion of the BIPC also raises the issue of single-issue groups and future structural change. Gordon Adam suggested that it was not feasible to chair a meeting with more than the proposed structure; however, this does not allow for the future inclusion of other single-issue groups and their concerns.
4. **Suggestions.** It was suggested that the role of the community council was already to collect and present all of the concerns of all the residents in their local area in a clear, coordinated and transparent format. It would therefore be worth considering a structure that better supported the efficient and neutral flow of information – community councils to the area committee to the relevant organisation or body –

rather than lose effective communication and coordination through the inclusion of too many group, potentially with competing interests.