



Present

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

Youth Representative(s):

Highland Councillor(s):

Member(s) of the public: Ann Lloyd, George Sylvester, Andy Thurgood.

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the video meeting.

Apologies received from Highland Councillor Craig Fraser (CF) and Coll Fullarton (Coll)

2. Declarations of interest

Declarations unchanged from meeting of 26th October 2020.

3. Approval of previous minutes, 31st January 2022

The minutes were approved by KM and seconded by PR.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 31st January 2022

Minute secretary note – THC means The Highland Council.

1. (4.1 - To continue to discuss the neighbourhood questionnaire re. Townlands parking areas being white lined). Ongoing. **Action CF & FT.**
2. (4.3 – Communication with THC re. TMP proposals). **On hold.**
3. (4.4 - To continue to discuss redesign of the Welcome sign for Cromarty). Ongoing. **Action – CF & FT.**
4. (4.5 – Continue to update the data on Cromarty Live Website). Ongoing. **Action AP, PR, TG & Claire.**
5. (4.6 – Flytipping & rat infestation at Whitedykes is being followed up by Cliff at THC. KM will continue to submit photos via the website for now). More photos to be submitted. Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
6. (4.7 – Second letter sent to farmer re. erecting fences at Reeds Loop – response awaited). No response as of yet. Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
7. (4.8 – Free-standing hand sanitiser unit to be installed outside public toilets early 2022). Ongoing but awaiting repairs. **Action – AP.**

8. (4.9 – Await guidance from the Scottish Government on the freeport/greenport proposals, before PoCF can conduct an Environment Impact Assessment). No movement on this. Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
9. (4.10 Project plan and project team to be finalised for pump track now that funding received. To be completed for summer opening and use. Ward Funding application to be completed for remaining funding). Ongoing. Delayed by renewed interest in CM01 site from Albyn. See AP portfolio report. Verbal update will be given. **Action AP.**
10. (4.11 – Continue to monitor emptying and use of bins (demand slowed in winter)). Ongoing. **Action – PR.**
11. (4.12 – Plumber consulted re. outside water source at Sheddie. No imminent solution – suggested using harbour facilities in the interim). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
12. (4.13 - Confirm dates with Di Agnew re. previous letter in respect of omission of charging points). Further email sent to THC asking for an update. Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
13. (4.15 – Reports from THC received re. maintenance of Links Shrubbery - to be forwarded to members of C&DCC. Potential to involve the Primary School with its continuous maintenance). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
14. (4.16 - Respond to residents when issues re. dog fouling in the community are raised (continuous)). Ongoing. **Action – PR.**
15. (4.17 - Organise contractor to repair damaged steps at the start of The Ladies Walk). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
16. (4.18 – Hot spot areas identified, going to have to work with THC re. the Byelaw etc). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
17. (4.19 – Noise report has been received, needs to be read in detail). KM hasn't made any further progress. If there are any further noise complaints she will go back to PofCF. AP and PS both advised they had received noise complaints recently, to pass on to KM so she can follow this up. Advised that there is a resident with noise monitoring equipment. KM is to speak to the Lighthouse about this. Ongoing. **Action – PS/AP/KM.**
18. (4.20 – Litter pickup equipment distributed, with additions kept in The Sheddie). Ongoing. **Action – PR.**
19. (4.21 – To write a discretionary fund as finance needed to ensure regular servicing of gritters). **On hold.** Plenty funds available just now.
20. (4.22 – Draft letter for local businesses re. current vacancies to be submitted for approval). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
21. (4.23 – New contractor being sought for the bus shelter repair). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
22. (4.24 – C&DCC decide how to proceed with bench for Martin Goswick). Ongoing. **Action – ALL.**
23. (4.25 – Finance will be needed from THC re. Reeds Loop maintenance, but enough in budget just now). **On hold.**
24. (4.26 – To calculate figures for the maintenance of gritters/trikes to see how much funding is required). **On hold.** Plenty funds available just now.

25. (4.27 – To chase Di Agnew re. the repairs required to the fencing in The Victoria Park). Awaiting response. Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
26. (4.28 – To re-visit in the new year re. our approach for requests re. large events in the future). **Action – ALL.**
27. (4.29 – Discuss existing financial module with Di Agnew in March 2022). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
28. (4.30 – Funding received re. repair the HMM railings. Repair to be actioned end of February (railings) and painting in April (under CF management)). See 8.2.2 - railings have been repaired, painting to be done in April. Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
29. (4.31 – PS to ask CF re. the major maintenance issue with THC re. HMI). Ongoing. **Action – PS & CF.**
30. (4.32 – Maintenance of the trees at burial ground to be followed up. Ivy pruning to be arranged). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
31. (4.33 – Contact further resident re. initial plans for maintenance of gritters). **On hold for now.**
32. (4.34 – Discuss offline re. the volunteer’s interested in taking over the gritter/trike organization as ages could affect the insurance covered by THC). **Discharged.**
33. (4.35 – Refresher resilience training to be arranged when time allows – equipment has been serviced). ONGOING - apologies but other priorities has seen this slip. Organise after year end. **Action – AP.**
34. (4.36 – To confirm when repairs on the road from Davidston to Farness have been completed). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
35. (4.37 - Send a list of names of the regular users/key holders of the hall to PS once all key holders have confirmed their participation in EAP for the Hall’s ERC). ONGOING see 4.35 above. **Action – AP.**
36. (4.38 - To chase up with THC re. electric charging points in the town (CF will send the contact details)). Ongoing - email sent to THC. **Action – PS.**
37. (4.39 - Speak to THC re. brown bins for residents). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
38. (4.40 - Speak to Sheila @ CDT re. community composting). Ongoing. **Action – NS.**
39. (5.1 – Send info to Coll re. pump track project team). Ongoing. See 4.10 above. **Action – AP.**
40. (9.1 – To walk 100 steps to check on any trees or debris on the path following recent storms). Done. **Discharged.**
41. (CV19 4.9 – Report back on progress of the change of Bank of Scotland mandates after lockdown). Ongoing. Will renew action in April. **Action – AP.**
42. (CV19 4.11 – Revisit discussions with C&DCC subcommittee events groups once current situation eased). Ongoing. Will renew action in April. **Action – AP.**

5. Youth Issues

- 5.1 Tilly advised that she's been super busy with school (applying for university, sitting highers etc.), but is aware that Wanda continues to be super busy. There have been no issues she is aware of. It was also noted that youth rowing is set to start in the next couple of weeks, as the days get longer/weather warms up.
- 5.2 KM asked TG if mentoring for youngsters would be useful (i.e. an opportunity to learn important life skills such as interview techniques, careers advice etc). TG thinks it will be very useful and would be interested in this for herself also (as was filling out an ICAS form). PS, TG and KM to discuss this is further information and decide how to proceed. **Action – PS/TG/KM.**

Minute secretary note – Tilly left the meeting at 20.01pm due to other commitments.

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.

With no further comments to add other than what's in the report itself, AP welcomed questions.

- 6.1 It was queried if we need to focus on increasing the funds for the maintenance of the defibrillators. However, AP said that if the donations given continue to be a great success, then there is more than enough to keep up the maintenance.

With no further questions, AP was thanked for his reports.

7. Victoria Hall (VH) 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 **Victoria Hall** - Guidelines change on the 21st of March re. the current Covid-19 protocol around wearing masks etc. The community markets are restarting on 12 March 2022. There will however be no catering, and track and trace will still be required in the interim. PS mentioned that she's aware the community are glad that the markets are back up and running.
- 7.2 Risk assessment has also now been done for the Fourways Club.
- 7.3 **Youth Café** - Now receiving monthly 'fareshare' deliveries from supermarkets, in exchange for a £100 donation. This is arranged through an Aberdeen based charity and means that the Youth Café will receive regular deliveries of dry food and vegetables. They goods will be used in the cook well classes, plus some is being gifted to those less fortunate in our community (this amounts to 20-30 households, prioritizing those with children). AP to discuss with Wanda to see if should communicate with The Cromarty Care Project about those receiving the goods as they may also be receiving aid from other sources. All members agree we don't want to duplicate items. **Action – AP.**

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

8. Members' Reports

- 8.1 Portfolios

Portfolio Reports prepared by PR (**Appendix D**), PS (**Appendix E**) & NS (**Appendix F**) were circulated prior to the meeting by members.

KM apologised and advised she had other commitments this month so is yet to action anything. Verbal update given below re. meeting with THC re. 20 mph in Fortrose/Rosemarkie.

- 8.1.1 **Disabled toilets** - NS questioned if we can use these, whilst the public toilets are awaiting repair. PS confirmed that they are locked with a key and there is no business willing to take on this responsibility. Discussion continued and it was agreed we chase up the contact at THC to see if one toilet can be sorted in the interim (or they unlock the disabled one on a temporary basis), particularly as we are coming into the tourist season. PS to email Craig at THC to follow this up for us. **Action – PS.**
- 8.1.2 **Daffodil field** - See AP's report. Discussion about this was carried out, and it was noted that plans for the daffodil field are going to be included in the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan (IMFDP) which is going to be publicized in March.
- 8.1.3 **Albyn Housing** - Discussions also had re. Albyn Housing and the pump track. Work has stopped on the pump track in the interim until AP and PS meet with Albyn to discuss their plans. They had met with THC in December 2021 re. housing development and (unbeknown to us), this bit of land was discussed, and that they will be working on it in financial year 2022/23. We must wait for the IMFDP as there will be a section in this re. this section of land. **Action – AP/PS.**

Meeting with Albyn is to be held on 25 March 2022, C&DCC will know more then. Funding received in relation to the pump track might need to go back if project not completed.

NS confirmed the CDT are having an AGM on 12 March 2022 and he's aware they also have interest in this land. AP confirmed that NS can pass this information on to them.

- 8.1.4 **Electric Vehicle Charging** - PS confirmed she has emailed her contact at THC and is awaiting as response. NS confirmed that the CDT had put in for a grant for charging points, but funding is on hold, and they aren't following it up as an external factor. Also confirmed that there are several businesses interested in having the electric vehicle charging points. Await response from THC.
- 8.1.5 **Fortrose/Rosemarkie - 20mph** - KM will prepare a report re. the discussions that were had. The lady presenting from THC was very clear and communicated how the speed limits work very effectively, but the open discussion that followed became a bit complex. KM to try and receive a copy of the presentation and will send this around to members, with accompanying notes. If members have any comments KM can communicate with the contact from THC. Can put a survey to Cromarty residents re. the speed limit/zones in the town if required but all members agree we should read report first. **Action – KM.**

No one had any additional comments and were thanked by PS for their efforts and work done to date.

8.2 The Highland Council (Cllr Craig Fraser)

Minute secretary note – email sent to PS prior to meeting

- 8.2.1 Braehead has been resurfaced and markings have been redone. CF commented that they've made a good job. Members however commented on rubbish that hasn't been cleared away and was dumped by the Icehouse. It was also suggested that it doesn't look

totally finished. KM will confirm during the week if Pat Munro need to be contacted to come back and complete the job. PS will then follow this up with Craig. **Action – KM/PS.**

8.2.2 Hugh Miller railings have been repaired by Newhall Smiddy and Witold has done a good job. Painting to be done, probably in April.

8.3 Correspondence Received

8.3.1 Facebook message from resident asking re. the rubbish dumped at the Icehouse (see 8.2.1 above). Replied to say will be followed up with The Highland Council. No further action required.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 **Cromarty Development Trust (CDT)** - NS is no longer a director of the CDT.

9.2 **Queens Jubilee** - KM questioned if there were any plans for this. NS suggested the Cromarty Care Project have been approached about organising something, so KM to contact Jill Stoner. **Action – KM.**

9.3 **Trees for the Queens Jubilee** - The Woodland Trust had previously offered free trees in celebration of the jubilee (see previous minutes). AP will request that we are included in the offering for April. They will then be delivered in November. It was suggested that trees are planted at the pump track, and a grand opening could be held at the same time.

KM asked if hedgerows were available (in addition to trees?). AP confirmed yes (and will resend the original email to members, so can view all options). KM suggested the hedgerows could be planted at the park, to reduce the cost of the fence repairs.

9.4 **C&DCC Elections** – PR queried when these will be held and AP confirmed November. AGM will be held in May as normal.

9.5 **Harbour trustee** - Sarah Pern has resigned as a trustee. David Kent has been nominated as new trustee. All members agree that he should be appointed, and PS is to email acceptance to Colin Dickie and David Kent. **Action – PS.**

9.6 **George Sylvester** – questioned re. the constitution of the harbour trust, and where he can see copies of it. AP advised that he should contact Colin Dickie about this.

PS asked the committee members, plus the members of the public if they had any further comments or questions to add to the meeting. There was nothing else to report and the meeting was concluded.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 4th April 2022.

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 20.44pm.

Agenda Item 6 (Appendix A) – Treasurer’s Report Notes

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 28th February 2022

- 1. CROMARTY RISING FUND** reflects a donation from a Black Isle resident. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
- 2. COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND** reflects donations in the Arms tin. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
25/02/22

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting				
Held on Monday 28th February 2022				
Agenda Item No 6 - Treasurer’s Report				
Statement of Financial Position at 25th February 2022				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			Movement	at 29/01/22
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 25th February 2022		16,429.48	118.36	16,311.12
Paypal Balance as at 25th February 2022		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		68.00	8.50	59.50
Amounts Payable		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Net Assets at 25th February 2022		£16,497.48	126.86	£16,370.62
		£	£	£
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		384.67	-25.40	410.07
		2,462.11	-25.40	2,487.51
Community Amenities Fund		4,832.74	0.00	4,832.74
Emergency Resilience Centre Fund		69.96	0.00	69.96
Covid-19 Resilience Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 25th February 2022		78.75	0.00	78.75
Gritting Fund		682.32	0.00	682.32
Cromarty Live Fund		100.01	0.00	100.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		207.28	52.26	155.02
Net C&DCC Reserves		8,433.17	26.86	8,406.31
Community Event Funds				
Bonfire Night Fund	2,302.14		0.00	2,302.14
Gala Fund	3,273.83		0.00	3,273.83
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	5,910.89	0.00	202.06
Designated Community Funds				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00
Cromarty Rising Fund		803.42	100.00	703.42
		£16,497.48	126.86	£16,370.62
Alan Plampton 25th February 2022				

AGENDA ITEM 7

Appendix C – VICTORIA HALL REPORT

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 28th February 2022

1. **Bookings** Following Members' decision at the last meeting to allow bookings from folk outwith of Cromarty, we are also preparing to make changes to our booking T&Cs reflecting the latest Scottish Government 'roadmap' out of Covid restrictions. Most of these changes are planned for 21st March and will be adopted in line with their guidance. The TBI Community Market will recommence on 12th March but will still be following the existing legislation that includes face masks and track & trace details collection. There will be no catering. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance/Cleaning** Repairs still ongoing and the cleaning protocols are still covering all the current bookings. The oil boiler has been serviced and the fire equipment service will be next week. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Youth Cafe** The latest Report attached, from Fraser, the Assistant Youth Worker. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
25/02/22

AGENDA ITEM 8

Appendix D – PORTFOLIO REPORTS (PETER RATCLIFFE)

Cromarty Ferry.

- Ongoing. But now it is Off Season, so no service. Boat is berthed in Harbour.

Dog Fouling.

- Ongoing –.
- New rota not distributed yet, collecting the new volunteers. The red bins were/are located in out of town area.
- Red Bins are being emptied on a regular basis both by volunteers and by HC. The Reeds Path, Stoopie, The Links bins. But there is still evidence that the Town bins are still being well used for depositing waste..
- Local volunteers emptying the red bins. But need to resolve the rota, no new volunteers after the Facebook exposure.
- The Red Bin that was located at the Bowling Green car park has been removed by Highland Council, but not yet 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.
- The area in front of Bob Maclean’s house (old ice rink) is now marked off by permanent embedded wooden bollards, and large stones to stop parking and let the grass grow.

Litter.

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

- Quiet season – bins are emptied on Tuesdays, Commercial Bin Day.
- 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, or grand aided. Needs to be planned drawn up and arranged for uptake. (Ongoing)
- Cromarty Litter Pickers – not up and running as a group yet, no volunteers for leading a group. Volunteers are carrying out activities. 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. (Ongoing – no change.)
- Additional equipment is stored in the Sheddie. Have received additional, yet to be distributed.

Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport Proposal.

Main Report issued by Kari Magee.

Email received regarding:

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – ongoing.

Green Hydrogen Plant – planning and preparations continue.

PoCF – Virtual Meeting on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 attended.

Nigg Liaison Group Meetings – await confirmation on next meeting.

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

Main actors are Corrie and Nige. Waiting for weather to get worse for further action.

Young leader of the group, Allan Munro, has already laid down grit on an occasion.

Latest Documentation package was submitted, to Highland Council.

Grit bins have been topped up by Highland Council Offenders Scheme.

Gritting Equipment is currently stored in The Sheddie.

Other.

Cromarty First Responders.

The Cromarty First Responders have been having training in Aberdeen, members are being processed with IDs and documentation. Await update.

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing. Also reported elsewhere here, under "Dog Fouling".

Issue at contention is that Highland Council do not want/intend to support the use of these bins, as in other towns. 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 with a larger Project?

Craig Fraser Projects - 2021:- (Assisting with)

Hugh Miller Statue Enclosure.

Metalwork has been completed. The Painting is yet to be done.

Clearing of the area is yet to be arranged and done.

Gaelic Chapel.

Virtual Meeting held. Craig has raised and passed on the Land Ownership documents from Land Sassines, now under review. (No change)

Site visited and stage photos taken. The bell is still in situ.

E.V. Charging points.

Emails – Craig Fraser has raised the issue. Needs to be followed up. (No change).

Are CCDT following up with this issue? (No Change).

Other Meetings.

None attended.

AGM of CCDT is planned for Saturday 12th March 2022.

Paige's Portfolios

<u>Planning</u>	No new planning applications but application for houses at the daffodil field has been rejected at planning.
<u>Police Update</u>	Still no update from Police Scotland. HC are obtaining quotes for the repair to the toilets.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Appendix F – PORTFOLIO REPORTS (NIGEL SHAPCOTT)

Portfolio Report 28th February - Cromarty Harbour Trust; Cromarty Community Development Trust; Cromarty Care Project.

Cromarty Harbour Trust

The first face to face meeting of the Harbour Working Group for a long time was held on Monday 21st February. On a personal note it was really good to have a “normal” meeting. Main issues concerned getting the harbour ready for the leisure season; reports on any safety issues, including keeping up with Scottish Government guidelines on COVID; maintenance issues; looking at fee levels and capacity/waiting list and follow up on outstanding matters from the contractors involved in the refurbishment. Whilst not really a ‘business’, it has not been immune to the exceptional inflation we are all experiencing, for example its electricity cost has just nearly doubled! The Trust’s “elephant in the room” is the status of the outer pier, some investigative work around its condition and future use is underway BUT there is no expectation that a quick fix is possible. Our primary and immediate goal is to ensure continuing safe usage. The Harbour is totally run on a volunteer basis and we are on constant lookout for additional forms of income to keep this community asset in a sound physical and financial state for the long term..

Cromarty Care Project

The larder has been very well used throughout the winter - we are having to restock daily and make regular trips to get more stock from the cash and carry. We have had supplies from Highland council too and the Masons. We are getting a few donations put in the box but not many. We are using funding from unrestricted funds held by the Care Project.

Fuel payments of £100 per household - 42 households and £50 per child - 33 children. = £5,850

Table tennis has restarted in the West Church Hall on Monday mornings

Monday lunch club at the Cromarty Arms, subsidised by funding from Highland Council that CCP applied for, has been well attended.

Cromarty Community Development Trust

'Save the date' for the AGM of the Trust: **afternoon of Saturday 12 March!** It'll be an online gathering, where members can hear about what we've achieved in the last year – and what we've not been able to do due to lack of people and the strange circumstances we all live in. Members will get an email shortly with more detail and how to join the meeting. Anyone who wants to become a member can get a form at the Post Office - it's only a £1 a year - and anyone who might want to become a director, contact us at cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com