



Cromarty and District Community Council
Draft minutes of meeting held on
Monday 31st January 2022, 7.30pm
via Whereby due to Covid-19 restrictions

Minutes
Approved
28.2.2022

Present

Community Councillors: Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chair, Alan Plampton (AP) - Treasurer, Peter Ratcliffe (PR) - Secretary, Kari Magee (KM), Tilly Grist (TG), Coll Fullarton (Coll)

Youth Representative(s): N/A

Highland Councillor(s): -

Member(s) of the public:

Minute Secretary: Gillian McNaught

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the video meeting.

Apologies received from Craig Fraser (CF) and Nigel Shapcott (NS)

2. Declarations of interest

Declarations unchanged from meeting of 26th October 2020.

3. Approval of previous minutes, 29th November 2021

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by KM.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 29th November 2021

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. (4.2 - Follow up with THC contact re. Community Pay Back Scheme). CF chased this up with THC today. See Report, *item 8.2. Discharged.*
3. (4.3 – Awaiting response re. TMP proposals after complaint rec'd was unsatisfactory). See KM Report, *Minutes 29th November 2021. On hold.*
4. (4.4 - To continue to discuss redesign of the Welcome sign for Cromarty). **Ongoing. Action – CF & FT.**
5. (4.5 – Continue to update the data on Cromarty Live Website). **Ongoing. Action AP, PR, TG & Claire.**
6. (4.6 – Resubmit photos of fly-tipping at Whitedykes, plus rats at Townlands Park). Note there have been more reports of fly-tipping and is to be looked at alongside the rat issue. Contact called Cliff at THC is to be following this up (KM to continue submitting via the website for now). **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
7. (4.7 – Contact farmer (in writing) re. erecting fences at Reeds Loop). Second letter posted to the farmer and awaiting reply. **Ongoing. Action – PS.**

8. (4.8 – Await delivery of outdoor free-standing hand sanitiser unit, for outside public toilets and TVH (New Year)). VH unit was installed in October. **Ongoing. Action – AP.**
9. (4.9 – Await guidance from the Scottish Government on the freeport/greenport proposals, before PoCF can conduct an Environment Impact Assessment). Still awaiting guidance – nothing further to report. **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
10. (4.10 – No progress yet re. training for Cromarty 1st responders – in discussion with previous member). New training has been undertaken and expected to be up and running a couple of weeks. **Discharged.**
11. (4.11 – Awaiting news re. funding for the pump track. AP reported a successful award of £3k, following an application to Scottish Rural Communities, to be spent by 31st March. Ronan Taylor is completing a detailed Project Plan for immediate start. Project team to be finalised and include Coll plus an additional Cromarty youth member. All to be completed for summer opening and use. More exact costings will lead to completing the BI Ward Funding application for remainder of required funding. **Ongoing. Action AP.**
12. (4.12 – Continue to monitor emptying and use of bins). Demand has slowed currently. **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
13. (4.13 – Concerns re. outside water source at Sheddy in winter remain – to review options with plumber). Bob has been consulted but no imminent solution other than using Harbour facility on completion before returning to Sheddie. **Ongoing. Action – AP.**
14. (4.14 - Confirm dates with Di Agnew re. previous letter in respect of omission of charging points). **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
15. (4.15 – To chase THC re. survey of the Links shrubbery and it's continuous maintenance). Timescales have been put in place to complete this work (2 months). Emails were forwarded to members. Kate at THC is coming out to survey the area. See CF Report, *item 8.2*. **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
16. (4.16 - Respond to residents when issues re. dog fouling in the community are raised (continuous)). **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
17. (4.17 - Organise contractor to repair damaged steps at the start of The Ladies Walk). **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
18. (4.18 – Hot spot areas identified, going to have to work with THC re. the Byelaw etc). **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
19. (4.19 – Noise report has been received, needs to be read in detail). **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
20. (4.20 – Litter pickup equipment distributed, with additions kept in The Sheddie). See PR Report, *Appendix D*. **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
21. (4.21 – To write a discretionary fund as finance needed to ensure regular servicing of gritters). **Ongoing. Action – NS.**
22. (4.22 – Draft letter for local businesses re. current vacancies drawn up – to be distributed to members for discussion.). Draft to be submitted for approval **Ongoing. Action – PS.**

23. (4.26 – To chase up bus shelter repair costs with builder). Have to look for a new contractor for this work. **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
24. (4.28 – C&DCC decide how to proceed with bench for Martin Goswick). **Ongoing. Action – ALL.**
25. (4.29 – To contact Di @ THC re. quote for Reeds Loop Maintenance. Ask if we should accept quote given). AP and NS advise there is enough in the budget just now for at least two cuts (per quote from Cromarty resident). Therefore, there is no need to contact Di just now. **On hold.**
26. (4.30 – To calculate figures for the maintenance of gritters/trikes to see how much funding is required). **Ongoing. Action – NS.**
27. (4.31 – Contact Di Agnew re. the repairs required to the fencing in The Victoria Park). Awaiting response. **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
28. (4.36 – To re-visit in the new year re. our approach for requests re. large events in the future). **Ongoing. Action – ALL.**
29. (7.4 – Discuss existing financial module with Di Agnew, early 2022). Planed for March 2022. **Ongoing. Action – AP.**
30. (8.2.3 – To organize Newhall Smiddy to carry out the work to HMM railings. To also follow up re. funding with Di to see how this will be received). Discretionary ward funding received. Work authorised to start under CF management. **Ongoing. Action – PS & CF.**
31. (8.2.6 – To follow up the major maintenance issue with THC re. HMI). CF to chase this up. Not mentioned in CF report. PS to ask CF for update. **Ongoing. Action – PS & CF.**
32. (8.2.7 – Maintenance of the trees at burial ground to be followed up. Ivy pruning to be arranged). **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
33. (9.2.1 – Contact further resident re. initial plans for maintenance of gritters). **Ongoing. Action – NS.**
34. (9.2.4 – Discuss offline re. the volunteer’s interested in taking over the gritter/trike organization as ages could affect the insurance covered by THC). List awaited from PR .**Ongoing. Action – AP, NS & PR.**
35. CV-19 4.8 – Arrange for refresher resilience training workshop for the C&DCC when appropriate). Training to be arranged when time allows. Equipment serviced. **Ongoing. Action – AP.**
36. (CV-19 4.12 – Report back on THC responses re. the repairs required urgently on the Davidston to Farness Road). CF reports that THC are going to get this repaired! **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
37. (7.3 - Send a list of names of the regular users/key holders of the hall to PS. Outstanding as key holders have not yet all confirmed their participation in EAP for the Hall’s ERC - **Ongoing. Action – AP.**
38. (9.1- To chase up with THC re. electric charging points in the town (CF will send the contact details). Ongoing. **Action – CF & PS.**
39. (9.2 - Speak to THC re. brown bins for residents. **Ongoing. Action – PS.**

40. (9.2 Speak to Sheila @ CDT re. community composting). Ongoing. **Action – NS.**

5. Youth Issues

No issues to report.

- 5.1 AP proposed that Coll becomes involved in the project team for the Pump Track. AP has suggested that an offer of trees to provide a windbreak and landscaping be incorporated into the project plan. **Action – AP & Coll**
- 5.2 AP to send information to Coll. **Action – AP.**

Nothing else to discussed 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**) covering the 2 month period November - January were prepared by AP and circulated prior to the meeting.

- 6.1 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 AP requested Members' opinions about easing Covid restrictions for the VH. Following discussion, it was **agreed** to now open up the venue to bookings out with Cromarty, while keeping to all other national guidelines.
- 7.2 **Community Markets** - AP reported these can start from February. Current guidelines requires collecting information of *all* those attending VH events for Track and Trace. However, Transition Black Isle (TBI) disagrees and only stall holders need supply details. Following discussion, it was **agreed** the VH follow current protective guidance and this continues until protocol are changed. This currently leaves the re start of the Cromarty Markets undecided.
- 7.3 AP reported the VH remains operational as a Resilience centre if required and further training will be undertaken soon.
- 7.4 AP reported THC agreed in December 2021 a 5% backdated pay award to April 2021. This was implemented without any prior warning and impacted budgets for the VH and YC as VH contracts follow THC pay structure. AP will make provision for this in future.

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

8. Members' Reports

- 8.1.1. Portfolios

Portfolio Reports prepared by PR (**Appendix D**) & PS (**Appendix E**) were circulated prior to the meeting by The Members.

- 8.1.1 KM gave apologies for not being able to submit a report prior to meeting but gave a verbal update.
KM & PR had attended the latest Port of Nigg meeting. Following a request for further information, KM confirmed that Planning Permission for a 'steel rolling factory' style building *already been granted* and had simply had a minor amendment to the original plan. Assurances have been given by Global Manager, Rory Gunn that noise levels would not go above acceptable levels. It was noted that support for a 365 day a year ferry service would allow residents to be part of a potential expanding workforce.
- 8.1.2 KM has had no reply from Farmer, Robert Mackenzie who is proposing to restore an historic golf course at Nigg.

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

8.2. The Highland Council (Cllr Craig Fraser) Minute secretary note - report submitted by email prior to meeting

- **Community Pay Back Scheme** – Could be discharged – Townland Park sheltered housing tree removed/paths cleared very good job (photos provided). Also community council now have direct contact for community payback Paul MacLeod (Social Care) Paul.MacLeod@highland.gov.uk; Diane MacRae (Children's Services) Diane.MacRae@highland.gov.uk
- **Bus shelter** - New contractor needed for the bus shelter repair – in process of seeking new contractor.
- **Street Light outages** – There were a number of street lights out these have been repaired. If residents know of other lights these can be reported by completing report a problem page on Highland Council (HC) website – HC will need the light reference number this is on a yellow sticker on the lamp pole.
- **Hugh Miller Monument** repair to be actioned end of February (railings) painting April.
- **Links Shrubbery** – Report from HC received with options and way forward for this area. Report has been forwarded to community council, Cromarty PTC and Cromarty Primary Skool. I think this would be a good project for the youngsters to get involved with as I believe it would broaden their knowledge of the different species in this area of Cromarty? I have spoken with Mrs Dinwoodie and she has expressed an interest in getting the school pupils involved . This is a valuable natural community asset.

Thanks were expressed by all to CF for his continued support of the C&DCC and the local community.

8.3. Correspondence Received

Nothing received.

(Minute secretary Note, TG and Coll left the meeting at 8.30pm)

9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 KM will walk the 100 steps and check on any trees or debris on the path following recent storms.
- 9.2 AP reported that the BICC group submitted in November a formal complaint to THC about the behaviour, lack of discussion and conflict of interest of individuals. No reply has been received. A further letter will be sent requesting a reply and if this does not materialise the BICCs intention is to go to Press.
- 9.3 **Cromarty Toilets Vandalism** - PS has had nothing further from Police Scotland in relation to the recent vandalism. A Crime number for this incident has been created which PS can share and urges anyone with information to report it. A quote for repairs from THC is awaited.
- 9.4 **East Church Hall** - there have been notes of interest submitted about future use.

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

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting, Monday 28th February 2022 at 7.30pm via Whereby.

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 9pm.

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

Appendix A – TREASURER’S REPORT NOTES

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 31st January 2022

1. **COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** increase reflects funding received for the Pump Track Project, HM Monument renovations and donations in the Stores donations tin. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **EMERGENCY RESILIENCE FUND** reflects the purchase of a trickle charger for the emergency generator as recommended by the electrician following the service that was provided gratis. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **GRITTING FUND** reflects the repair/servicing of gritting machines. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **CROMARTY LIVE FUND** reflects a donation from a Cromarty resident. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
5. **COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND** reflects donations in the Bakery tin. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
6. **GALA FUND** shows the purchase of more new Christmas lights for the Victoria Park Christmas tree. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton

29/01/22

Agenda Item 6
Appendix B – TREASURER’S REPORT

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting				
Held on Monday 31st January 2022				
Agenda Item No 6 - Treasurer’s Report				
Statement of Financial Position at 29th January 2022				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 27/11/21</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 29th January 2022		16,311.12	3,455.18	12,855.94
Paypal Balance as at 29th January 2022		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		59.50	42.50	17.00
Amounts Payable		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Net Assets at 29th January 2022		£16,370.62	3,497.68	£12,872.94
		£	£	£
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		410.07	2.00	408.07
		2,487.51	2.00	2,485.51
Community Amenities Fund		4,832.74	4,071.55	761.19
Emergency Resilience Centre Fund		69.96	-17.70	87.66
Covid-19 Resilience Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 29th January 2022		78.75	0.00	78.75
Gritting Fund		682.32	-127.20	809.52
Cromarty Live Fund		100.01	100.00	0.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		155.02	64.98	90.04
Net C&DCC Reserves		8,406.31	4,093.63	4,312.68
Community Event Funds				
Bonfire Night Fund	2,302.14		0.00	2,302.14
Gala Fund	3,273.83		-470.95	3,744.78
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		703.42	-125.00	828.42
		£16,370.62	3,497.68	£12,872.94
Alan Plampton 29th January 2022				

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 31st January 2022

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings and Re-Opening (yet again!)** Gently restarting with regular user bookings. Protocols seem to be working. A review is needed to decide whether we should consider relaxing any of our booking restrictions in line with local Covid protective guidance easing (e.g. only taking bookings from existing regular users and Cromarty residents only). **ACTION – Information and possible discussion**

2. **Repairs & Maintenance/Cleaning** Repairs still ongoing and the cleaning protocols are covering all the current bookings. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

3. **Sheddie/ERC** The Emergency Resilience equipment has been serviced and, after the purchase of a trickle charger for the generator, all is well. The Emergency Action Plan and its Emergency Resilience Centre procedures are being updated and reviewed. The list of registered key-holders and their agreed involvement in these procedures is yet to be finalised. Once this has been completed, refresher sessions will be organised for all involved and willing. The VHMC has agreed to help the new Black Isle FC by supplying storage space for some of their training equipment and our new goal nets (purchased with the new goalposts) in the Sheddie and some facilities for refreshment making on match days. **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

29/01/22

AGENDA ITEM 8

Appendix D – PORTFOLIO REPORTS (PETER RATCLIFFE)

Cromarty Ferry.

- Ongoing. But now it is Off Season, so no service.

Dog Fouling.

- Ongoing – lot of action in Facebook.
- New rota not distributed yet, collecting the new volunteers. The red bins were/are located in out of town area.

But there is still evidence that the Town bins are still being well used, as indicated by Highland Council signs on the bins.

- Local volunteers emptying the red bins. But need to resolve the rota.
- 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 still marked off by bollards 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. 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. (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.

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – ongoing.

Green Hydrogen Plant – planning and preparations continue.

PoCF – Virtual Meeting invitations distributed for Wednesday 2nd February 2022.

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..

Previous team call out done.

Latest Documentation package was submitted,
Grit bins have been topped up by Highland Council.
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. Expected to be up and running in a couple of weeks.

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 a larger Project.

Craig Fraser Projects - 2021:- (Assisting with)

Hugh Miller Statue Enclosure.

Estimates and confirmation of estimates has been received. Need to arrange for start dates and complete Scope of Work.

To contact Newhall Smithy.

Gaelic Chapel.

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

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?

Other Meetings.

Gordon Adams Virtual Meetings/ Black Isle Communities Zoom Meetings – one held on 25th January, which I missed. Open to other C&DCC Members.

Discussion ongoing regarding the Black Isle Area Committee Issue by others.

<p><u>Planning</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Internal alterations to flat</p> <p>Flat 4 The Byre Marine Terrace Cromarty IV11 8YA Ref. No: 21/05979/LBC Received: Wed 22 Dec 2021 Validated: Wed 22 Dec 2021 Status: Under Consideration</p> <p>• Erection of agricultural building</p> <p>Udale Farmhouse Poyntzfield Dingwall IV7 8LY Ref. No: 21/05978/FUL Received: Wed 22 Dec 2021 Validated: Fri 14 Jan 2022 Status: Under Consideration</p> <p>• Installation of dosing kiosk</p> <p>Waste Water Treatment Plant South Sutor Cromarty Ref. No: 21/05650/FUL Received: Thu 02 Dec 2021 Validated: Wed 22 Dec 2021 Status: Under Consideration</p> <p>• Replacement window</p> <p>3 Coastguard George Street Cromarty IV11 8YL Ref. No: 21/05481/FUL Received: Mon 22 Nov 2021 Validated: Wed 01 Dec 2021 Status: Under Consideration</p>
<p><u>Police Update</u></p>	<p>Further to the damage of the public toilets I have had no update from Police Scotland. The Highland Council will now come out to quote for the repairs. Disappointing to see how much damage was caused. If anyone has any information on the culprits they are encouraged to contact the Police on 101 reporting crime number NE57/22</p>