



Cromarty and District Community Council
Approved minutes of meeting held on
Monday 27th June 2022, 730pm
via Whereby due to Covid-19 restrictions

Approved
Minutes
30/08/22

Present

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

Youth Representative(s):

Highland Councillor(s): Lyndsey Johnston (LJ)

Member(s) of the public:

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minute secretary note – PR, AP and PS were all in attendance from The Victoria Hall. They were testing the internet/video connection to check if we can hold face to face meetings here in the near future.

Tilly joined the meeting at 1940pm (virtually).

2. Declarations of interest

AT, a co-opted member mentioned that due to his BSI employment there may be a conflict of interest to be clarified with regards to any correspondence between Global and himself. He will discuss the position with his legal team and report back.

No other changes to declarations since meeting of 26th October 2020.

3. Approval of previous minutes, 30th May 2022

The minutes were approved by NS and seconded by AT

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 30th May 2022

Minute secretary note – THC means The Highland Council.

1. (4.1 – On hold - Communication with THC re. TMP proposals). **On hold.**
2. (4.2 - To discuss redesign of the Welcome sign for Cromarty). Ongoing. **Action – PS & FT.**
3. (4.3 – Continue to update the data on Cromarty Live Website). Ongoing. **Action AP, PR, TG & Claire.**
4. (4.4 – Photos re. flytipping at Whitedykes to be re-submitted). No response from THC. To resubmit. **Action – KM.**

5. (4.5 – To discuss level crossing system (fencing) at Reeds Loop and how to approach John Nightingale. Funding to be sought once written approval received). Paige & Kari to discuss further. **Action – PS/KM.**
6. (4.6 – On hold - installation of free-standing hand sanitiser unit at public toilets). **On hold.**
7. (4.7 – Await guidance from the Scottish Government on the Green Freeport proposals, before PoCF can conduct an Environment Impact Assessment). Ongoing. No decision has been made on which Green Freeport proposal has been approved (there are 2 for Scotland). **Action – KM.**
8. (4.10 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance – on hold until August). **On hold.**
9. (4.11 – Hot spot areas identified, going to have to work with THC re. the Byelaw etc). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
10. (4.12 – Await update from noise monitoring team at THC re. installing the noise monitoring equipment). No update, ongoing. **Action – KM.**
11. (4.13 – Draft letter for local businesses re. current vacancies to be submitted for approval). In progress – on going. **Action – PS.**
12. (4.14 – C&DCC to follow up seeking a new contractor for the bus shelter repair). **Action – C&DCC.**
13. (4.15 – C&DCC decide how to proceed with bench for Martin Goswick). Ongoing. **Action – ALL.**
14. (4.16 – Finance will be needed from THC re. Reeds Loop maintenance, but enough in budget just now). **On hold until Summer 2022.**
15. (4.17 – Await response from THC re. repairs to fencing in Victoria Park). Response back from Di and VP is high on the agenda for repairs and the maintenance team are aware of how dangerous the fence has become. Await repairs to be done. **Action – PS.**
16. (4.19 – Re-visit our approach for requests re. large events in the future). **Action – ALL.**
17. (4.20 – Painting of railings as HMM monument to be done in July 2022). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
18. (4.21 – Await response from THC re. the major maintenance issue re. Hugh Millers Institute. CF last emailed about this on 4th May 2022). **Action – C&DCC.**
19. (4.22 – Refresher resilience training to be arranged). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
20. (4.23 – Awaiting response from keyholders re. providing names of the regular users/key holders of the hall to PS post financial year end). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
21. (4.24 – Report back on progress of the change of Bank of Scotland mandates in April 2022). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
22. (4.25 – Revisit discussions with C&DCC subcommittee events groups in June 2022). **Action – AP.**

23. (4.27 – Plan agreed & resources being developed re. youth mentoring programme. Dates & location to be confirmed). Awaiting feedback re. location. **Action – Kari & Tilly.**
24. (4.28 – To try and retrieve funds held back by Di Agnew (THC) for repairs to THC (common good) post AGM. Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
25. (4.30 – Await decision on SSEN application). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
26. (4.31 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church). **Action C&DCC.**
27. (4.32 – Await response from Alcumus, send to members once received). **Action – AT.**
28. (7.1 – Potential to receive a grant for TVH for further insulation). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
29. (8.1.2 – Make contact with local contractor (contact details given) re. repairs needed to bridge @ 100 steps). Email sent, await response. **Action – KM.**
30. (8.1.3 – Pass details re. litter picker co-ordinator to Peter). **Discharged.**
31. (9.1 – Councillors to discuss Townlands Park with THC and report back to PS. Parking issues to be discussed in more detail at future date). Townlands parking requires a longerterm discussion. The new HC members are aware of the current conditions and conversations between C&DCC and THC remain positive. More discussions to be hand/conclusions to be sought. **Action – PS.**
32. (9.2 – To look into possibility of planting hedges instead of fences at The Victoria Park). Have looked at hedging packs. Requested thoughts on wildlife pack/year round colour packs before asking THC for permission. This was discussed in further detail at meeting so can be **discharged. See AOB.**
33. (9.3 – To update poster to include C&DCC logo on it & send to Nige). **Discharged.**
34. (9.4 – Burn weeds on Reeds Loop with flame gun). Still to be done (See Nige report). **Action – NS.**
35. (9.5 - To send emails to new councillor MMM re. response given re. electric vehicles charging points). Email sent to MMM, passed to Lyndsey as she is our new area councillor. Await response/further update. **Action – PS.**

5. Youth Issues

Nothing to report.

Tilly advised she's still to talk to Wanda re. the mentorship programme, and she is waiting to hear from 2 youth members re. joining the community council.

NS to pass details of another potential youth representative to PS so she can get in contact with them. **Action – NS/PS.**

6. Treasurer's Report

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

6.1 Community Amenities Fund:

All costs re. the jubilee beacon etc are covered. Once auctioned off should be able to put it back into community.

6.2 Hugh Millers Monument:

Painting to be done in 2 weeks then all funds are used up.

6.3 100 steps:

No funding needed yet (KM is to send Video to D MacLennan (Contractor) so he can provide a quote). The budget can then be split between Reeds Loop and the 100 Steps.

6.4 Contractor insurance:

A discussion was then had re. insurance. AT questioned how we 'vet' contractors to ensure their certs etc are all up to date. AP confirmed we've actually not used anyone outside of local residents as of yet (tree surgeons were used in the past but for advice only). The problem we have now is that the repairs are too much for volunteers to do. AT just wants to be sure that we are aware of the thresholds that we are covered for etc. AP closed the conversation by saying the C&DCC insurance covers risk assessment etc and further information is only needed if more than 500 folk are involved.

With no further questions, AP was thanked for everything.

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, were circulated prior to the meeting.

7.1 The Victoria Hall:

7.1.1. Small hall grant has been received (£500).

7.1.2. Covid changes to happen re. hall users before the next C&DCC meeting in August, just in time for the Autumn/Winter season.

7.1.3. A discussion was had with Lyndsey Johnston re. THC and if there is a plan in place to upgrade the heating system in TVH (due to rising heating oil prices etc). NS was advised that Ewen (a restoration architect) advised them of a possible grant that could be applied for (info was sent to AP). LJ advised that Tore Hall is out of action due to the lack of electricity supply (they have a consultant working with them to fix this asap). However, LJ also advised that Findon Hall have just lost their Renewable Energy Heating System (Air/Ground Source) as it has failed (within 5 years). They are therefore back to electric heaters. Advises just to be cautious when looking into different systems. Something to think about, LJ couldn't comment on the grant NS was referring too.

To further the conversation, AP advised the grant from the Scottish Government (see 7.2) is in relation to anything that promotes carbon 0/will positively impact climate change etc, and can be any amount up to £350k (revenue based). This also includes an add on of £20k to possibly make the YC office solar powered, and providing the youth workers with bicycles rather than using their motor vehicles. It might not come to anything but would make the hall less reliant on oil. The problem is more how to retain the heat than the purchasing, although oil has gone

up by 30p a litre in 3 months (which we can't afford to fund for another 12 months).

To conclude the conversation, AP said he will look into the grant info that NS sent across but it might not be required (and isn't a priority) if the funds from the Scottish Government come through.

NS thanked Alan for all of his hardwork over the last month, in particular with the application for this 3 year funding which will make a massive impact in the community!

7.2 The Youth Café:

7.2.1 Funding that was received in relation to the pump track has been kept and used elsewhere (this includes the installation of a bench in the park that will be used by the YC during the summer programme).

7.2.2 Have been made aware of a 3 year funding programme that will allow the Youth Café to grow significantly and will also provide constant funds for the community (discussed in great detail above). Deadline is tomorrow. **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, PS, AP, AT, KM & NS (**Appendix D-I**) were circulated prior to the meeting by members.

8.1.1. Alan:

A document re. BI priorities etc was circulated prior to the meeting. AP asking for all responses before Wednesday, as they can then discuss it at the up & coming BICC meeting. It had been circulated a few weeks prior but not passed to C&DCC (hence the last minute request). Plan of action is that the current long list will be narrowed down based on community council opinions, and THEN we will go to the residents individually and ask for their opinions. At the moment, it's not clear how to go about approaching residents, based on response (or lack of response) to prior surveys that have been carried out.

8.1.2. Andy:

AT would like to speak with Global/Nigg but the most recent meeting has been called at short notice and in normal working hours, when working Councillors would not necessarily be free to attend. PS agreed and would like them to hold a meeting at a time more suitable to everyone. PR/AT and KM agreed that they are going to try to attend the meeting scheduled for the following week but they all do have other commitments. All members agreed they need to try and work with communities/stakeholders to find a balance/come up with a compromise. Discussion continued as to who the best contact is at Global and members agreed to get together to discuss how best to approach this offline.

Conversation continued as we've become aware that members of the community don't seem to trust the C&DCC to be the voice of the residents, and this is quite worrying. All members agreed that's there's lots of noise when nothing is done but we're all aware just how much the C&DCC does achieve yet this seems to go unnoticed. The community need to be made aware

of what we are doing for them. We need to work together. Must decide how we as a community council are to go forward before the meeting in August, and how we can regain trust from the residents.

No one had any additional comments and were thanked by PS for their efforts.

8.2 The Highland Council

2 x emails from residents re. over hanging branches, trees etc. PS has been speaking to LJ about this and they are going to work together to see who deals with what (i.e. volunteers or THC).

Lyndsey then spoke on behalf of THC:

8.2.1 Munlochy junction consultation

THC are seeking opinions from community councils re. preventing traffic from turning right at the Munlochy junction (heading north to Tore), and using the old road to Tore instead. Aparfeelie junction will be shut off also (preventing traffic from crossing 4 x lanes of the A9). Lyndsey encourages us all to take part in this consultation. It has already been circulated to members. AP will add to facebook, include in the newsletter and add to the website. **Action – AP.**

8.2.2 Nige – IMFDP

Thanks was expressed to NS from THC for his suggestion re. the year round ferry service. This was not something they considered with regards the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan and praise was given.

8.2.3 Short term lets

All short term lets are going to have to become licensed. There is another consultation about this that we are encouraged again to take part in (this time via. The Scottish Government, not THC). Lyndsey will forward it to members. AP will add to facebook, the Cromarty live website, plus mention it in the newsletter. **Action – AP.**

8.2.4 Dead trees in Cromarty

Lyndsey advised that she is working with Craig on this. They are discussing how it should be dealt with and looking at all other trees in the area.

8.2.5 Traffic management proposal

Discussion was started by KM as she's been trying to get a response from THC re. the TMP for a long time now. She has submitted a formal complaint, and the response received just said that they've been busy, so Kari backed off. Looking to Lyndsey for support with this matter as it's three years down the line from when the proposal was first issued! LJ suggested KM speaks to Bruce Morison at Ferintosh Community Council as she's aware he has had some progress recently with the roads team. LJ also agreed to follow it up with THC however. PS to pass on Bruce's email to KM. **Action – PS/KM.**

Discussion continued re. the inconsistent approach followed by the council with regards to how to roads are resurfaced, and what is the method for checking the repairs etc. LJ asked that anything we would like to be dealt with be put in writing so she can follow it up (as roads isn't her department). All members agreed however that it was more just for interest as to the framework involved etc and it can be left to be discussed further at another time.

8.2.6 Breakfast Club (Cromarty Primary)

KM also advised us of the short notice from THC re. closure of the Breakfast Club at Cromarty Primary School. She has already written to the council to express great concern about this, to which she's not had a response. To forward email to LJ who will follow it up. **Action – KM.**

8.3 Correspondence Received

2 items received in relation to The Victoria Park. We've already discussed these items elsewhere.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Daffodil Field

An email was circulated from a resident re. concerns in relation to the cutting back of the daffodil field as it could potentially harm the wildlife that are breeding there, and kill any potential daffodils that will regrow in Spring 2023. All members agreed however that nothing had been confirmed by the land owner and the email was entirely rumour based.

PR to contact John Nightingale to confirm what his plans are re. the daffodil field maintenance. **Action – PR.**

9.2 Off-street Parking

Discussion was had re. the C&DCC's position around off-street parking. Can we enforce this at all? PS has emailed THC to clarify our position, but all members agreed that it's not a legal requirement as far as they're aware. From past experience, we also know that allocated parking spaces don't work.

9.3 Hedging/Jubilee trees

KM looking for opinions on the hedging suggestion for The Victoria Park (Woodland trust link on action points document). AP advised he has put in an order for delivery around November time. Will need landowners permission (THC) before anything happens however. All members agreed to be discussed at another time (no rush, and fencing should be being repaired soon)! **Action – ALL.**

As a further comment, LJ suggested speaking to Fortrose & Rosemarkie CC as they've just been granted permission to plant a jubilee hedge.

There were no further comments.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 29th August 2022 at 730pm.

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 21.30pm.

APPENDIX A

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 27th June 2022

1. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** as at 31st March 2022 have been lodged with the Highland Council and the Community Council Grant for 2022 has been claimed. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** reflects that all costs relating to the Jubilee Beacon purchase and event have been covered by donations, volunteering and benefits in kind. The subsequent auction of the Limited Edition Jubilee Beacon will now raise welcome funds for future Community Amenities. The previous Scottish Government funding for the postponed Pump Track Project has now been transferred to a new Intergenerational Resilience Project. See Victoria Hall report for details. The remaining funding for painting the Hugh Miller Monument railings will be spent in July and there is still over £500 worth of funding available for maintenance works on the 100 Steps/Reeds Loop Path. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
29/05/22

APPENDIX B
Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting				
Held on Monday 27th June 2022				
Agenda Item No 6 - Treasurer’s Report				
Statement of Financial Position at 26th June 2022				
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 29/05/22</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 26th June 2022		11,949.67	-2,548.59	14,498.26
Paypal Balance as at 26th June 2022		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		146.00	5.50	140.50
Amounts Payable		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Net Assets at 26th June 2022		£12,095.67	-2,543.09	£14,638.76
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2022		2,332.16	0.00	2,332.16
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		-212.60	-66.70	-145.90
		2,119.56	-66.70	2,186.26
Community Amenities Fund		1,013.70	-2,482.71	3,496.41
Emergency Resilience Centre Fund		24.96	0.00	24.96
Covid-19 Resilience Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 26th June 2022		78.75	0.00	78.75
Gritting Fund		682.32	0.00	682.32
Cromarty Live Fund		16.01	0.00	16.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		346.06	6.32	339.74
Net C&DCC Reserves		4,281.36	-2,543.09	6,824.45
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		553.42	0.00	553.42
		£12,095.67	-2,543.09	£14,638.76
Alan Plampton 26th June 2022				

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 26th June 2022

1. **Finances** We have applied for and received the Small Halls Grant of £500 for 2022. Discussions re other financial support for the last two years costs are still ongoing. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Review of Booking Conditions** It is planned to review if any restrictions can be relaxed (e.g. maximum capacity of 100, intensive cleaning regimes etc) for recommendations at our August meeting, in time for the autumn/winter season. It would seem that given increasing infection rates of 1 in 20 for Scotland, a careful approach currently still seems prudent, but things may change. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Youth Cafe** The latest Report attached, from Fraser, the Assistant Youth Worker. Following the disappointment of the Pump Track Project postponement, we are very pleased to confirm we have successfully persuaded the Scottish Government to agree switching the funding to a new exciting Intergenerational Community Project, details of which are attached. This is really positive news, as it was feared that the £3k funding would have to be returned. In addition, we are in the process of completing a 3 year ‘business’ plan, to cover 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2026. This is then being used to apply for Scottish Government Investing in Communities Funding. If successful the scale of this funding will be a ‘game changer’ for the future of the Cromarty Youth Cafe and many sections of our community. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
26/06/22

APPENDIX D PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe

Cromarty Ferry.

- Ongoing. The Ferry Service is now in operation, and appears to be running successfully. Lots of tourists/visitors.
- This is of course apart from occasions where bad weather and low tides prove hazardous for the service, when the service is cancelled. Advertising and Social Media appear to be fully aware. [No Change]

Dog Fouling. Ongoing.

There appear to have been less instances recently, however we watch and observe! [No Change]

Links & Links Events Diary / Beaches and Litter.

- There was a booking for the Black Isle Charity Tractor Run. The event went off successfully.
- There is a booking for Cromarty Open Gardens, mainly for car parking, from Friday 1st July to Monday 4th July 2022. [Art Bird is monitoring the car parking. John Nightingale is aware, as usual.]
- There is a booking from Cromarty Community Rowing Club for use of the Links on 16th to 18th September 2022.
- There is a Provisional Booking (by me) for the potential Bonfire Night.
- 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. (No Change)
- 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 and wild flowers grow.
- No change regarding the installation of a new bench in the vicinity between the Salmon Bothy and the Links Houses. Mrs Elsie Munro is proceeding with the installation, and contacting a local contractor.

Litter.

- Now into the busy season again – and getting busier, with food containers etc and dog waste, Town Bins are being monitored and recorded, The Main Town bins continue to be emptied on Tuesdays, Commercial Bin Day.
- Highland Council have replaced and installed a small number of new type of bins.
- The Bins most at issue (Due to takeaway food?) are :-
The Harbour Area. / The Cinema Area. / The Bins (now 2) on Shore Street, in the vicinity of “Old Fish Store”. (Photos are available) We also have an issue with the sole rubbish bin at the Sutor Car Park getting emptied.
- 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 grant aided. Needs to be planned drawn up and arranged for uptake. (Ongoing).
- Local volunteers, and some from out of town, continue to uplift litter and dump in the Town Bins.
- Cromarty Litter Pickers – not up and running as a group, Volunteers are carrying out activities. Equipment has been distributed, some is on hold for use on other C&DCC Projects such as 100 Steps Project. There are a number of active individual litter pickers in the town. Email discussion with Mrs. Viv Plampton regarding supervision and Litter Leader. [Ongoing – no change.]
- Some small additional equipment is stored in the Sheddie, yet to be distributed. (Photos are available.)

Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport Proposal.

Main Report issued by Kari Magee.

Emails being received regarding next Community Meetings with PoCF.

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – ongoing. Many comments about pushing for the Freeport in the press media.

Green Hydrogen Plant – according to news comments planning and preparations continue.
Nigg Liaison Group Meetings – await confirmation on next meeting, next is 1st July. .

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

Main actors are Corrie and Nige. The snowfalls are over for the season. Alan and Nige have agreed that the units will be serviced before the start of the next Winter season.
Grit bins will need to be topped up by Highland Council Offenders Scheme, before next season.
Gritting Equipment was washed and hung in The Sheddie. Nige raised the requirement for a washing unit at The Sheddie. Alan is looking into this. (Ongoing)

Other.

Cromarty First Responders.

The Cromarty First Responders are now live and back in action.

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing. There were no further volunteers after the last Facebook posts.
Red Bins (6 No) are being emptied on a regular basis both by volunteers and by HC. Checking those at The Reeds Path, Cromarty Bowling Club Car Park, Stroopie Roadie, The Denny, The Links bins.
Dog waste continues to be dumped in town bins, which are collected on a Tuesday. All this waste goes to landfill.

John Nightingale Follow Ups.

No contact with myself held recently.

Sutor Car Park.

No changes recently.

Sutor Litter bin continues to be monitored by Nige and is being emptied by visiting HC worker.

Stroopie Roadie.

Blown down tree still in place but sufficient access archway created. (Photos available).
Wayward branches across access path clipped.

Craig Fraser Projects - 2021:- (Ongoing.)

Hugh Miller Statue Enclosure.

Metalwork has been completed. The Painting is yet to be done. (Arranged by Alan.)
Laying of chips was arranged by Alan.
Access steps to be cleared and repaired.

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.

Graveyards in General. No. 1,2,3,4.

Consideration to be given to vegetation clearing and review of work carried out by Highland Council.

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).

Cromarty Benches.


Mrs Elsie Munro has received the bench and fittings. Await local contractor to install the one planned on the Links in vicinity of Salmon Bothy.

Other Meetings.

None by self.

A.O.C.B.

APPENDIX E
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd

<p><u>Planning</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erection of dormer extension including installation of balcony  <p>3 Urquhart Court Cromarty IV11 8YD Ref. No: 22/02545/FUL Received: Mon 06 Jun 2022 Validated: Mon 06 Jun 2022 Status: Under Consideration</p>
<p><u>Police Update</u></p>	<p>No Update</p>
<p><u>General Town Maintenance</u></p>	<p>I have been contacted by several residents regarding the general maintenance of the town. The main area of concern were Townlands and Victoria Park which has already been discussed but the overhanging branches on the denny road are now becoming a cause for concern. An email had been sent to the HC tonight with further discussions to follow on next steps.</p>
<p><u>Parking</u></p>	<p>I have also received an email from a resident about off street parking so have asked for advice on rules for off street parking.</p>

APPENDIX F
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 27th June 2022

1. **BICC** next meeting on 30th June with BI Councillors to discuss (amongst other topics) a) priorities for the Black Isle, b) consultation on restructuring the BIAC, c) possible inappropriate award of place maker funding to BIP, d) defibrillator installations on the BI, including Chanonry Point. Below is a list of suggested BI priorities. Please prioritise numerically, in your view, and add any not listed. Please return to me by Wed 29th. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **East Church Hall** There have been no further developments. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Housing** Following our successful and useful meeting with Tim Stott, Peter and I meeting with Evan McBean and Members' 'discussion' over drafts, the following C&DCC submission was made to the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan published proposals. The software providers for the submissions portal suffered a major collapse to the website. As a result an IMFDP email address was created to receive the submissions.

Re Nigg (Section 4 / Economic Development Areas / Nigg Energy Park),

The Environmental Impact Assessment to include assessment of Low Frequency Noise, Peak Noise and Noise Fluctuations, adopting the methodology of BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 March 202 Version1.0 Technical Note, and adoption of current World Health Organisation (WHO) guidance on Low Frequency Noise, Peak Noise and Noise Fluctuations.

As part of any expansion, Nigg Energy Park be asked to include investment (a) to increase the Ferry to become a year round service to encourage local employment opportunities and (b) to set up an insulation (including double glazing with conservation area planning flexibility) fund available to Cromarty residents to help combat the existing, and any increase in, low frequency noise.

Re Cromarty (Section 4)

Cromarty & District Community Council support both CM01 and CM03 sites provided the Developer Requirements include -

a) Both schemes are used for affordable housing only (CM03 via a Rural Housing Burden managed by CHT), with a mixture of tenures and CM03's self build plots

b) Both schemes incorporate EV charging points

c) CM03 to include improved Active Travel links in to town. Mainly down the Denny and across the Greenspace of Victoria Park rather than any use of the Paye, because it goes to an area of town that does NOT contain the Primary School NOR the main shops and has a VERY difficult cobbled downhill junction on to Church Street. And also via Townlands Park.

d) CM03's Rural Housing Burden to include clear preference in offering affordable housing to young Cromarty residents and with conditions to prevent 'short term resell'. This is strongly supported by the local landowner.

e) CM01's challenges over access to also include the landowner (Albyn) discussing with the Cromarty Development Trust about evaluating a widening of the access between the Victoria Hall and Townlands Barn, by reducing the less listed side structure of the Barn.

f) Both schemes to include green sustainable heating and energy provision.

Thank you for receiving our comments this way as a result of your portal software problems.

ACTION – Information only, no action required

4. Community Events

- a) **Open Gardens etc** has started with the Art and Flower Festival in the East Church and will culminate in the Open Gardens weekend of 2nd/3rd July. Fingers crossed for good weather. The Links is being used for the anticipated extra car parking needs. **ACTION – For Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 26/06/22

A Thurgood Report – 26/06/22

1. I replied to Alastair Kennedy, Communications Director at Global Energy Group, regarding the scheduling of the liaison meeting on 10:00 on Friday 1st July. His response was to take the proposal to the meeting to gauge the greater stakeholder view. The meeting remains scheduled for 10:00. I will attempt to move my existing arrangements to attend virtually. **For information.**

2. The Special Audit of Port of Cromarty Firth (arising from a community, by their certification body Alcumus ISOQAR, was not undertaken in June, due to unforeseen circumstances on the part of Alcumus. This has been rescheduled for an undisclosed date. I have emailed their Alcumus to determine the new scheduled date. **For information.**

3. I have had various communications this month concerning noise and low frequency noise in the Firth (in general terms) and have reviewed a number of documents relating to these issues.

More broadly I have concerns that:

- some members of the community don't feel supported by CDCC on these issues, and don't engage with CDCC
- there exists communications, information and data that CDCC are unaware of, that would be beneficial to our understanding of the bigger picture
- complaints are not consistently directed through the most suitable channel
- uncoordinated efforts realise sub-optimal results

I would like to propose that we attempt to re-engage with the disenchanted members of the community, so that we can consolidate communications, information and data – legacy, current and future – and track these. The “perceived narrative” around noise related complaints relative to commercial activities in the Firth, would also benefit from clear re-framing. **For discussion.**

APPENDIX G
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Kari Magee

100 Steps Project

1. **Action.** Four volunteers conducted a litter pick on 12 June 22. One bag of rubbish was removed, and leaves and some overgrowth were removed from the path. Another litter pick will be planned for August.
2. **Issue.** An email has been sent regarding the repair or replacement of the two damaged fences to Donald Maclennan.

Wildflower Meadow Project

1. **Action.** There are a number of tasks to be completed. The project will be dependent on volunteers but should not require any funding as there are some stores remaining from the 100 steps project.
 - a. Areas of the slope will need excavation and the spoil used to smooth the slope.
 - b. Wooden boards and stakes will be used to create a footpath and the soil compacted.
 - c. Drainage channels will be dug either side of the footpath.
2. **Timings.** A call for volunteers will be sent out in August to start the work in either late August or early September.

Community Development Trust

Campervan Site - Julie Macrae, Development Officer, has spent her first month getting into all the documents, plans, drawings, planning permissions, costings etc etc relating to the Campervan Site. A lot of it is complicated due to different consultants and advisors working on it over the past couple of years, but we're close to being able to go back to Contractors and invite tenders for fully-costed designs.

She also discovered that Highland Council has awarded the Development Trust £40,000 from their Place Based Investment Fund towards this project. This means we don't have to worry quite so much about inflation in the cost of materials eating into what is possible.

Julie has also been making useful contacts with other Development Trusts around the Highlands and Islands who operate campervan sites, which will help us work out the practicalities of running the site once it is completed.

The Thrift Shop is doing well, selling lots and taking in lots and lots of donations. So much that they've asked for the meantime to hold off bringing any more donations in.

Keep an eye on the Community Notice Board Facebook page for updates.

Slipway maintenance - Nigg is sorted with a wee bit of remedial work still to be done, Cromarty is waiting for a big enough tide to effect repairs but no change since last year.

Harbour Trust

New web/internet project, this is being taken on by a new volunteer.

The strong south westerlies and high tides from the other week really tested the resilience of our harbour. Other than some minor damage we survived, but the harbour is of course nearly 250 years old. Whilst we are encouraged that the investment made in strengthening the pontoon hinges has passed their first test, there is no doubting that we need to remain vigilant to future weather challenges.

On the bigger picture, the three big challenges or projects facing us are the outer harbour, flows under the bridge and repointing/cavities on the sandstone quays. Attention now slowly turns to look these big ticket items.

Over the last month we have blasted and repainted the supporting pillar which supports the gangway down to the pontoon area. This has been the first work on it for nearly twenty years. Improvements will continue this month so stay tuned.

The accounts to 31st March are nearly finalised and be sent off for an independent review shortly. The Trustees will then publish their annual report.

Cromarty Care Project

Firstly a big Thank You to all those who have donated and those who continue to donate. We have a couple of regular monthly donations.

A grant was obtained for fuel payments, these have been made last week (June 20th- 24th). A total of 45 households have received £100 each. The number of people living in the households is 85. Again big thanks to our Treasurer Brenda for processing all those payments.

As part of all our efforts to resort to "normal" after the pandemic we are planning a visit to the Seagull Trust some of the residents of Cromarty. This is a two-hour cruise on the Caledonian Canal on a wheelchair accessible boat, scheduled for 22nd July.

Monday morning table tennis continues at the West Church Hall and is consistently popular.

Reeds Loop Path Maintenance

The contractor has developed a more efficient way and therefore lower cost of clearing back vegetation overhanging the path making more frequent cutting possible if necessary. The conditions have not been right for burning weeds growing into the path. The Contractor has agreed to have a fire extinguisher on hand when this work is carried out.