



Cromarty and District Community Council
Approved minutes of meeting held on
Monday 28th November 2022, 730pm
In person at The Victoria Hall and virtually via Whereby

Approved
Minutes
30/01/23

Present

Community Councillors: Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chairwoman, Peter Ratcliffe (PR) - Secretary, Nigel Shapcott (NS), Kari Magee (KM) & Andy Thurgood (AT).

Youth Representative(s):

Highland Councillor(s): Lyndsey Johnston

Member(s) of the public: Colin Dickie, David Kent, Steve Byford, John Stewart & Julie MacRae.

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser (CF)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from Dominic Scott-lodge & Alan Plampton (AP) – Treasurer.

Minute secretary note – PR and PS were in attendance from The Victoria Hall (alongside Colin Dickie & David Kent from Cromarty Harbour Trust).

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

Minute secretary note – PS brought the next two agenda items forward.

PS gave a brief introduction, explaining that the CHT are proposing to put in a gate for use when at the height of mackerel fishing season. Varying reasons for proposal but the main ones being the health and safety of ALL users, to prevent injury and limit abuse currently being shown towards many but in particular the ferry crew, who are a major source of income for the harbour.

CD and DK spoke:

- 1) Fencing was put up on the north edge but it wasn't very effective, people were still climbing over, blocking access for boats etc, putting themselves and others in danger.
- 2) Will also allow CHT to close the gate during stormy (and so unsafe) conditions.
- 3) It doesn't tend to be local residents who aren't acting appropriately.
- 4) There can be 2-300 mackerel caught and taken away from the town, which has changed fishing to a commercial sport rather than for fun/enjoyment. Mackerel are being caught and sold on, which is fine, but there is no restriction in numbers at the moment. This needs to be mitigated. The hope is that the gate will deter these parties, and create a more enjoyable atmosphere for all users, encouraging residents to fish without being in danger.

It's not about denial of access it's about Health and Safety. 90% of the time the gate will be open but would like to be able to close it when possible if required. CHT have a duty of care to the users. Notices have been put up and they were ignored. This is a last resort.

The insurance cost is currently 25% of the harbour revenue, and if anything was to happen this will go up a great deal. They therefore cannot afford there to be any incidents! CHT are not protected as things are.

CHT aren't yet sure of the finer details. Not sure how it will be controlled, or how users can access the harbour when the gate is closed. They also need to discuss who will be able to access the harbour, i.e. what is a 'resident'. CD and DK assured us that they won't be unreasonable, and will deal with this on a case by case basis. They also advised that it won't prevent users of the sheds from gaining access, as these are let out on a commercial basis.

Permits were discussed, to stop commercial fishing. This needs to be looked into.

They are also prepared for people to try & climb the gate. It would be at their own risk. It's 2m high and is to be there as a deterrent. If they were injured whilst climbing, they'd not be able to go to court, or wouldn't have a case.

Swimmers and divers shouldn't be swimming or diving INTO the harbour anyway, but the gate should hopefully prevent this from happening. KM suggested that we could also educate users on the reasons not to swim/dive into the harbour – LJ seconded that this is important especially in an industrial place!

Conversation concluded by agreeing that CHT put the gates up, as they aren't covered for insurance purposes as things are, and health and safety is paramount. As a community we can work together to establish the finer details as we go forward. Everyone agreed and PS thanked Colin and David for taking the time to attend the meeting and answer our questions. CD & DK left at 8pm.

9.2 Kilmorack Community Council (Noise Frequency Nuisance)

Andy introduced Steve Byford (SB) and John Stewart (JS) from Kilmorack CC. He explained they've been dealing with low frequency noise for a long time (from the SSE site at Beauly) and welcomed them to talk a bit about their experience, and how we can use it with regards to the noise complaints at Nigg.

SB and JS spoke and explained it was ongoing for 8 years. SSE originally denied that the noise came from them. Kilmorack CC got the local councillors involved and SSE eventually agreed to sound monitoring, which was carried out for 15mins to 1 hour in a set location (not accurate enough information to use).

After continuing to push The Highland Council (THC), and in particular the environmental health department (a Gregor Cormack), SSE eventually agreed to continuous noise monitoring (undertaken by THC). This noise monitoring was on and off for 5 years! It was eventually taken to court and there is now a baseline agreement of noise frequency that SSE need to meet.

THC outsourced the work to MAZ (a firm based in Nottingham). Kilmorack never received any compensation but they are just happy that the noise has been largely mitigated!

They are happy for us to contact them in the future for help. Recommended working on the relationship/creating a liaison between C&DCC, to THC, to Port of Cromarty Firth (PofCF) and taking things from there. All members thanked Steve and John for attending, and they left the meeting at 830pm.

Members continued to discuss. AT advised that the biggest issue is that Kilmorack only had ONE source of low frequency noise, Cromarty residents have multiple!

AT and PS agreed that the meeting they'd attending last week with PofCF was successful and it's obvious that trust needs to be repaired between each organization.

One thing PS noted in particular is that PofCF have a legal obligation to repair vessels with safety critical damage.

It was agreed that both parties would work together. PofCF asked if they can contribute to the Cromarty Newsletter. All members agreed they could – need to find out how. **Action – PS.**

They had questions for C&DCC too – PS to send these to members for discussion. **Action – PS.**

AT concluded by advising he will continue to work with them and knows that they need to look at their monitoring systems. We need to get physical data in relation to the noise complaints, but this will cost thousands.

All members expressed a huge thanks to Andy!

2. **Declarations of interest**

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

3. **Approval of previous minutes, 31st October 2022**

The minutes were approved by AT and seconded by PR.

4. **Matters Arising from previous minutes, 31st October 2022**

1. (4.1 – On hold - Communication with THC re. TMP proposals). THC suggested that there would be little movement on TMP and 20moh in urban areas until the Scottish Government gave more direction in 2025. **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). See Portfolio reports – Andy is now taking this on. Further action point. **Discharged.**
4. (4.4 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
5. (4.5 – To discuss action required re. progressing level-crossing system @ Reeds Loop (see May minutes for full info). Ongoing. **Action – PS/KM.**
6. (4.6 – Installation of free-standing hand sanitiser unit at public toilets). **Discharged – no longer required.**
7. (4.7 – Still waiting guidance from TSG re. Green Freeport proposals). No announcement on which port has won the bid yet. Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
8. (4.8 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
9. (4.9 – Hot spot areas identified re. caravan parking. To work with THC re. the Byelaw etc). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 10.(4.10 – Noise complaints have risen recently – residents to continue to submit noise forms directly to THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**

- 11.(4.11 – Draft letter for local businesses re. current vacancies to be submitted for approval). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 12.(4.12 – C&DCC to follow up seeking a new contractor for the bus shelter repair (Craig retiring)). **Action – C&DCC.**
- 13.(4.14 – Finance will be needed from THC re. Reeds Loop maintenance, but enough in budget just now). **On hold.**
- 14.(4.15 – THC trying to figure out who’s responsible for repairs to be done to fencing in The Victoria Park (grass cutting done)). Photos of damaged fence sent to Cai at THC for actioning. **Action – PS.**
- 15.(4.16 – Re-visit our approach for requests re. large events in the future). **Action – ALL.**
- 16.(4.17 – Still awaiting reports re. major maintenance issue at Hugh Millers Institute). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
- 17.(4.18 – Refresher resilience training to be arranged). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 18.(4.19 – 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.**
- 19.(4.21 – Revisit discussions with C&DCC subcommittee events groups in June 2022). See portfolio report. **Discharged.**
- 20.(4.22 – Location to be confirmed re. youth mentoring programme). Awaiting date and location. **Action – KM & TG.**
- 21.(4.23 – To try and retrieve funds held back by Di Agnew for repairs to TVH (Common Good) post AGM). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 22.(4.24 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church). **Action C&DCC.**
- 23.(4.25 – Still working on pursuing a solution re. unsatisfactory response from Alcumus). Now in direct dialogue with POCF and PON on noise issues. A face-to-face meeting was undertaken on 23/11/22 to explore solutions, with discussion for further meeting in Q1 2023. **Discharged.**
- 24.(4.26 – Waiting for confirmation on TVH finances before looking into grant for further insulation). Replaced by ongoing THC Community Regeneration Fund application. Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 25.(4.28 – To discuss with residents re. parking at Townlands). Will revisit as appropriate in the future. **Discharged.**
- 26.(4.29 – Test burn completed satisfactory on Reeds Loop – weed burning to be completed). Waiting for the weather to improve. Ongoing. **Action – NS.**
- 27.(4.31 – Decision being made in December re. 3 year funding programme (YC)). Decision now being made in January 2023. Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 28.(4.32 – Ongoing monitoring of daffodil field maintenance required). **Action – PR.**
- 29.(4.33 – To discuss hedging options for The Victoria Park at future date). **Action – ALL.**

- 30.(4.34 – Prepare a poster to encourage folk to apply for social housing regardless of their circumstance). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 31.(4.35 – Advise AP the supplier of the chippings in The Victoria Park (work organised once supplier identified)). Ongoing. **Action – AP/LJ.**
- 32.(4.36 – Contact other members of THC re. raising funds to replace gym equipment in The Victoria Park). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 33.(4.37 – Funding application submitted to replace gym equipment in TVP (await decision). **Discharged – application declined.**
- 34.(4.41 – Contact current members of gritting team to see if any are interested in taking over from Corrie & Nige). Ongoing – package to submit to THC. **Action - PR.**
- 35.(8.3 – Arrange for The CHT to attend next meeting to discuss their proposal). CHT trustees to attend November’s meeting - **Discharged.**
- 36.(9.1 – To lay wreath on behalf of C&DCC). **Discharged.**
- 37.(9.3 – To pass list of interest parties (in The East Church Hall) to Julie). Done. **Discharged.**
- 38.(9.3 – To pass information re. lease of THC carpark (on links) to Julie). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**

5. Youth Issues

There were no youth members present but no issues had been brought to our attention before the meeting commenced.

6. Treasurer’s Report

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

AP not in attendance, but there were no comments or questions.

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.

AP not in attendance, but there were no comments or questions.

8. Members’ Reports

8.1 Portfolios

Portfolio Reports prepared by PR, PS, AP, AT, NS & KM (**Appendix D-I**) were circulated prior to the meeting by members.

Andy:

As per Andy's report he advised he'd like to discuss the website and in particular the accessing of documents.

This was discussed at the meeting and AT offered to take on the task of updating the website. CF and PS advised their names were down to help AP with this so offered to help AT out should he need any input from either of them.

Julie (CDT) says The Cromarty Development Trust are also looking to update their website (they need one for the campsite too), and suggests looking at other community councils websites for ideas/inspiration.

Finer details can be discussed at a later date, AT to do a bit of research. **Action – AT.**

8.2 The Highland Council

- 1) The biggest discussion at the moment is the 20mph limit being rolled out across the whole of the Black Isle. This has been positively received!
- 2) Also noted that the right hand turn at Munloch junction has been blocked, it does however mean that traffic at Tore will be busier. The old A9 road between Tore and Munloch is also currently closed for 4 months due to works by Scottish Water.
- 3) LJ advised that lots of applications have been received for the community regeneration funding and winter resilience funding.
- 4) Concluded by saying the BIAC meeting was very positive. Main takeaway was that The Scottish Fire Service have advised they have received less home calls/accidents this year than last. They are however facing a real problem with recruitment!
- 5) There is a full council meeting next week.
- 6) NS asked where the minutes for the BIAC can be found. LJ advised they're on THC website, and can also watch the meeting back on Youtube. CF circulated the minutes to members.
- 7) CALA – Due to lack of children in Cromarty, CALA are concerned they can't continue to offer the afterschool care. Expect them to be in touch with C&DCC shortly. They don't want to fold if it can be helped so they are looking for help.

They need 8, and currently there are 4 children attending. LJ isn't sure how much is required and suggests we speak to CALA about this (NS suggested Cromarty Cares may be able to fund). They want to keep the care in Cromarty.

KM highlighted the need for affordable housing. The loss of The Breakfast Club will have contributed to the lack of children now attending the afterschool club as families will have gone elsewhere, to utilise fulltime childcare.

NS thanked LJ for highlighting this to us.

- 8) Finally, LJ advised that a solicitor on behalf of the Craigie Urquhart Trust have been in touch with her asking for advise on how £1,300 should be distributed in the Cromarty Area. LJ is going to get back to them and suggest it is given to C&DCC.

LJ was thanked for her contribution to the meeting.

8.3 Correspondence Received

Residents Jenny & Simon Gunn have very kindly been in touch with C&DCC and have donated a brand new snow plough to the community.

NS has been to see it, it's not stored in Cromarty and will need a trailer/pick up to access it and deliver it to The Victoria Hall. CF advised she has a pickup. NS and CF to discuss collection.
Action – NS/CF.

Huge thanks to Jenny and Simon for their donation!

9. **Any Other Business**

9.3 History Society Meeting

PS and AT attended the meeting last month and PS wanted to advise the members that Sandy Thompson mentioned the Community Council and how all the work we do is voluntary and that residents should attend meetings as often as possible if they want to make a difference in the community. PS thanked Sandy for this, and hoped it would encourage residents to attend more of our meetings.

9.4 Cromarty Community Development Trust (report from Julie):

East Church Hall

Gone back to THC re. this community asset! The person who holds the lease, wants the doors open day to be in the New Year. CCDT have checked and they are eligible to hold this event (with their insurance), so the date is TBC.

Have had a lot of enquiries for its use. JM is to speak to all parties and CCDT will then decide on how it will be used. The community asset transfer team at THC were very supportive about CCDT opening the East Church Hall up for the community to view.

Campsite

Things are progressing well. It is going out for tender and hope for works to start in January. JM advised she is currently writing an article for the newsletter to update the residents on this progression. They plan for it to be a 3 month construction programme.

JM is hopeful with the tenders. Once it's all up and running and bookings are being taken it will create a local job for someone. The CCDT also plan on using local residents/the community to plant trees etc around the site.

They need a website for the campsite. Applied for £3k from DITAS and it has been awarded to them. JM is going to contract someone to help with the bookings side of things when updating the website. She also offered her help with our website, considering they've received some funding towards it. JM also advised she is going to approach plexus/calico, plus 2 external sources for any help they can provide.

Side note – CCDT aren't trying to be secretive. They are aware they need to update their website/keep the community aware of developments, but they just haven't found the time. JM is going to try and keep the newsletter updated more frequently (deadline is tomorrow).

Electric vehicles

Still with Swarco

Housing

Decision is back with THC and they are to give CCDT and update before Christmas. JM suggests that (if we don't hear back), both organisations work together and write a letter of complaint to Scottish Government.

PS thanked JM for continuing to keep the communication between the two community organisations.

9 **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting – Monday 30th January 2023 at 730pm.

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 2134pm.

APPENDIX A

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** show Amounts Receivable/Payments in advance that reflect the advance payment on a 3 year licence for our Cromarty Live domain licence and the anticipated funding of our Whereby meeting costs. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **GALA FUND** movement reflects the payment the Christmas tree and replacement lights. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
25/11/22

Statement of Financial Position at 25th November 2022				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 28/10/22</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 25th November 2022		11,775.21	-596.13	12,371.34
Paypal Balance as at 25th November 2022		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		188.00	-34.70	222.70
Amounts Payable		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Net Assets at 25th November 2022		£11,963.21	-630.83	£12,594.04
		£	£	£
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		209.42	-34.70	244.12
		2,541.58	-34.70	2,576.28
Community Amenities Fund		94.53	0.00	94.53
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 25th November 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		1,006.88	0.00	1,006.88
Net C&DCC Reserves		4,445.03	-34.70	4,479.73
Community Event Funds				
Bonfire Night Fund	2,302.14		0.00	2,302.14
Gala Fund	2,677.70		-596.13	3,273.83
Splash & Dash Fund	126.00		0.00	126.00
Open Gardens Fund	206.86		0.00	206.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06	5,514.76	0.00	202.06
Designated Community Funds				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00
Cromarty Rising Fund		653.42	0.00	653.42
		£11,963.21	-630.83	£12,594.04
Alan Plampton 25th November 2022				

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** are starting to increase. Hall will be closed post 15th December for Christmas. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Sheddie** has seen the Trikes move to winter quarters and the gritters assembled for servicing, and action when winter arrives! **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Youth Cafe** The latest monthly report is attached. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

APPENDIX D
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe

Cromarty Ferry.

- The Ferry Service is now closed for the winter season.

Dog Fouling. (Overall). Ongoing.

There appear to have been less instances recently, however we watch and observe! **[Ongoing]**

Links & Links Events Diary / Beaches and Litter.

- Bookings have been successful to date, well managed and without incident.
- For what it is worth, I will return the key.
- 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 to let the grass and wild flowers grow. All donated by a local resident, all flower seeds gratefully received. **[Ongoing]**
- Mrs Elsie Sharratt has arranged for the latest bench commemorating her father, Robin L. Munro, (Black Metal Type) to be installed in place in the area of the Salmon Fisher Bothy. Now being used.
- The Dog Waste Bins continue to be emptied.
- There is an old wooden bench, actually up on Braehead, that needs to be repaired or replaced. [Had comments on Facebook but no positive action taken to date. Need to sort out ownership?]. Did not approach Avoch men's shed yet.

Litter.

- Now at the end of the Summer season –with food containers, and dog waste, also rubbish from Motorhomes, Town Bins being monitored and recorded, The Main Town bins continue to be emptied on Tuesdays, Commercial Bin Day.
- Highland Council have changed the type of bin in some cases to those with restricted opening. This will cause issues. Also, some bins appear to have been removed. Will update survey.
- Highland Council Waste Department also had an operative clearing excess rubbish at the bins.
- The Bins most at issue (Due to takeaway food / motorhomes/ other rubbish?) are **(No change):-**
The Harbour Area. / The Cinema Area. / The Toilets Bin / 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. [But being emptied to date.]
- Local volunteers, and some from out of town, continue to uplift litter and dump in the Town Bins. Cromarty Litter Pickers - equipment has been distributed.
- Some small additional equipment is stored in the Sheddie, to be distributed, and to be used by litter expeditions.

Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport Proposal.

Main Report issued by Kari Magee and Andy Thurgood.

Emails being received regarding next Community Meetings with PoCF.

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – ongoing.

Green Hydrogen Plant – according to news comments, Twitter etc, planning and preparations continue. Not aware of any decision yet.

Nigg Liaison Group Meetings – (Attended by Andy Thurgood last time.) on an ongoing basis. Notifications as sent out by email.

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

New C&DCC contact person with Highland Council is required. Newhall Smithy contacted about doing maintenance on gritters. Schedule being planned..

Grit bins are being topped up by Highland Council Offenders Scheme, before next season. Survey done on the Grit Bins.. I will raise with the current contact at Highland Council.

What is the progress on the water supply for rinsing the units at the Sheddie? (Ongoing)

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing.

Red Bins (6 No.) are being emptied on a regular basis both by volunteers and by HC.

Regular checking those at:- The Links (2); The Reeds Walk Path; Cromarty Bowling Club Car Park; Stroopie Roadie, The Denny,. The Links ones are done regularly. The Reeds Walk and Bowling Green Car Park are emptied. Also The Denny and Stroopie ones.

Dog waste continues to be dumped in town bins, I do check, and it is reassuring that those concerned do this, rather than leave lying on the ground or around. Though I am sure that people rely on the bins (all types) being available. The industrial bins are collected on a Tuesday and all this waste goes to landfill.

John Nightingale Follow Ups.

Previous email contact regarding the anticipated clearance of the daffodil field was sent to John Nightingale and responded to. Clearance works to the area not fully actioned as yet, the roadside areas only.

So no further contact on my part.

Sutor Car Park.

No changes recently.

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

Craig Fraser Projects – From 2021:- (Ongoing.)

Gaelic Chapel.

Previous virtual Meeting held. Craig had raised and discussed the Land Ownership documents from Land Sassines, to be reviewed. (No change). The main scope required is for clarification on the actual ownership of the building.

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

There were signs of the area being used and visited.

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

Consideration to be given to vegetation clearing and review of work carried out by Highland Council. No recent check done. Winter season is now coming.

Trees on the Denny – to be reviewed.

E.V. Charging points.

Project is being carried out by CCDT.

Cromarty Benches.

Survey needs to be updated.

The Bench in the vicinity of the Salmon Fisher's Bothy was installed by Mrs. Elsie Sharrat's contractor and is now in use.

No progress on the dilapidated bench on Braehead whether it is to be renovated or replaced?

Other Meetings.

None by self.

A.O.C.B.

None at present.

APPENDIX E
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd

<p><u>Planning</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of PV solar panels to approved house design.  <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>1 Sutor Court Cromarty Mains Cromarty Ref. No: 22/05242/FUL Received: Mon 07 Nov 2022 Validated: Mon 07 Nov 2022 Status: Under Consideration</p> </div>
<p><u>Police Update</u></p>	<p>No Update</p>
<p><u>Victoira Hall Fence Repairs</u></p>	<p>Photos of the damaged fence around the Victoria Park have been sent to Cai at the Highland council for repairs. Awaiting a reply with a date</p>
<p><u>Port Authority</u></p>	<p>Andy, Cllr Sarah Atkin and I attended a meeting at the port authority this week. It was a very informative and constructive meeting between the two parties. We both agreed we need to keep sharing information and have been given some questions from the port authority to help them better identify noise activities. This will be posted to the website. We have agreed to meet again in the new year with a date to be confirmed. The port advised people can raise feedback (both positive and negative) directly with the organisations, should they not wish to do this through the Community Council. They can also remain anonymous if that is their wish.</p>

APPENDIX F
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

1. **BICC** Paige and I attended the latest meeting, hosted by Fortrose & Rosemarkie CC. Minutes from this meeting will be circulated soon, with proposals for our involvement in the Place Plan Strategic Steering Group in January. This Steering Group will not involve the Black Isle Partnership. In addition, we have agreed to give support to Planning Issues in other CC areas, which affect us all on the Black Isle. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

2. **Housing** No further updates. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

3. **Community Events**
 - a) **Christmas Lights** repaired and are operational.
 - b) **New Proposed Community Events Sub-Committee** As reported in the minutes previously it was proposed to amalgamate the various funds and their administration. A Sub-Committee of approximately 8 people will be formed to supervise the running of all future community events. This sub-committee will have 2 active C&DCC members plus various locals who have previously been involved with running past individual events. This will formalise these events being covered by the C&DCC Public Liability Insurance cover and create greater transparency with pooling of skills. Formal terms of reference will be circulated to C&DCC Members, once the Sub-Committee Members have been recruited, for ratification at our January meeting.
ACTION – For Information only, no action required

Update - Email Letter to Cromarty Firth Stakeholders 22/10/22 Re: Low Frequency Noise:

Meeting at Invergordon 23/11/22 with Port of Cromarty Firth, Port of Nigg and Highland Council Environmental Health

Paige and I met with Joanne Allday (POCF Strategy & Business Development Manager), Rory Gunn (GEG/Port of Nigg – Facilities Director), Clifford Smith (Highland Council Snr EHO), and Cllr Sarah Atkin at the POCF Invergordon Office on 23/11/22. The meeting was very positive, and there was good discussion around the challenges for all parties, and most particularly those Cromarty residents that are affected by noise.

Key areas of discussion were:

- Harmonisation, concerning knowledge of complaints. Currently, these could be channelled through the Community Council, POCF, PON, THC or any combination thereof. Enhanced knowledge between parties will enhance understanding of the details of issues, and alignment of reporting mechanisms will help to achieve consistency of approach.
- Enhanced general communications from POCF, PON and a better way to channel these to the Cromarty community by CDCC.
- The need for an independent noise monitoring study, to gather representative sets of data for peak and low frequency noise, at a variety of locations across the town. CDCC proposed that the funding for this (potentially £20-30k) to come from the POCF surplus. The first step would be to scope the project and estimate costs.
- The need to understand existing and proposed mitigations under the NEPTUNES Guidance.
- The rebuilding of trust between all parties concerned.

Joanne Allday, responded the next day with some immediate proposals on the harmonisation of noise reporting (as did Rory Gunn), and assigning action to CDCC in the way that we can support enhanced community communications.

Joanne further reported that feedback on NEPTUNES is still awaited from the British Ports Association (BPA), and that further discussions are required between herself and Rory on a long-term noise study.

Other Meetings Attended:

Thursday 3rd November - Port of Cromarty Firth Annual Public Meeting – *Slides and my comments shared with CDCC after the meeting.*

Wednesday 9th November - Global Energy Group, Port of Nigg, Community Councils Liaison Meeting – *Slides and my comments shared with CDCC after the meeting.*

Other Correspondence

I spoke with Steve Byford, Chair of Kilmorack Community Council on 2nd November, to understand how Kilmorack CC has dealt with low frequency noise nuisance from SSE at Beauly over the last 8 years. An invitation has been extended to Kilmorack CC to attend the CDCC Meeting on 28th November to allow further discussion.

I have been in email communication with a resident about:

- (1) accessibility of communications from Communities Councils meetings with POCF and PON, and how CDCC communicate these to the community
 - (2) greater contribution from POCF and PON to the Cromarty Newsletter (*this was discussed in the meeting with POCF and PON on 23/11, see above*) (
 - 3) “the increasing impenetrability of the CDCC website particularly the Document Library”
- To be raised as AOB at the CDCC Meeting 28/11/22.**

Andy Thurgood
24/11/22

APPENDIX H
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nige Shapcott

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

The Chair of CHT will be addressing Council and this constitutes the report.

Reeds Loop Path

Weather conditions at the current time do not allow the needed maintenance- the contractor will start as soon as weather permits.

Cromarty Care Project (CCP)

AGM- The CCP AGM was held on 7th November: Denise McIntosh is the new Chair and Alison Seller the new Secretary. Jill Stoner will remain a Trustee as will Nigel Shapcott. Helen Charley has resigned.

Cycling Without Age- Trishaws have been deployed throughout the year to taxi people around town and to social events- but it is noted that the rate of use is much less and that renewed efforts will be made next year when the weather improves.

Grants:

"Cost of Living" application to Highland Council - asking for a proportion towards the Monday Lunch Club, costs for ingredients for Fourways afternoon tea and cost of re-stocking the Community Larder (£5500).

MADL (Making A Difference Locally - organised through Nisa Retail, thank you for nominating CCP through the Cromarty Stores Marcel) - We were successful in our application and have been awarded £3000.

Corra Foundation - two applications for fuel grants have gone in from Cromarty one from Wanda and one from CCP. It is hoped that both will be successful.

Other Activities- Lunch club, Playgroup , Monday morning Table Tennis, Fourways, the Community Larder- still in great use (the frequency of restocking from Bookers cash and carry is increasing) absolutely we are still accept donations

APPENDIX I
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Kari Magee

100 Steps Project

1. **Litter Pick.** A litter pick, and debris and weed removal will be organised for 22 January 2023. Another health check of the trees will be conducted at the same time.
2. **Tree Health Check.** The trees along the path were checked after the recent bad weather and no issues were identified.
3. **Future tasks.**
 - a. One further bridge was cleared of debris as part of the maintenance weekend. The bridge has deteriorated and it is likely that a replacement similar to the first bridge (paragraph 1a) will be required. KM will speak with AP regarding potential funding before contacting Donald McLennan.
 - b. AP asked for steps to be cut up to the wildflower meadow near the Hugh Miller monument. The work is estimated to take up to two days and will be conducted in February 2023.