



**Cromarty and District Community Council**  
Draft minutes of meeting held on  
**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022, 730pm**  
In person at The Victoria Hall and virtually via Whereby

Approved  
Minutes  
28/11/22

**Present**

**Community Councillors:** Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chairwoman, Alan Plampton (AP) - Treasurer, Peter Ratcliffe (PR) - Secretary, Nigel Shapcott (NS) & Andy Thurgood (AT).

**Youth Representative(s):**

**Highland Councillor(s):**

**Member(s) of the public:** Jill Stoner, Kenny Rodgers, Julie MacRae.

**Minute Secretary:** Claire Fraser (CF)

**1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies**

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from Tilly, Dominic and Kari.

*Minute secretary note – PR, AP, NS and PS were all in attendance from The Victoria Hall (alongside Kenny Rodgers (Midross NHS District Manager) and Jill Stoner (chair of Cromarty Care Project)).*

**2. Declarations of interest**

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

Minute secretary note – PS then handed over to Kenny (KR) who explained the difficulties faced in the NHS/Social Care but advised they want to work with communities to improve services. Jill (JS) spoke on behalf of Cromarty Care Project and asked KR various questions as to the current services offered and how they propose to improve. The main problem being that Top Care just don't have the staff for the amount of care required. Everyone agreed to encourage carers the job needs to be more appealing/have more perks (like offered a vehicle for example). Discussion closed but it was great to meet with KR and JS and on behalf of the C&DCC we appreciate him reaching out, and look forward to staying in close contact.

The meeting resumed at 20.15 when Jill and Kenny left.

**3. Approval of previous minutes, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by AT.

**4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

*Minute secretary note – THC means The Highland Council.*

1. (4.1 – Communication with THC re. TMP proposals). See portfolio report (Kari). **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 – 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). **On hold.**
7. (4.7 – Still waiting guidance from TSG re. Green Freeport proposals). **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.(4.13 – C&DCC decide how to proceed with bench for Martin Goswick). Friends of HM to fund bench by the HMM facing south). **Discharged.**
- 14.(4.14 – Finance will be needed from THC re. Reeds Loop maintenance, but enough in budget just now). **On hold.**
- 15.(4.15 – To chase repairs to be done to fencing in Victoria Park (grass cutting done)). Being dealt with, THC trying to establish who the main contact is as emails are going round in circles. **Action – PS.**
- 16.(4.16 – Re-visit our approach for requests re. large events in the future). **Action – ALL.**
- 17.(4.17 – Still awaiting reports re. major maintenance issue at Hugh Millers Institute). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
- 18.(4.18 – Refresher resilience training to be arranged). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 19.(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.**
- 20.(4.20 – Report back on progress of the change of Bank of Scotland mandates). **Discharged – will be reviewed/updated post November 2023 elections.**
- 21.(4.21 – Revisit discussions with C&DCC subcommittee events groups in June 2022). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 22.(4.22 – Location to be confirmed re. youth mentoring programme). Ongoing. **Action – KM & TG.**

- 23.(4.23 – To try and retrieve funds held back by Di Agnew for repairs to TVH (Common Good post AGM). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 24.(4.24 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church). **Action C&DCC.**
- 25.(4.25 – Further discussion required re. response received from Alcumus). A final verdict did not uphold the complaint. There is the opportunity to escalate to UKAS, pending actions arising from cascade of Neptunes report to stakeholders. At the meeting Andy added that he's very disappointed with the response received so far and also that the tech department at Alcumus didn't want to discuss things. Waiting to hear back from Neptune. To discuss with other community councils to see how they are affected. **Action – AT.**
- 26.(4.26 – Waiting for confirmation on TVH finances before looking into grant for further insulation). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 27.(4.27 – Repairs @ the 100 steps to be done 8 & 9 October – request for volunteers is out). Repairs done, see KM report. **Discharged.**
- 28.(4.28 – To follow up with THC re. parking at Townlands). Requires further discussion with residents. **Action – PS.**
- 29.(4.29 – Burn weeds on Reeds Loop with flame gun (once has been cut back), and weather has improved). Test burn completed satisfactory. Ongoing. **Action – NS.**
- 30.(4.30 – Await response from THC re. electric vehicles charging point (original response not satisfactory so new Councillor following it up). Discharged as development trust have taken this on as a project.**
- 31.(4.31 – Application being filled out for 3 year funding programme (YC). Decision being made in December). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 32.(4.32 – Ongoing monitoring of daffodil field maintenance required). **Action – PR.**
- 33.(4.33 – To discuss hedging options for The Victoria Park at future date). **Action – ALL.**
- 34.(4.38 – Prepare a poster to encourage folk to apply for social housing regardless of their circumstance). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 35.(8.1.3 – To circulate the Neptune document outwith the meeting, with supporting document from the chair). Andy sent out and follow up meeting to take place. **Discharged.**
- 36.(8.2.3 – Advise AP the supplier of the chippings in The Victoria Park). Ongoing but work organised once supply identified. **Action – AP/LJ.**
- 37.(8.2.4 – Contact other members of THC re. raising funds to replace gym equipment in The Victoria Park). Ongoing – funding application 'expression of interest' submitted. **Action – AP.**
- 38.(8.3 – To discuss with The Harbour Trust re. gate system proposal). Answers back from Colin to be discussed in further detail. **Discharged as further action point in Agenda item 8. Action – PS.**
- 39.(9.1 – Speak to NS/AP re. figures given out to those in the community who need supporting and send on to Lyndsey at THC. Also to speak to Jill Stoner @ CCP re. plan for warmbank). Spoke to Jill re. warmbank – see report. **Discharged.**

40.(9.2 – LJ to circulate email address for stagecoach management to PS who will pass on to concerned parties). **Discharged.**

41. (9.4 – Contact current members of gritting team to see if any are interested in taking over from Corrie & Nige). Not yet completed, ongoing. **Action - PR.**

42.(9.4 – To arrange a time to store the trikes away for the Winter). **Discharged.**

## 5. Youth Issues

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

PS still in talks with THC re. Cromarty school bus issue. Has been advised that everyone should continue to email Stagecoach with their complaints/when bus is late or broken down, so they are aware of the issues. Councillor Sarah Atkin has suggested setting up a group and combining the issues together, before contacting Stagecoach, as this might be easier to trace than lots of complaints. Community Council will continue to work alongside Fortrose Academy, The Highland Council and Stagecoach to deal with the continuous issues.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

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

Current community council meetings undertaken via Whereby and the cost of this subscription has been funded to date, but this could potentially stop. Whereby was chosen as it offers end to end encryption for users. It was opened for discussion as to whether we continue to use Whereby or switch to something cheaper. NS suggested asking THC to cover the cost (AP confirmed this will be discussed at the next BICC meeting). AP/NS think the small £8.50 per month seems fine, PR & PS seconded.

## 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.

The Victoria Hall – The boiler has been repaired and roofers are due to come out this week.

The Youth Café – Likely to be in a position to recruit a replacement for John by the time the next meeting comes around in November.

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

## 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.

There were no questions on any of the member's reports. NS thanked AT for all of his work dealing with Global re. the noise complaints so far, and commended the report from Neptune that was circulated.

## 8.2 The Highland Council

No update.

## 8.3 Correspondence Received

Discussion re. The Cromarty Harbour Trust correspondence from last month. Has been a discussion between PS and Colin Dickie (chair of The Harbour Trust) but members feel there is still not enough information for the C&DCC to support their proposal. PS to arrange a face to face meeting with Colin, or a representative of the harbour trust as soon as possible.

Action – PS.

## 9. Any Other Business

### 9.1 Wreath

PS to place the wreath at the cemetery on behalf of the community council, to honour remembrance Sunday. Action – PS.

### 9.2 Tilly!

A special thanks from the Chairwoman Paige:

At our October meeting we unfortunately had to say goodbye to our youth member Tilly. We want to thank her for her valuable contributions to the Community Council! She was a huge asset to us and we know she will take on any challenge in front of her with her positive attitude and drive. We wish Tilly all the best going forward and know she will succeed in anything she puts her mind to. Happy travels Tilly!

### 9.3 Cromarty Community Development Trust (report from Julie):

#### **East Church Hall**

CCDT put an expression of interest into the East Church Hall (ECH) now that it's not occupied. Common Good and THC have come back and asked what their interest is. CCDT are working on ideas as to what they'd use it for, and also how it would benefit the community. Julie has been in and had a look around and said there is currently no heating due to no oil and the gutters need cleaned, weeds cleared etc but otherwise it is structurally sound.

The options for its use are:

License to occupy

Asset transfer

Long lease (as per The Victoria Hall).

License to occupy means there'd be no funding available, whereas the other two options would allow for grant funding.

The CCDT want the community to have a say and are looking at where funding can come from. They are hoping to hold an open weekend, but are awaiting insurance clearance

before confirming the date. JM advised that they will use every medium possible to get the word out about the open weekend (CF asked how they'd advertise as has never been aware of any events being held by the CCDT).

AP advised that at the next Black Isle Community Council meeting, they were to discuss the use of the ECH there, wasn't aware that it had been promised to the CCDT. Per previous C&DCC minutes we are aware of other parties that were interested so are confused why they were told they were the only stakeholders who'd expressed an interest. PS to pass the list of interested parties on to JM. **Action – PS.**

### **Campsite**

Trial ditch has been done, now looking into the ground works. JM is working with the engineer to work out a quote and they will then appoint contractors to start work next year.

### **On Electric Vehicles (EV)**

CCDT have progressed with this, and are now identifying a site (either Cromarty Cinema Carpark or THC carpark at the other end of the Links). It will be a 20 year lease, providing 4 vehicle chargers together, with the condition that there must still be other parking spaces available for non-EV's. They are awaiting a quote but are doing it with the intention of benefitting the town. Hope to have more information soon.

As CCDT don't own the land, they'd need to lease from Hub/Cromarty Cinema, but permission from John Nightgale would also be needed. AP advised Julie that THC carpark lease is due for renewal and suggests she speak to them about the conditions of the lease (if they don't manage to secure the Cinema carpark). AP to send information on the lease to Julie. **Action – AP.**

*Minute secretary note – PS was looking into EV chargers via THC but this can now be discharged due to CCDT taking this on. We were unaware how far on the CCDT were with this.*

JM finished off by thanking AP for all of his extremely hard work, as he has already got an excellent grasp on the welfare of the town she says that the Cromarty Community Development Trust need to stick to focusing on the development.

## **10 Date of next meeting**

Next meeting – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 730pm.

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

## 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. **COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** movement reflects the payment for the agreed 100 Steps work. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

<b>Statement of Financial Position at 28th October 2022</b>				
		£	£	£
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 23/09/22</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 28th October 2022		12,371.34	-654.64	13,025.98
Paypal Balance as at 28th October 2022		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		222.70	77.20	145.50
Amounts Payable		0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Net Assets at 28th October 2022</b>		<b>£12,594.04</b>	<b>-577.44</b>	<b>£13,171.48</b>
		£	£	£
<b>Represented by:</b>				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2022		2,332.16	0.00	2,332.16
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		244.12	-21.60	265.72
		2,576.28	-21.60	2,597.88
Community Amenities Fund		94.53	-555.84	650.37
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 28th October 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
<b>Net C&amp;DCC Reserves</b>		<b>4,479.73</b>	<b>-577.44</b>	<b>5,057.17</b>
<b>Community Event Funds</b>				
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	206.86		0.00	206.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06	6,110.89	0.00	202.06
<b>Designated Community Funds</b>				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00
Cromarty Rising Fund		653.42	0.00	653.42
		<b>£12,594.04</b>	<b>-577.44</b>	<b>£13,171.48</b>



## APPENDIX C

### Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Maintenance** Remarkably, I have managed to repair the damage to the Multicourt lighting. More luck than skill. However on the negative side, I am currently having to operate the Hall boiler manually for every booking but I have managed to get a HC works order placed for a repair, but we await parts. I have also successfully got a works order raised for roof repairs. Fingers crossed!!

**ACTION – Information only, no action required**

2. **Youth Cafe** The latest monthly report is attached.

**ACTION – Information only, no action required**

## APPENDIX D PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe

### **Cromarty Ferry.**

- Ongoing. The Ferry Service is now closed for the winter season.
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### **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.
  
- There is a Provisional Booking (by me) for the potential Bonfire Night. There was comment on Facebook about a possible bonfire with no resolution to date. I have seen the comment that there not be a bonfire in Cromarty this year.
- 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. [ **Ongoing**]
- Mrs Elsie Sharratt has arranged for the latest bench commemorating her father, Robin L. Munro, (Black Metal Type) to be now installed in place in the area of the Salmon Fisher Bothy.
- 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. I do not know the history of that one, but will try to find out. [ No information as 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 Waste Department also have an operative clearing excess rubbish at the bins.
- The Bins most at issue (Due to takeaway food / motorhomes/ other rubbish?) are :-  
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. [ Being emptied to date.]
- 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. (No change - Ongoing).
- 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.
- Recent Beach Clean as organised, was not successful, four people turned up.
- 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.

Emails being received regarding next Community Meetings with PoCF.

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – ongoing. Ongoing exposure about pushing for the Freeport in the press media. With the current economic climate in the country it will be interesting to follow.

Will there be a bigger push for increased renewables, green hydrogen plants. Will there be much increased industrialisation on the North side of the Cromarty Firth?

Green Hydrogen Plant – according to news comments, Twitter etc, planning and preparations continue.

Nigg Liaison Group Meetings – on an ongoing basis. Notifications as sent out by email.

#### **Gritting and Machine Maintenance.**

New contact person with Highland Council is required. The snowfalls will soon be upon us. The units will need to be oiled and 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. Survey to be done, I do usually check the bins and confirm that there is materials required. I will raise with the current contact at Highland Council.

Gritting Equipment was washed and hung in The Sheddie. What is the progress on the water supply for rinsing the units at the Sheddie? (Ongoing)

#### **Other.**

##### **Cromarty First Responders.**

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

##### **Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.**

Ongoing.

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. The Links ones are done regularly, I did the Reeds Walk and Bowling Green Car Park one again recently. 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, on the whole, 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. Works to the area not fully actioned as yet, the outer perimeters 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 - 2021:- ( Ongoing.)**

##### **Gaelic Chapel.**

Previous virtual Meeting held. Craig had raised and discussed the Land Ownership documents from Land Sassines, now under review. (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.**

Emails – Craig Fraser had raised the issue. I understand that CCDT are following up on this.

**Cromarty Benches.**

Survey 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.

The dilapidated bench on Braehead is to be renovated or replaced?

**Other Meetings.**

None by self.

**A.O.C.B.**

None at present.

**APPENDIX E**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd**

<u>Planning</u>	No planning updates	
<u>Police Update</u>	No Update	
<u>Fortrose School Bus</u>	<p>I have emailed Sarah Atkin regarding the Fortrose Academy bus from Cromarty. She has spoken to stagecoach who require evidence of the ongoing issues. Stagecoach have requested the following information.</p> <p>“To enable us to investigate issues, please encourage parents to email <a href="mailto:public.transport@highland.gov.uk">public.transport@highland.gov.uk</a>, stating <b>date and time</b> of the problem. It is difficult to follow up general statements such as “the bus is frequently late”. If you have specifics, I would be grateful if you could forward them to Caro Munro who is the Transport Officer for that area”</p> <p>Sarah would also like our help in organising a parent group which could report back to the Highland Council monthly.</p>	
<u>Warm Bank</u>	<p>I met with Jill Stoner of the Cromarty Care Project to discuss warm banks. It appears a suitable location for these warm banks wasn't to be found. We both agreed if we could, we would like to support residents in their own homes who need it the most. Both organisations are going to continue to work together to make sure residents in Cromarty are looked after this winter especially during the cost-of-living crisis.</p>	

**APPENDIX F**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton**

1. **BICC** Next meeting, chaired by F&RCC, will be held in the w/c 7<sup>th</sup> November. Items on the Agenda to include – Place Plan update, Noise pollution, Development & Infrastructure, Cost of meetings affecting our ability to represent our communities plus a lot else. **ACTION – Information only, no action required.**
  
2. **East Church Hall** Representatives of C&DCC are being invited to a HC Black Isle Business Meeting. Time & date not yet available. **ACTION – Information only, no action required.**
  
3. **Housing** No further updates. **ACTION – Information only, no action required.**
  
4. **Community Events**
  - a) **Christmas Lights** are being repaired and will be operational at the start of December. **ACTION – For Information only, no action required**

**APPENDIX G**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood**

Update – Port of Cromarty Firth (POCF) ISO Complaint

A response was received from the Head of Technical at Alcumus on 11<sup>th</sup> October, that did not uphold the complaint. I had repeatedly tried to establish contact with him prior to this date – emails weren't answered, phone messages weren't returned, and only when I went through their main switchboard, and manage to track him down, there was a message passed back through his colleague that the letter was to be sent that same evening. I suspect that he didn't want to get into an explanation of the technical rationale for the decision.

There is the opportunity to escalate the complaint to United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). I am currently awaiting responses from the email sent out to Firth Stakeholders on 22/10/22, prior to any decision to escalate.

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

I have copied Council members into the email letter sent to Firth Stakeholders on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. To date the responses received, and key points arising, are as follows:

22/10 – Cllr Lyndsey Johnston requesting (agreed) forward distribution to (Highland) Council Leader and Council Chief Officer.

22/10 – Thanks received from Fran Sadler (a copy was forwarded to her)

22/10 – Alasdair Cameron, Killearnan CC, identified a similar LFN issue from an SSE substation at Beaulay, and referred me to Kilmorack CC; I emailed Kilmorack CC 24/10 to discuss further. I chased this again 28/10 as there was no response from the generic email address, this time forwarding to their Chair Steve Byford.

24/10 – Cllr Sarah Atkin, acknowledgement of the letter, and some background of her involvement in LFN with Cromarty Residents. Identified she would like time to absorb, and raise questions.

28/10 – After chasing the Port Authority, their email response is:

In terms of the Neptune document, we are currently reviewing it and discussing with Global Energy Group (GEG) and the British Ports Association. Joanne Allday will be in touch with you directly in due course.

GEG and PoCF both share information re noise complaints and are working together to better understand and address concerns where possible.

Port of Cromarty Firth Annual Public Meeting (Incorporating Community Councils Liaison)

The meeting is scheduled for 18:00 on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. It has been decided to cancel the scheduled Community Councils meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> November). I questioned the cancellation this decision, on the basis that CC was supposed to be a two consultative process. Alex Johnson, Communications Manager, confirmed that the Community Councils Liaison will be scheduled for next month. No date as yet.

Global Energy Group Community Councils Liaison Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 18:00 on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**APPENDIX H**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nige Shapcott**

Cromarty Care Project (CCP)

**Monday Lunch Club-** the Monday lunch club is starting on October 31<sup>st</sup> - subsidised through CCP.

**Cromarty Baby & Toddler Group-** We are hoping to restart the Cromarty Baby and Toddler group.

**Fourways** - we are working with Anne Short and her team to support them restarting the Fourways.

**Funding/Grant Applications-** We are continuing to look out for grants to help those struggling with the cost of living.

**Home Care in Cromarty** - As before: Maxine from Topcare has been in touch - there are more people in Cromarty needing care than they have carers for and have asked us to help with recruitment. I have asked Shirley to put something on Cromarty FB and in the PO. They are paying £11 per hour and 30p extra per hour at weekends.

**Larder** - The larder has been running since December 2020 – restocked every day by volunteers. We are grateful for deliveries of food from Fareshare, an organisation that distributes food that is surplus from supermarkets. The Masonic lodge has been very supportive providing help over the past year with storage and food. We do have to purchase supplies too which are paid for from our unrestricted fund. The larder is well used and is there for everyone.

**Trikes-** they are to be moved to winter storage at the end of October.

Cromarty Harbour Trust

**Health and Safety (Fishing)- Paige has been in touch with the Harbour and will report on this.**

Reeds Loop Path

**Maintenance required-** NS to follow up.



**APPENDIX I**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Kari Magee**

**100 Steps Project**

1. **Overview.** Donald McLennan ([www.dcmclennanfencing.co.uk/home](http://www.dcmclennanfencing.co.uk/home)) and a team of volunteers completed the repairs to the two bridges and railing over the weekend of 8-9 October.

- a. The damage to the first bridge was significant and, less the railing, the whole structure had to be removed and replaced. The nails were removed from the old bridge and the remaining materials used to create a bug hotel away from the path.



- b. The damage to the second bridge was concentrated at the ends of the bridge and railings. Repairs were made to the decking and railings, and the decomposing leaves were removed from below the decking to encourage air flow and allow the piers to dry out more quickly. The removal of leaves will become an enduring maintenance task.



- c. The damage to railings was not as significant as feared. A number of posts, railings and part of the top rail were replaced and reinforced.



2. **Costs.** The original quote provided two costs; one with and one without volunteers. The quote with volunteers was £816 (including VAT). When the team was assembled, the number of volunteers exceeded the number required and the tasks were completed more quickly than expected so the final cost was amended to £555.84 (including VAT).

### 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. Litter pick, debris and weed removal.
- c. Health check of trees along the path.