



**Cromarty and District Community Council**  
Approved minutes of meeting held on  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022, 730pm**  
In person at The Victoria Hall and virtually via Whereby

Approved  
Minutes  
31/10/22

**Present**

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

**Youth Representative(s):**

**Highland Councillor(s):** Lyndsey Johnston (LJ)

**Member(s) of the public:**

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

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

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from Tilly.

*Minute secretary note – PR, AP and PS were all in attendance from The Victoria Hall.*

**2. Declarations of interest**

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

**3. Approval of previous minutes, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by AT.

**4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 29<sup>th</sup> August 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 – No response from THC re. fly tipping at Whitedykes – to resubmit). 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, going to have to work with THC re. the Byelaw etc). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 10.(4.10 – Noise complaints have risen recently – residents are submitting noise forms directly to THC. No feedback – will email 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). Ongoing. **Action – ALL.**
- 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)). No update yet – ongoing. **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. Still no reports/estimates. Meeting room remains closed and not available for use). Ongoing, reports still awaited. **Action - AP.**
- 18.(4.19 – Refresher resilience training to be arranged). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 19.(4.20 – 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.(4.21 – Report back on progress of the change of Bank of Scotland mandates). **On hold.**
- 21.(4.22 – Revisit discussions with C&DCC subcommittee events groups in June 2022). **Action – AP.**
- 22.(4.23 – Location to be confirmed re. youth mentoring programme). **Action – KM & TG.**
- 23.(4.24 – To try and retrieve funds held back by Di Agnew for repairs to TVH (Common Good) post AGM). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 24.(4.26 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church). **Action C&DCC.**
- 25.(4.27 – Await response from Alcumus, send to members once received). Response received 01/09/22 (see AT report) – however remains ongoing as further discussion required. **Action – AT.**
- 26.(4.28 – Waiting for confirmation on TVH finances before looking into grant for further insulation). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 27.(4.29 – Repairs @ the 100 steps to be done 8 & 9 October – request for volunteers is out). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**

- 28.(4.30 – More discussions to be had/conclusions to be sought re. parking at Townlands between C&DCC & THC). To follow up. **Action – PS.**
- 29.(4.31 – Burn weeds on Reeds Loop with flame gun). See NS report. **Action – NS.**
- 30.(4.32 – Await response from THC re. electric vehicles charging point (original response not satisfactory so new Councillor following it up). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 31.(4.34 – Application being filled out for 3 year funding programme (YC) – decision to be made in December). Ongoing until December. **Action – AP.**
- 32.(4.38 – No action has yet been taken to Daffodil field maintenance other than some pruning. Ongoing monitoring required). **Action – PR.**
- 33.(4.39 – To discuss hedging options for The Victoria Park at future date). **Action – ALL.**
- 34.(5.1 – Contact Fortrose Academy & Stagecoach re. issues with school bus). See Paige’s report. Also discussed further under AOB. **DISCHARGED.**
- 35.(8.1.2 – Slight change to the Agenda required – discuss prior to September meeting). **DISCHARGED.**
- 36.(9.1 – To register TVH with Business Energy Scotland). Done. **DISCHARGED.**
- 37.(9.2 – Pass the contact details re. The West Church Hall to PS, then make contact with them re. becoming the nominated premises re. a warmbank). Discussed further in AOB. **DISCHARGED.**
- 38.(9.3 – Prepare a poster to encourage folk to apply for social housing regardless of their circumstance). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**

## 5. Youth Issues

Nothing to report (via Dominic).

## 6. Treasurer’s Report

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

There were no questions and AP was thanked for everything.

*Minute secretary note - DSL left the meeting at 21.13pm.*

## 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 Youth Café - Intergenerational project has completed and the bench that was designed has gone on display in the park this week (carved by Chainsaw Creations). AP expressed how

impressive it is and urged everyone to take a look. There will be an official unveiling session week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> October.

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 (**Appendix D-H**) were circulated prior to the meeting by members.

#### 8.1.1. Alan:

BICC – CC & THC will discuss the East Church Hall at the Black Isle Community Council meeting in November. All comments will be considered. AT queried who would like to use in the East Church Hall and thus it was noted the main three people/parties have expressed interest: The Thrift Shop, Cromarty Arts Trust and The Church of Scotland.

AP also stated that he was interested to read Julie's comments re. Albyn Housing from her report (see A.O.B), as he is still awaiting an update regarding their position.

AP's report was open for questioning but there were no further comments.

#### 8.1.2. Nige:

NS's report was open for questioning and there were no comments.

#### 8.1.3. Andy:

AT'S report was open for questioning and NS spoke:

Thanked AT for his very thorough report re. his response from Alcumus and queried if the Neptune report could be circulated (report concerned mitigation of noise from shops at berth). Members agreed it would be good to issue as it contains general advice, just in case people weren't aware. AT happy to circulate, to discuss with PS who it should go to and contain a supporting letter from her as the Chair of C&DCC. **Action – AT/PS.**

AT concluded the discussion by advising the next Community Councils Nigg Liasion Meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> November, at 6pm rather than midday (which is progress) and is hopeful that the new time should mean that more of the general public/interested stakeholders can attend.

Finally, AT confirmed there's no news re. a Green Port timetable as yet.

#### 8.1.4. Peter:

PR's report was open for questioning and there were no comments.

#### 8.1.5. Kari:

KM's report was open for questioning and there were no comments.

KM is anticipating an announcement from The Scottish Government re. Traffic Proposal/Speed Limits etc by 2025 so isn't chasing THC for a response re. their traffic management proposal at the moment (action point 4.1).

8.1.6. Paige:

CF queried if PS still following up with THC re. the electric vehicle charging points as Julie (from CCDT) mentioned that they are speaking to businesses about this, see AOB. PS confirmed that she is still in discussion with THC re. the EVC ports in Cromarty (action point 4.30).

There were no further comments.

8.2 The Highland Council

Lyndsey spoke on behalf of THC:

- 8.2.1 Advised that they've invited individuals from environmental health to the next Black Isle Area Committee meeting to discuss the noise complaints in Cromarty & how they can be enforced etc.
- 8.2.2 Equipment has been bought and will be fitted in the Victoria Park. Also funding has been given to Townlands Park to ensure its maintenance. Members thanked LJ for this.
- 8.2.3 AP asked if LJ can advise where the chippings in the Victoria Park were sourced from (that are under the play equipment), as The Youth Café would like the use the same ones for under the new bench. LJ will find out and pass on to AP. **Action – LJ/AP.**
- 8.2.4 Also asked re. the existing gym equipment which Lyndsey advised is to be removed as the supplier cannot supply the parts to repair it. It was however discussed that the C&DCC could raise funds to replace it with new equipment. She will pass contact information on to AP so he can discuss this further. Also mentioned going to Rosemarkie Park and looking at their equipment as they've recently had new, more modern pieces fitted. **Action – LJ/AP.**

8.3 Correspondence Received

Correspondence received from The Cromarty Harbour Trust re. the continued use of the Cromarty Harbour for fishing during prime mackerel season & how it can impact individuals and their safety. The email suggested a plan of action to control the use of the harbour during this season, and how it would also heighten safety measures (they are proposing introducing a locked gate system).

Discussion opened. Members aren't sure how it will go down in the community and also aren't sure how gate access can be controlled. Also, the rights of stopping harbour use are a bit unclear (do the trustees have this authority?). However, all members do agree that the condition of the harbour has deteriorated and that a bit of control will ensure the safety of users.

PS to discuss further with Colin Dickie before deciding on the C&DCC position. To report back at next meeting. **Action – PS.**

9. Any Other Business

## 9.1 Warm bank

The West Church Hall have confirmed they'd be eager to help but it won't be a long-term solution as church will be up for sale in early 2023. Have also expressed their concerns that it will be costly as their heating system uses a lot of oil in the colder months!

Discussion continued as to whether there were other locations that could be used for this, such as the Cromarty Library or The East Church Hall. Also suggested that funds be raised in the community to ensure the running of the warm bank throughout winter.

Councillor Lyndsey mentioned that there is the issue of logistics and that it's not very practical for the vulnerable to be travelling to a warm bank in the colder conditions. All members however don't think this is an issue in Cromarty as 4x4 vehicles could be used, and strongly believe it's safer than staying inside their freezing cold homes. Discussion continued and although the Highlands is a rural place (where access to a warm bank may be limited for some), as a community council we are thinking about THIS community and another important reason for a warm bank would be to prevent isolation.

The Victoria Hall remains a possibility as alternative location for the warm bank but again finance would be needed. Lyndsey advised however that this wouldn't come from THC as they have recently voted **against** warm banks! Most councillors thought it was more important to support those in their own homes. She emphasized that as a community we could still go ahead and organise a warm bank (THC won't stop this) but was simply stating it won't be funded by them.

To conclude, AP confirmed that The Youth Café has already distributed £1.5-£2k of funds to those in the community to help towards rising energy costs (and we're only in October). NS added that Cromarty Care Project have also already given about £2.5k to those in need. All members agree therefore that the need for a warm bank is high.

PS to speak to NS and AP re. the figures as a community we've provided to those who need it and send to Lyndsey so she can pass on to THC. PS also to speak to Jill Stoner at CCP (Cromarty Care Project) to ask their thoughts on a warm bank and start putting a plan in place for raising funds/choosing a location. **Action – PS.**

## 9.2 Stagecoach/Cromarty School Bus

PS spoke to Jacqui Ross (rector of Fortrose Academy) who advised the contracts aren't within their control (see PS report), but recommended PS email cllr Sarah Atkin as she's speaking to Stagecoach about this issue.

Lyndsey added that all 3 councillors met with Stagecoach management who advised they aren't receiving many complaints at all and requested specific details for the complaints to be submitted. LJ advised that the management should be emailed directly so they can follow up with this - to circulate the email address to PS who will pass it on to concerned parties. **Action – LJ/PS.**

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

### **On campsite**

A structural / civil engineer has been appointed and is working with JM / CCDT. 6 trial pits were commissioned and dug (and filled back in) in September to confirm the ground make-up, drainage, water table and bearing capacity for an access road and associated facilities

on the proposed campsite. The utilities survey has now been commissioned by the trust to establish the position of all existing services and to understand where connections are best made or extended in and around the site. In association with the engineer, JM is now preparing a construction package and a health and safety package, with a view to moving forward. However, we still have a number of procedures and barriers to clear plus costs to confirm (given the current economic climate / inflation) before any planned construction is given the go ahead by the various authorities.

#### **On housing**

JM has spoken - informally - with Alan Maguire of HC, for further guidance. AM has indicated that if for any reason Albyn Housing opt not to develop the site, the housing association can be forced to bring the site back to market, and another developer found (to deliver affordable housing). Alternatively, the site may be acquired for the same by HC themselves. This is owing to a land purchase for Albyn having been funded at the outset both by the Scottish Government, and HC, on behalf of Albyn. Albyn can therefore not sit on the site and land bank indefinitely.

#### **On Electric Vehicles**

CCDT have started to look into and understand what could be developed in Cromarty for EV charging. We are having an open conversation with one company at present, simply to see and understand what is on offer. Land ownership, or lack of it, will likely be the biggest barrier. Any site suggestions are welcome.

#### **On damaged benches**

Have you thought to bring in / contact the Men's Shed at Avoch? That's the sort of project they would welcome.

*Minute secretary note – damaged benches were mentioned in PR's report. CF has followed up with PR and he is to find out the ownership of the bench before approaching anyone about its repair.*

The community council members thank Julie for her comments and appreciate that she's trying to keep the communication up between the two **community** groups!

#### 9.4 Gritting

NS advised that himself and Corrie are stepping down, as they are going to be away over the winter and someone else will need to takeover. Discussion continued and members agreed that it could be someone who is already involved (which will also reduce time required for training etc). PR to contact these individuals and see the interest, before a notice goes out to other residents. **Action – PR.**

Side note - the trikes will need to be put away soon (AP and NS to discuss and arrange a time). **Action – AP/NS.**

#### 10 Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 at 730pm.

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

## APPENDIX A

### Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

**1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** the Highland Council Community Council Grant for 2022 has now been funded. We received £427.07 to cover all our expenses for 2022/23. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**2. COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND** movement reflects the replacement pads that have been installed in the Victoria Hall unit. All three Cromarty units are now up to date with the necessary servicing. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**



APPENDIX B  
Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

<b>Statement of Financial Position at 23rd September 2022</b>				
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 28/08/22</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 23rd September 2022		13,025.98	386.24	12,639.74
Paypal Balance as at 23rd September 2022		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		145.50	-2.50	148.00
Amounts Payable		0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Net Assets at 23rd September 2022</b>		<b>£13,171.48</b>	383.74	<b>£12,787.74</b>
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<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		265.72	427.07	-161.35
		2,597.88	427.07	2,170.81
Community Amenities Fund		650.37	66.67	583.70
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 23rd September 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	-110.00	1,116.88
<b>Net C&amp;DCC Reserves</b>		5,057.17	383.74	4,673.43
<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>£13,171.48</b>	383.74	<b>£12,787.74</b>

## APPENDIX C

### Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Maintenance** Sadly, the Multicourt lighting has again been vandalised. Awaiting a quote for repair and this will form the basis of whether the VHMC spends more money to allow the young folk the chance to use the multicourt during the winter months. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

2. **Youth Cafe** The latest monthly report is attached, from Fraser, the Assistant Youth Worker. This confirms that despite disruption to Hall usage during the official mourning period, the Youth Cafe continues to be extraordinarily busy. The essential recruitment of a replacement 'John Munro', has been paused while we talk to funders about what financial resources we have available to supply our services over the next 18 months. The Intergenerational Community Project, funded by the Scottish Government's Rural Communities Fund (previously for the Pump Track Project), is reaching completion with the installation of the lasting symbol of a Reflection/Buddy Bench in the Victoria Park. More details to follow but this bench has been created by Iain Chalmers, who was the People's Choice winner at the 2022 Carve Carrbridge event. Another example of his work can be seen at the Avoch Primary School. An official 'opening' is being planned for early October.

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

## APPENDIX D

### PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe

#### **Cromarty Ferry.**

- Ongoing. The Ferry Service has been running successfully over the current Summer Period. Has been well appreciated by the visitors. Except for some occasions of inclement weather etc. The Service is off today due to high winds and will shut down at the end of the month 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.
- The Cromarty Rowing Club, in 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022 September, had a very successful and entertaining Regatta.
- 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.
- 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.
- Mrs Elsie Sharratt had engaged a contractor and the latest bench commemorating her father, Robin L. Munro, (Black Metal Type) has been 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.

#### **Litter.**

- Still in the busy season –with food containers, and dog waste, also rubbish from Motorhomes, Town Bins are 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.
- Highland Council have replaced and installed a small number of new type of bins. Survey has been carried out and recorded.
- 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.
- 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 – 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, beach clean up etc. 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, 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 planning and preparations continue.

Nigg Liaison Group Meetings – on an ongoing basis.

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

Main actors are Corrie and Nige. 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 there are 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 yesterday. Did not check the Denny and Stroopie ones yesterday.

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 in 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. Works to the area not fully actioned as yet, the outer perimeters only.

So 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.)**

#### **Hugh Miller Statue Enclosure.**

Metalwork has been completed. The Painting has been done.

Laying of chips was arranged by Alan. Access steps to be cleared and repaired.

#### **Gaelic Chapel.**

Previous 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.  
No recent check done.  
Trees on the Denny – to be reviewed, after discussion with Craig Fraser.

**E.V. Charging points.**

Emails – Craig Fraser had raised the issue. Needs to be followed up. (No change). Are our new Highland Councillors involved/  
Or are CCDT following up with this issue? (No Change).

**Cromarty Benches.**

Survey to be updated.

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.**

None at present.

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

<p><u>Planning</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Erection of Timber Clad and Slate Roof Porch over existing main entrance</a> </li> </ul> <p>49 Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA  Ref. No: 22/04248/FUL   Received: Tue 20 Sep 2022   Validated: Fri 30 Sep 2022   Status: Under Consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Construct New Timber Clad and Slate Roof Porch over existing main entrance</a> </li> </ul> <p>49 Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA  Ref. No: 22/04250/LBC   Received: Tue 20 Sep 2022   Validated: Tue 20 Sep 2022   Status: Under Consideration</p>
<p><u>Police Update</u></p>	<p>No Update</p>
<p><u>General Town Maintenance</u></p>	<p>Chasing repairs to the fence at the Victoria park also keeping an eye on the townland park for general maintenance.</p>
<p><u>Fortrose School Bus</u></p>	<p>Our new youth member Dom raised some important questions regarding the academy school bus being used as a public bus and the timing. I have now spoken to Jacquie Ross to advise she is aware of the issues and has been working with the transport team to investigate the bus contracts. She also advised that Sarah Atkin is speaking to Stagecoach and to email her also.</p>
<p><u>Warm Bank</u></p>	<p>I have been in touch with the west church hall regarding using the space for the winter warm bank. Although the church was very supportive, unfortunately they do not see the hall being very sustainable in terms of hosting the warm bank. The air source heating is less efficient as the temperature falls and the oil boiler is rapidly becoming unaffordable due to the energy prices. It is also with regret that the Church will be for sale early 2023</p>

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

**1. BICC** Following the summer recess, the BICC has not yet met, but a meeting is due in October. On the Agenda will be the continued lack of a further response from the Highland Council's Head of Governance to the 'substantive concerns' raised in the BICC's letter of complaint (signed by all the BICCs except Ferintosh CC). There will also be a discussion regarding the BICC position on the eligibility of the BIP to receive place-maker funding and how this funding was approved. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

**2. East Church Hall** Following tonight a meeting will be held with C&DCC Members and representatives from the Highland Council/Common Good, to discuss options and the current situation. Details will be circulated to Members. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

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

**4. Community Events**

a) **Bonfire Night** is being discussed by interested members of the community keen to take over from the experienced team who have now stepped down. This event requires an expert team to assume serious responsibilities and meet all the requirements of our insurer's Risk Assessment needs. No booking has yet been made in the Links diary. **ACTION – For Information only, no action required**

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

Update – Port of Cromarty Firth (POCF) ISO Complaint

A written response from the Technical Head at Alcumus, regarding the complaint made against Port of Cromarty Firth's ISO management systems, was received on 01/09/22.

The letter stated that the complaint was not to be upheld, and referenced conformance demonstrated by POCF at the 'special' audit undertaken, against requirements of the environmental standard ISO 14001. The letter made no reference to the health & safety standard, ISO 45001. Detail within the response was limited due to confidentiality requirements arising from the ISO standard that is applicable to the undertakings of audits by Certification Bodies, ISO 17021.

I followed this up with the Technical Head by telephone on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, and firstly clarified the omission of reference to ISO 45001 in the Alcumus letter; he clarified that this was an oversight on his behalf and did not change his verdict. For information, it should be noted, that the individual is new to the role, and had made his decision on the advice of others.

I stated that there is actually psychological harm in our community now, that is affecting some residents' emotional, mental and physical health. As this is clearly manifest, neither standard can be achieving the relative intended outcomes (these are specifically stated in the respective documents). I stated my rationale for the ineffective application of the POCF management systems with regards to control the harm being generated, most particular through emission of low frequency noise.

I asked for him to clarify his own rationale for the decision, and was told that there was other additional information that I was not privy to, and that he couldn't discuss his decision under the requirements of ISO 17021. My response, identified additional evidence on behalf the complainant, in the months that have passed during the investigation of the complaint, that also hadn't been reviewed by Alcumus.

I concluded that I was satisfied my rationale, and not satisfied with the Alcumus decision, and that I would be escalating the complaint to UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service who accredit Alcumus). At this point, the Technical Head backed down from his outcome, and sought further time to review his decision with his colleagues. We arranged in principle to hold a follow-up virtual meeting.

The arrangements for this proposed meeting was for some time week commencing 19/09/22. This date has passed, although both parties were actively trying to arrange a meeting.

Alcumus emailed on 21/09/22 suggesting a meeting to review and confirm their final position w/c 09/10/22. [Note: No desire to review additional evidence of the complainant.]

I have proposed 13/10/22 in my response, sent 22/09/22. Additionally, I stressed that there were other factors that could be considered. On the basis of personal impact statements that were submitted to Alcumus, they have not chosen to follow-up on any of these; does that mean that they acknowledge a level of psychological harm in the community? I have asked them to clarify their position on this, as it wouldn't be affected by ISO 17021.

I made the point that there is further evidence about the execution of the Port Authority's management of the Firth, that has occurred in the period since the complaint was initiated (I did reference the protracted nature of this complaint not being timely, as intended by ISO 17021).

I attached the video, that some may have seen on social media, of the discharge of black ballast water by the jack-up rig Noble Sam Hartley on 12<sup>th</sup> August. (Ballast water that has been in tanks



over a period of time, deteriorates and produces Sulphur-Reducing Bacteria (SRBs), turning the water black). That is what is believed is seen, as being discharged by the rig, in the video.

[Note: This was reported by the community to SEPA and NatureScot. Both said that ballast water discharges fall under the Maritime Coastguard Agency. SEPA also reported that Port of Nigg had been informed. It is not known (at the time of writing) whether not the MCA have been informed. In theory, POCF should have awareness, and ensured reporting.]

I also attached a copy of NEPTUNES Best Practice Guide – Mitigation of Noise from Ships at Berth to my email, for Alcumus to review. Although the document covers a slightly different scope, by principle, mitigation methodologies would be equally applicable to the management of rigs and vessels in the Firth. Although mitigations at source are largely costly, and often less practicable, mitigations in the propagation pathway and at the receiver are often reasonably practicable. This document provides powerful guidance, that counters many of the typical arguments offered by POCF and Global Energy Group. I have forwarded a copy of this with my report, for your consideration.

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

**Cromarty Care Project (CCP)**

Heating Grants- 52 applications received. Pending

Larder- continuing

Barge Trip- the second barge trip was on 21st of September, one person had to drop out before the trip. Otherwise it was a much appreciated outing.

**Cromarty Harbour Trust**

Letter- regarding Health and Safety issues Mackerel fishing- to be discussed.

Leisure season- ending on 30th September

Crane Out- Monday 10th October, finger pontoons will also be lifted

**Cromarty Development Trust**

Reporting by CDT Development Officer

**Reeds Loop Path**

Maintenance- trial was carried out of burning the path clean, abandoned because of very heavy rain. Conclusions: that the path sides should be cut prior to continuation (delayed by vandalism damaging contractor's equipment); method used is satisfactory and safe (2 persons, safety equipment in following trolley).