



Cromarty and District Community Council
Approved minutes of meeting held on
Monday 24th April 2023, 730pm
Virtually via Whereby and in person at The Victoria Hall

Approved
Minutes
29/05/23

Present

Community Councillors: Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chairwoman, Alan Plampton (AP) – Treasurer, Peter Ratcliffe (PR) - Secretary, Kari Magee (KM), Andy Thurgood (AT) and Nigel Shapcott (NS).

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 from Dominic Scott-Lodge - Youth Member.

PS, PR, AP and NS were all present from The Victoria Hall.

2. Declarations of interest

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

3. Approval of previous minutes, 27th March 2023

The minutes were approved by KM and seconded by PR.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 27th March 2023

1. (4.1 – On hold – Waiting for more direction re. TMP in 2025.) **On hold.**
2. (4.2 – PS to speak to Fraser re. redesigning Welcome to Cromarty sign and involving the youngsters). **Action – PS & FT.**
3. (4.3 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
4. (4.4 – To discuss action required re. progressing level-crossing system @ Reeds Loop (see May minutes for full info). Ongoing. **Action – PS/KM.**
5. (4.5 – Still waiting guidance from TSG re. Green Freeport proposals). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
6. (4.6 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
7. (4.7 – Residents to continue to submit noise complaints directly to THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
8. (4.8 – To decide how to send round the letter to local businesses re. vacancies in the town). Discussed at meeting – we can email the majority. 3 we don't have information for, can drop leaflets to them. **Action – PS.**

9. (4.9 – Ask Stagecoach to fund the cost of the planning application needed for the bus shelter repair). Stagecoach have confirmed to pay costs of planning application. Application to be submitted. **Action – PR.**
- 10.(4.10 – On hold - finance needed from THC re. Reeds Loop maintenance, but enough in budget just now).
- 11.(4.11 – Gone back to Cai re. the quote from THC re. repairs to the fencing at The Victoria Park (it was extortionate). To look at retrieving quotes ourselves). Cai has since left, to be followed up with Di. **Action – PS.**
- 12.(4.12 – Re-visit our approach for requests re. large events in the future). **Action – ALL.**
- 13.(4.13 – Still awaiting reports re. major maintenance issue at Hugh Millers Institute). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
- 14.(4.14 – Refresher resilience training planned for summer (late June or July)). **Action – AP.**
- 15.(4.15 – KM to follow up the youth mentoring programme with Dom). To ask Dom the next time he's at a meeting. **Action – KM**
- 16.(4.16 – Retrieve funds held back by Di Agnew for repairs to TVH (Common Good) post year-end financial statements). Will be done post AGM. **Action – AP.**
- 17.(4.17 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church). **Action C&DCC.**
- 18.(4.18 – Weed burning to be completed once weather improves). Ongoing. **Action – NS.**
19. (4.21 – Daffodil field has been cleared = continue to monitor). Will continue to monitor – **discharged.**
- 20.(4.22 – To discuss hedging options for The Victoria Park).

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

The window to bid for tree/hedging packs is no later than August. The packs would be delivered in November. We need to discuss with landowner and local community. Once we have consensus, Kari can contact the Woodland Trust to discuss options – no hazel to reduce nut allergy issues. **Action – ALL.**

- 21.(4.23 – Paige to contact Lyndsey at THC to clarify some points regarding housing qualification for social housing poster). **Action – PS.**
- 22.(4.24 – Continue to look into raising funds to replace gym equipment in The Victoria Park). **Action – AP.**
- 23.(4.25 – Await reply from newsletter team re. POCF regular contribution). **Action – PS.**
- 24.(4.33 – Email Plexus asking re. their existing firewall/security procedures re. the website). Website more or less ready to go – final pieces being discussed with Plexus. **Action – CF/AT.**
- 25.(4.35 – To discuss action/how to approach THC re. reason for toilet closure/community options etc). **Action – ALL.**

- 26.(4.38 – To email John Nightingale re. hole at The Pirate’s Graveyard). On to do list! **Action – KM.**
- 27.(4.40 – Contact Craig Fraser and ask who is responsible for the sign at the bus shelter). Craig is unsure so PS to follow up with Di at THC. **Action – PS.**
28. (4.41 – Waiting to hear back from Julie @ CDT re. meeting dates). On hold for now, AGM for CCDT is 4th May 2023. **Action – PS.**
- 29.(7.1 – Speak to NS re. the snowplough that was donated, and then come to a decision as to its future as a C&DCC asset). **Discharged. See VH report.**
- 30.(8.1.1 – To discuss offline the decision on website update (once all have read the email from Plexus re. costs etc). **Same as 4.24 so can be discharged.**
- 31.(8.1.4 – To email JN re. the repairs required to The Ladies Walk). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 32.(8.1.4 – To arrange a meeting with Dougie re. Highland Ferries). All members agree this should be done soon, so we can decide on arrangements for next year. **Action – PS.**
- 33.(8.1.14 – Pass contact information to PS for resident who could re-design the Welcome to Cromarty Sign). **Details passed to PS – discharged.**
- 34.(8.3.1 – Find out about rationale behind the decision to remove immunizations from GPs if possible). Still chasing. **Action – KM.**
- 35.(8.3.1 – Once spoken to KM about the above, construct response to Nairn CC). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
- 36.(9.1 – Email Maxine at Top Care to see if there’s anything we can help her with (due to meeting absence). Done – nothing in particular, just looking to be involved more with the community. **Discharged.**
- 37.(9.2 – To discuss the re-wording of the sub-events committee group document). Ongoing. **Action – NS/AP.**

5. Youth Issues

Dominic not present but AP spoke on behalf of the Youth Café.

The Easter Programme was a big success!

The Middleton Trust 10th anniversary event went well, with senior members of the Middleton Trust speaking very highly of The Youth Café.

There is to be a Coronation Event held in the Victoria Park, funded by Youth Scotland Inspire 2022.

Everyone is looking forward to the Summer programme!

6. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report, accompanying notes and the year-end draft financial statements (**Appendix A, B & C**), were prepared by AP and circulated prior to the meeting.

From review of the financial statements you can see that we are just keeping our head above water. The draft accounts are to go to the auditor but should be approved as they are.

There were no further comments or questions.

7. Victoria Hall (VH) Report including Youth Café

The Victoria Hall Report (**Appendix D**) that was prepared by AP, and Youth Café report that was prepared by Fraser Thompson were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Victoria Hall

Julie asked who we can apply to for funding as the Cromarty Development Trust have just applied to HIE for funds. AP aware that HIE usually has conditions that C&DCC can't reach.

There will be a feasibility study done with The Highland Council by June and we will know more then. It's usually only The Highland Council and Common Good that we can apply for funding from.

A suggestion was given that C&DCC hold a fundraiser to raise funds for the community. This, however, requires volunteers (who are already maxed out with work for the C&DCC), energy, time, etc. Are aware that a community organisation held an event in the hall recently and raised a large amount of money. Usually, the fundraising is done by each event committee (fireworks, gala etc), which are then used for the event (or the C&DCC can help by applying for funding etc).

The C&DCC would consider holding a fundraiser if we were raising money for a particular reason, but standard protocol is for the C&DCC to be a facilitator. C&DCC shouldn't need to hold a fundraiser for hall repairs when the building isn't owned by us, we just manage it!

Charging for the rental of The Victoria Hall is seen as a way of raising money and the fees are used for maintenance, general running of the hall etc. As discussed at previous meetings we have recently raised these fees but remain lower than most other community halls.

AT suggested an annual increment to the Hall rental charges, rather than having to have larger one-off increases. AP to consider. **Action – AP.**

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolios

Portfolio Reports prepared by PR, PS, AP, AT and NS (**Appendix E-I**) were circulated prior to the meeting.

Alan:

The Sheddie/Trikes – is there space? AP updated Shirley today and advised her we need to find somewhere to store the snow sweeper before there is space for The Trikes.

With regards to the auction, members agree that we need to wait until the correct time of year so need to store the sweeper for the summer (outside of The Sheddie). The Jubilee Beacon also needs to be auctioned off so will do at the same time. CF to ask on Facebook if there are any

residents with some spare space the C&DCC can use to store the snow sweeper for the summer months. **Action – CF.**

AP also advised that he's not had a chance to look at repairing the door lock yet but now the financial statements are done it's on his to do list.

BICC meeting – attended by AP and PS.

Presented with the Black Isle Place Plan statistics (BIPP). It's clear that the governance of the place plan is still to be established. Becky Richmond has announced she is going to continue to work on this post voluntarily even though funding has ended for her paid position (was only for 1 year).

Andy:

No response from Clifford at THC, asked Lyndsey to follow this up.

There are complaints going to separate VHO's, none of which seem to join up or be going anywhere. Kate Forbes & Ian Blackford are involved, everything needs to be linked together and this isn't happening.

Attended the Nigg drop in consultation at The Victoria Hall, and how to lodge feedback wasn't very clear. Onshore power needs to be considered to keep the noise down and this needs to be raised/queried. On shore power will also save on noisy generators etc. To bring it up again at the next one, which is tomorrow (Tuesday 25th April) from 3-8pm at The Victoria Hall. **Action – AT.**

Discussed the website, and agreed CF was to go back to Plexus to establish if there were any costs involved with the transfer of the data before deciding the next steps. Funding will allow for the increase of £50 per year, if that's all that's involved. **(taken care of in another action point)**

There were no further comments or questions on any portfolio.

8.3 The Highland Council

It has been confirmed that Lyndsey, Sarah and Morven are rotating 'areas' after 1 year of being elected. Sarah Atkin is to be the Councillor for Cromarty and District for 1 year from May 2023. Lyndsey has said that herself and Sarah will however both attend the next C&DCC meeting.

Lyndsey then reported:

- Concerned about the state of Fortrose Academy, there is a site visit arranged to discuss the emergency repairs required.
- Have had meetings with land-owners re. the Avoch to Munlochy transport links, and confirms that they have been very positive. Still along way off this being an active travel route but is a good start.
- Coastal erosion at Fortrose. The gabion walls that have been there for years, are starting to disintegrate. Who is responsible for this is up in the air, no one is taking responsibility (The Highland Council or Scottish Water). Before a decision has been made, there could be loss of some major coastline.

- More funds were given to the roads department, after the budget meeting was held. Has seen improvement/major repairs to lots of internal roads (mainly Killen) but there are still some side roads that won't be repaired.

Thanks were expressed to Lyndsey for her time and efforts.

8.4 Correspondence Received

Raddery House Ltd have approached C&DCC asking to attend our meeting and provide insight into their plans for the Black Isle Education Centre. All members agreed they should attend the May meeting.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Cromarty Community Development Trust Ltd

It was great to see Julie back at our meeting this month, she's been so busy with the caravan park and huge progress has been made!

Apologies were given for not yet managing to arrange a meeting with the directors yet. Simply can't get the numbers together. It will happen post AGM once a change in the board has been established (hopefully more directors). AGM to be held on 4th May.

Housing:

Sean Currie (our contact) has left Albyn, and has advised that the work will be passed on but nothing has been done yet. Both CDT & C&DCC will need to contact Albyn to follow this up.

Campsite:

Work had come to a temporary halt but the utilities connection has now been resolved so Ardvark are back on site.

The only issue that needs resolved now is the electricity. They need to get a metered connection and there is no guarantee when this will happen, SSE can't put a date on it. Electricity is needed to open the campsite so it's just a waiting game.

The East Church Hall:

Have met with previous project officer who has given loads of past drawings. They need to be sure what's it going to be used for going forward but would also like to keep the history. Once the campsite is done, their attention will be put to arranging an open day!

Community Engagement Event:

CDT have applied for this course, and the cost is covered by grants received etc. Has put out an offer to C&DCC to attend course with her (it's online), and is suggesting we sit next to her and take part at the same time but she will need a base. C&DCC think this is a great idea and are happy to provide the base (TVH), but would need to confirm the date and time of the course before we can confirm (as at least 4 of us would be working).

As an aside, Julie confirmed that the CDT have secured funding in excess of £650k in < 6 years, and the campsite completion will allow further funds to be secured. In the next 12 – 24m they will be close to raising 1 million for the community.

The AGM is only in person, and for the most part they will be electing officers. The Agenda will be published (Julie is working on this), and will send it round to us.

Current directors are:

Phoebe Fox, Jacqui Ross, Fraser MacKenzie, Ronald Young and Matt Hall. The treasurer is Estelle Quick (who is leaving, but a replacement must be sought), and the secretary is Sheila Currie.

Thanks expressed to Julie, and she thanked us for allowing her to attend. She plans to attend monthly to keep the relationship going between the two community organisations.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 29th May 2023, AGM at 7pm and ordinary monthly meeting at 730pm.

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 2125pm.

APPENDIX A

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

- 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** Draft Financial Statements for year 2022/3 (subject to audit) are attached. Notes are included but further explanations will be given at the meeting. Unless Members request any changes this Draft set will go to the auditor, in preparation for our 27th May Annual General Meeting.
FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY
- 2. CROMARTY FUNDS** reflect public donations to both the Defibrillator and Amenties Funds, included in the Draft Financial Statements, but since the last meeting, and the Guidebook reprinting provision shows the charge also included in the Draft Financial Statements. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
21/04/23

APPENDIX B
Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 26/03/23</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 21st April 2023		11,237.21	-54.85	11,292.06
Paypal Balance as at 21st April 2023		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		230.20	51.70	178.50
Amounts Payable		-8.50	-8.50	0.00
Total Net Assets at 21st April 2023		£11,458.91	-11.65	£11,470.56
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2023 **		2,093.28	-238.88	2,332.16
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		-137.58	-38.50	-99.08
		1,955.70	-277.38	2,233.08
Community Amenities Fund		196.60	68.22	128.38
Emergency Resilience Fund		24.96	0.00	24.96
Covid-19 Resilience Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2023		211.75	133.00	78.75
Gritting Fund		574.32	0.00	574.32
Cromarty Live Fund		46.01	0.00	46.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,071.39	64.51	1,006.88
Net C&DCC Reserves		4,080.73	-11.65	4,092.38
Community Event Funds				
Bonfire Night Fund	2,302.14		0.00	2,302.14
Gala Fund	2,677.70		0.00	2,677.70
Splash & Dash Fund	126.00	5,105.84	0.00	126.00
Open Gardens Fund	206.86		0.00	206.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06	408.92	0.00	202.06
Designated Community Funds				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00
Cromarty Rising Fund		513.42	0.00	513.42
		£11,458.91	-11.65	£11,470.56
** Subject to Audit				
Alan Plampton 21st April 2023				

CROMARTY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position (including Victoria Hall)
as at 31st March 2023

SUBJECT TO AUDIT

<u>31 March 2022</u>		<u>31 March 2023</u>
£		£
	ASSETS	
	Current Assets	
	Other Current Assets	
76.50	Council Accounts Receivable	221.70
1,650.00	Victoria Hall Accounts Receivable	979.25
<u>1,726.50</u>	Total Other Current Assets	1,200.95
	Cash at Bank and in hand	
15,113.72	Council BoS Current Account	13,536.75
409.81	Council Petty Cash	888.04
3,529.58	Hall BoS Current Account	2,917.27
134.97	Hall Petty Cash	112.66
12,988.70	Youth Work BoS Current Account and Cash	20,297.96
<u>32,176.78</u>	Total Cash at bank and in hand	37,752.68
£ <u>33,903.28</u>	Total Current Assets	£ 38,953.63
	LIABILITIES	
	Current Liabilities	
58.50	Council Accounts Payable	3,250.00
817.02	Victoria Hall Accounts Payable	577.91
£ <u>875.52</u>	Total Current Liabilities	£ 3,827.91
£ <u>33,027.76</u>	Total Current Assets less Current Liabilities	£ <u>35,125.72</u>
	Represented by -	
	Capital and Reserves	
2,270.05	Council Accumulated Fund	2,332.16
62.11	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(238.88)
<u>2,332.16</u>		2,093.28
0.00	Covid-19 Resilience Fund	0.00
4,256.74	Community Amenities Fund	196.60
682.32	Community Gritting Fund	574.32
78.75	Publications Reprinting Fund	211.75
69.96	Community Emergency Resilience Fund	24.96
207.28	Community Defibrillator Fund	1,071.39
100.01	Cromarty Live Fund	46.01
	Community Event Funds	
2,302.14	Bonfire Night Fund	2,302.14
126.00	Splash & Dash Fund	126.00
3,273.83	Community Gala Fund	2,677.70
202.06	Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06
6.86	Open Gardens Fund	6.86
	Designated Funds	
1,350.00	West Church Playgroup Fund	1,350.00
553.42	Cromarty Rising Fund	513.42
	Other Funds	
12,988.70	Youth Cafe Projects Fund	20,297.96
	Victoria Hall Fund	4,497.53
4,497.53	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(1,066.26)
£ <u>33,027.76</u>	Total Capital and Reserves	£ <u>35,125.72</u>

CROMARTY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Consolidated Statement of Financial Performance (including Victoria Hall)
for year ended 31st March 2023

SUBJECT TO AUDIT

<u>Year to 31st March 2022</u>		<u>Year to 31st March 2023</u>
<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>
	INCOME	
852.72	Total Community Council Income	672.82
7,404.00	Total Victoria Hall Income	9,847.25
<u>£ 8,256.72</u>	TOTAL CONSOLIDATED INCOME	<u>£ 10,520.07</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
777.51	Total Community Council Administration Costs	778.70
13.10	Total Council Other Costs	133.00
<u>£ 790.61</u>		<u>£ 911.70</u>
<u>12,921.31</u>	Total Victoria Hall Costs	<u>10,913.51</u>
<u>£ 12,921.31</u>		<u>£ 10,913.51</u>
<u>£ 13,711.92</u>	TOTAL CONSOLIDATED EXPENDITURE	<u>£ 11,825.21</u>
<u>£ (5,455.20)</u>	CONSOLIDATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>£ (1,305.14)</u>
	Analysed by -	
62.11	COMMUNITY COUNCIL	(238.88)
(5,517.31)	VICTORIA HALL	(1,066.26)
<u>£ (5,455.20)</u>		<u>£ (1,305.14)</u>

Independent Examiners Certificate

I hereby certify that the Financial Statements to the 31st March 2023 are an accurate summary of the underlying books and records of Cromarty & District Community Council.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name Margi Campbell, 6 Bank Street Cromarty IV11 8YE

CROMARTY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Detailed Statement of Financial Performance
for year ended 31st March 2023

<u>Year to 31st March 2022</u>	SUBJECT TO AUDIT	<u>Year to 31st March 2023</u>
	Income	
380.65	Publications	245.75
472.07	HC Admin Grant	427.07
0.00	Other Grants and Donations	0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous Income	0.00
<u>852.72</u>	Total Income	<u>672.82</u>
	Expenditure	
	Administration costs	
192.61	Insurance	193.91
29.95	Internet costs	21.60
25.00	Miscellaneous	72.69
0.00	Printing, Postage & Stationery	5.50
0.00	Repairs and Maintenance	0.00
494.95	Minute Secretarial Services	450.00
35.00	Subscriptions & Fees	35.00
<u>777.51</u>	Total Administration costs	<u>778.70</u>
13.10	Publications expenses	0.00
0.00	Publications Reprinting Fund Transfer	133.00
0.00	Gifts & Donations	0.00
<u>790.61</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>911.70</u>
<u><u>£62.11</u></u>	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	<u><u>£(238.88)</u></u>

Cromarty & District Community Council

Notes to Financial Statements and Performance at 31st March 2023

Debtors & Prepayments

Includes Debtor of £178.50 for Online Meeting Costs in Community Covid-19 Resilience Fund to be funded by HC Black Isle Ward Discretionary Fund plus prepayment of Internet costs.

Hall Rental Income Debtors & Prepays

March 2023 Hall Rental Invoices received after year end.

Accounts Payable

March Honorarium (£50) paid after year end, Primary School Project donation (£200) and received HC Funding (£3,000), both not yet paid out.

Net Hall Accounts Payable

2022/23 Hall Creditors and Provisions (See VH Financial Performance notes).

CROMARTY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
VICTORIA HALL
Detailed Statement of Financial Performance
for year ended 31st March 2023

SUBJECT TO AUDIT

Year to 31st March 2022		Year to 31st March 2023
<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>
	Income	
0.00	Donations & Gifts	0.00
500.00	Grants	500.00
5,104.00	Hall rental income	7,179.75
0.00	Interest Income	0.00
1,800.00	Office Rental	2,167.50
<u>7,404.00</u>	Total Income	<u>9,847.25</u>
	Expenditure	
	Office Expenditure	
0.00	Professional fees	0.00
0.00	Community Administration	0.00
108.71	Printing, Postage & Stationery	0.00
0.00	Sundry Petty Cash	0.00
21.60	Telecom & Internet	50.17
<u>130.31</u>	Total Office Expenditure	<u>50.17</u>
	Premises Expenditure	
544.00	Electricity	336.71
411.40	Insurance	104.81
1,613.86	Oil	2,804.27
6,539.86	Repairs and Maintenance	1,749.90
90.12	Supplies	22.31
1,204.00	Water charges	1,782.00
<u>10,403.24</u>	Total Premises Expenditure	<u>6,800.00</u>
	Staff Costs	
2,387.76	Salaries	4,063.34
<u>2,387.76</u>	Total Staff Costs	<u>4,063.34</u>
12,921.31	Total Expenditure	<u>10,913.51</u>
(5,517.31)	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(1,066.26)
<u>£(5,517.31)</u>	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	<u>£(1,066.26)</u>

CROMARTY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL VICTORIA HALL

Notes to Financial Statements at 31st March 2023

Telecom & Internet	Cost of BT charges funded by monthly YC standing Order. CR of £208.85 (cover 2 years) to be paid to W. Mackay to reimburse her mobile/email charges incurred on behalf of YC. CR provision (£100) for future Internet/Website costs. £43.20 DR represents one year of 3 year prepayment for domain registration.
Electricity	Smart Meter now fitted. Accurate costs reflected. Tariff to double from 1st April 2023.
Insurance	Previous provision for historic costs now being written back over 2 years, thereby reducing annual cost by £312.26 each year.
Water Charges	Large increase in charges for water used and disposed of. Two meters in Hall doubles the charge.
Salaries	End of Covid Furlough payments. 10.5% B/dated pay award honoured in line with HC Pay Scales reflecting MLW level paid for this post.

APPENDIX D
AGENDA ITEM 7
Victoria Hall Report

- 1. Bookings** Now quietening down as we enter the summer period. Discussion re the VH Financial Performance for last year will have taken place under Agenda Item No. 6. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 2. Repairs & Maintenance** No further updates since last meeting. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 3. Sheddie** Since the last meeting, it has been agreed with all parties, including the donors, that the snow sweeper will be auctioned off to provide funds for other Community needs. The roller door repair is outstanding. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 4. Youth Cafe** The monthly report is attached. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
21/04/23

APPENDIX E
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe

Cromarty Ferry.

- The Ferry Service is still closed for the winter season. Restart for the new season is scheduled for the 1st June.
- Paige is following up on the proposal for extending the Ferry Service, following discussions.

Dog Fouling. (Overall). Ongoing.

There are still instances, however, the green town bins are being used for disposal of the bags. We can but hope, watch and observe! [**Ongoing**]

Links & Links Events Diary / Beaches and Litter.

- Bookings have been successful to date, well managed by the users and without incident.
- Vehicular access to The Links still partially closed and locked, by Community and 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 marked off by permanent embedded wooden bollards, and large stones to stop parking and to let the grass, trees and wild flowers grow. Mainly donated by a local resident, (Fran Sadler); all flower seeds and plants gratefully received.

[Ongoing]

- The 2 Dog Waste Bins on the Links continue to be emptied, by Craig Fraser, by others, and myself. There have been no noticeable incidents. Photographic records kept.
- There is an old wooden bench, actually up on Braehead, that needs to be repaired or replaced. [Had various comments on Facebook but no positive action taken to date, and no action by others. Need to sort out ownership?]. Did not approach Avoch men’s shed yet. (Ongoing)

Litter.

- Highland Council have removed a number of bins. Town Bins continue to be being monitored and recorded. The Main Town bins continue to be emptied on Tuesdays, Commercial Bin Day. (No change – Ongoing)
- Highland Council have changed the type of bin in a number of cases to those with restricted opening. This will cause issues, as to the size of deposits. (e.g. Pizza Boxes) Survey to be updated. Email was sent to Highland Council Department on this and the number that were removed and was responded to. (Ongoing – to be actioned before “busy” season). Highland Council did not get increased “Visitor Management” Budget, but still have operative working, with transport, in Cromarty.
- The Bins which are most at issue (Due to takeaway food / motorhomes/ other rubbish?) are (No change):-
The Harbour Area.(reduced to 1 bin) / The Cinema Area. / The Toilets Bin / The Bins on Shore Street, in the vicinity of “Old Fish Store”. (Date stamped 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 by THC Operative.]
- Local volunteers, and some from out of town, continue to uplift litter and dump in the Town Bins. Cromarty Litter Pickers – some equipment has been distributed previously.
- Some small additional tools and equipment are stored in the Sheddie, to be distributed, and to be used by litter expeditions, such as local projects.

PoCF, Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport Proposal.

Nigg Liaison Meetings – Currently virtual Meetings, by Teams attended by Andy Thurgood, Kari Magee and self.

PoCF - Emails being received regarding next Community Meetings with PoCF.
Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – Opportunity Cromarty Firth are now Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport.
Recent meeting attended, excellent report, with screenshots, by Andy Thurgood.
Noise Complaints – handled by Andy Thurgood and Kari Magee.
Green Hydrogen Processing Plant – according to news comments, Twitter etc, planning and preparations continue. No further news.
Global Energy have planning application submitted for a new Cable Manufacturing Plant. The existing Tank Farm, that was used for the Beatrice Oli Field is proposed to be demolished.
There was no further information given on the proposed Green Hydrogen Processing Plant.

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

There has been reduced activity carried out by the team of gritters to date this winter. The gritter equipment has been cleaned and hung up in The Sheddie for the summer season. A further 5 no. grit bins had been supplied by Highland Council and were located around the town as required. The principle being for the members of the community to have access to grit for their use, to improve better Community Effort.

Survey done on most of the Grit Bins, but I missed the Nichol Terrace “hidden” one. The four grit bins in the old dairy area were not topped up by Community services, however the others were topped up and made ready for the next season. I did comment to THC on this, also sending thanks for the support to date.

There was a snow brushing machine/plough donated to the town by Simon and Jenny Gunn, however we did not have enough snowfall in order to try it out. Training was not carried out either. We must investigate laying up requirements for the summer. The thank you letter was not sent yet by myself, I was waiting to include photos of the machine in action, making it more appropriate? As Cromarty did not get sufficient snowfall the equipment has not been used yet.

The matter of selling the equipment was discussed at a previous C&DCC meeting. Following that I had a discussion with Mrs Jenny Gunn, who had no objection to C&DCC selling the equipment and using the monies raised for a Community Good Cause. This will be further discussed at the next C&DCC Meeting.

No information on the progress on the water supply for rinsing the units at the Sheddie? (Ongoing) (The gritters were taken to Allan Square for washing by self).

As the winter season is over, the gritters that were located in the Sheddie were washed, cleaned and hung up in the Sheddie for the Summer. Space is required for the Trikes to be stored for easy access, and usage over the summer.

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing.

Red Bins (6 No.) are being emptied on a regular basis both by some volunteers, and the Highland Council Operative, with 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, mainly by Craig Fraser. The Denny one is emptied. The Reeds Walk and Bowling Green Car Park ones are emptied, mainly by myself. (Sometimes advised as full by Jeremy Price) The Stroopie Roadie one is also emptied, and has been repaired by the THC Operative. There was no rota raised, the principle being that the bins which are nearby would be emptied. However, I will redo an email for transmission hopefully for volunteers?
Dog waste continues to be dumped in town bins, I do check, and it is reassuring that those concerned do this in most cases, rather than leave lying on the ground or around, except for the occasional time. Though I am sure that people rely on the bins (all types) being available. The industrial town bins are emptied on a Tuesday and all this waste goes to landfill.

John Nightingale Follow Ups.

Clearance works to the Daffodil Field area has since been carried out and recorded. The roadside areas have now been cut back and cleared. Lots of daffodil plants can now be seen. It was noted that there had been some fly-tipping on the field.

Additional Town Benches - no further approaches to self.

Sutor Car Park.

No changes recently.

Sutor Litter bin was being monitored by Nige (on his daily walks) and is being previously emptied by visiting THC Operative worker.

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

Gaelic Chapel. [No change – ongoing.]

Previous virtual Meeting had been 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 had been signs of the area being used and visited. (By Teenagers?) [No change].

Graveyards in General. No. 1,2,3,4. (No change – ongoing.)

Consideration to be given to vegetation clearing and review of work carried out by Highland Council. No recent check done. Winter season at an end so needs to be re-assessed. (No change.)

Consideration on Trees at Side of Road on The Denny.

Previously, the Trees on the Denny at the roadside have been commented on for safety reasons – issue needs to be reviewed and revisited.

A.O.C.B.

E.V. Charging points.

Project is being carried out by CCDT.

Cromarty Benches.

Survey needs to be updated.

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

Bus Stop Shelter on The Links. (No recent progress recorded)

There had been more damage done to the shelter, date stamped photos had been taken and are available.

An email was sent to Stagecoach, who responded. A site meeting was held with concerned personnel, Stagecoach/C&DCC (Self)/local contractor, with favourable response, Stagecoach Manager has confirmed to take on the Work, with Local Contractor (Colin Keith). Copies of emails were sent to concerned personnel.

Previous plan to relocate the shelter has been agreed in principle, with Stagecoach taking on the Project. Emails copied to personnel.

The Highland Council Planning Department (Erica McArthur) have advised that, as before, planning permission is required. With the action to be taken, with submittal by C&DCC, at last meeting the feeling was that approach be made to Stagecoach for them to bear the cost of the planning application. The cost to be reduced to £150.00 if application is made by C&DCC.

Mr. Flanagan of Stagecoach had confirmed by email that Stagecoach will cover the cost of the planning application fees.

Application has not yet been fully made for Planning Permission.

John Nightingale, as before, had agreed with the proposal with conditions, such as clarification regarding planning permission, and action on the re-siting of the bins. (No change.)

Mary Peteranna (Salmon Bothy owner) had offered to assist with arranging with the renovation of the local guide notice. I have asked about ownership of the existing notice, with no confirmation to date. Also, enquired what progress has been made on the replacement Cromarty sign for the Shore Road. (This could be included?) (No Change)

Cromarty Streets.

Mr. Colin Dunn had sent an email asking when the two missing cover plates, 1 at Allan Square/Denoon Place and 1 at The Denny are to be replaced by Highland Council. An email with photos was sent to THC Roads Department Manager for review and resolution. There has been no response as yet. Colin had used the THC Procedure with action number without success, but I did not. I have sent a follow up email.

Other Meetings. (Previously Reported On.)

None since the last C&DCC Meeting.

Attachments:-

None at this time.

APPENDIX F
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd

<u>Planning</u>	No new planning
<u>Middleton Trust</u>	The Middleton Trust held there 10-year anniversary in the hall last week. A fantastic event which showcased some of the beneficiaries of the Middleton Trust and the projects they have been working on. There was also entertainment provided by the young people. Well done to all involved.
<u>Road Surfaces</u>	Reminder to report any potholes to the Highland Council.
<u>BICC</u>	Alan and I attended the BICC meeting on Wednesday – we had 39 participants in the Local Place plan for Cromarty. The final consultations are taking place and details will be released soon.

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

1. **BICC** Paige and I attended the latest meeting, hosted by Killearnan CC. Attached is the Place Plan statistics from the drop-in events held to date. A further verbal report will be provided. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Housing** There are no official updates. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 21/04/23

APPENDIX H
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood

Black Isle Place Plan, Community Consultation, West Church Hall, 13/03/23

I attended the Place Plan consultation and provided feedback.

Port of Nigg, Global Energy Group and Mabbatt Community Liaison Meeting, Victoria Hall, 21/03/23

I engaged in discussions on the proposed cabling plant. Key points arising:

- The projections provided do not illustrate the evaluation of the new factory as viewed from Cromarty. I did ask representatives if any had bought a laptop that included this, but they haven't consolidated this as a published drawing. I requested that it was included for the next consultation, 25th April.
- I established that the height of the majority of the new factory is between 12-15m. The rear tower is significantly taller than this, to allow for the manufacturing process for the cable. I did ask if this process could be turned from a vertical to horizontal process to limit the visual impact - but apparently not.
- The factory is to have internal screening to limit noise. I made the point that a lot of the disturbance to Cromarty residents arises from low frequency noise and combination effects, rather than peak noise. I asked how this has been considered, and was told that this will be covered in the Environmental Impacts Assessment Report (EIAR), that has yet to be undertaken.
- Some residents have expressed concerns that the EIAR will be undertaken by Mabbat, part of the Global Energy Group. The concern is one of impartiality. Personally, I see no issue with who is appointed to undertake the EIAR, or whether it is undertaken by Global themselves. The critical element of EIAR is the competence of those undertaking it and those as a regulator who review and accept it.
- I have requested that the EIAR considers low frequency noise, and combination elements.
- Transfer of cable to ships will be enabled by underground tunnel under the road to the berthed vessel. Loading is envisaged to take 1-2 days for smaller vessels. By the nature of these vessels being newer than many servicing oil and gas, I made the point that on-shore power should be provisioned for these vessels as part of the development. I requested this as part of my feedback
- I asked what benefit the development brings to Cromarty community? The only identified benefit, was to the broader Highlands economy with the creation of 100 jobs and another foreseeable 100-200 jobs through supporting activities.

Highland Council Green Freeport Virtual Presentation, 22/03/23

(Peter Ratcliffe was also in attendance on behalf of CDCC). I distributed screenshots of the presentation to CDCC members, after the meeting – very much a general overview of things, and the first of what will be a number of stakeholder engagement sessions. The video to the event is to be made available shortly – as will responses to questions that weren't answered on the day. These should be accessible through: <https://greenfreeport.scot/events/>

Questions specifically on Cromarty included:

CLlr Lyndsey Johnston asking about noise issues, and asking about a year-round Cromarty ferry (neither were answered at the time).

I asked how Highland Council manages the conflict of interest as an Opportunity Cromarty Firth partner, and as a regulator, particularly with regards to noise in the Cromarty Firth (this wasn't answered at the time).

Another member of the community asked if a version of the successful bid document could be made public (this wasn't answered at the time).

Follow-up to Port of Cromarty Firth and Port of Nigg meeting, 23/02/23

I have emailed (24/03/23) Highland Council EHO, Clifford Smith, to chase a response to my question concerning the threshold limits for noise nuisance prosecution.

Andy Thurgood
24/03/23

APPENDIX I
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nigel Shapcott

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

The annual crane-in of finger pontoons and boats occurred as planned on 21st April 2023 in very good weather conditions. The harbour pontoons have been assembled for leisure craft using the harbour to be moored in the harbour.

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)

Cycling Without Age - Trishaws are up and running. CCP would like to move them to the Sheddie asap to start taking people out. Peter is requested to provide a date when they can be moved in.

Community Larder - still in use absolutely we are still accepting donations.

Grants:

Grants submitted to support the activities including: Lunch club, Playgroup, Monday morning Table Tennis, Film, Fourways, and a larger submission for a part time Development Officer to the Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund (ScotGov) has just been submitted and was successful at EOI level. The definitive grant is planned to be submitted by the deadline at the end of April.