



Cromarty and District Community Council
Approved minutes of meeting held on
Monday 29th May 2023, 730pm
Virtually via Whereby and in person at The Victoria Hall

Approved
Minutes
26/06/23

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: Matt Hall – CCDT Chairman.

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, AT 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, 24th April 2023

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by PR.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 24th April 2023

1. (4.1 – On hold – Waiting for more directions 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. Aware there has been more fly-tipping. **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 – can this be picked up by someone else as KM not being invited to meetings anymore. CF suspects it'll come under AT's portfolio. **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). Discharge as this is continuous and now picked up by AT in his portfolio.

8. (4.8 – Letter for local businesses to be emailed, will be hand delivered to 3). **Action – PS.**
9. (4.9 – Planning application submitted, await approval Fees to be paid (£150)). **Action – PR.**
- 10.(4.10 – On hold - finance needed from THC re. Reeds Loop maintenance, but enough in budget just now).
- 11.(4.11 – To follow up with Di re. Victoria Park fence repairs). **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 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.(4.19 – To discuss hedging options for The Victoria Park, plus speak to landowner/the community (packs to be ordered by August)). KM researched hedging packs and a discussion opened. See portfolio reports. **Discharged.**
- 20.(4.21 – Paige to contact Lyndsey at THC to clarify some points regarding housing qualification for social housing poster). **Action – PS.**
- 21.(4.22 – Continue to look into raising funds to replace gym equipment in The Victoria Park). **Action – AP.**
- 22.(4.23 – Await response from newsletter team re. POCF regular contribution). **Action – PS.**
- 23.(4.24 – Final discussions re. the website taking place with Alan and Andy). **Action – CF.**
- 24.(4.25 – To discuss action/how to approach THC re. reason for toilet closure/community options etc). **Action – ALL.**
- 25.(4.26 – To email John Nightingale re. hole at The Pirate’s Graveyard). Has now spoken to contact and she is happy to go to John N about this (on behalf of C&DCC)! To be done. **Action – KM.**
- 26.(4.27 – PS to speak to Di re. who is responsible for the sign at the bus shelter). Email to be sent. **Action – PS.**
27. (4.28 – Meeting with CDT to be arranged post AGM). In contact with new chair of CCDT (Matt) to arrange a suitable date. In the meeting this was also discussed and PS to attend their first meeting as a newly energized board. The goal is to keep the communication up between both community groups. **Discharged..**

- 28.(4.31 – To email JN re. the repairs required to The Ladies Walk). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 29.(4.32 – To arrange a meeting with Dougie re. Highland Ferries). Email sent – await response.
Action – PS.
- 30.(4.34 – Find out about rationale behind the decision to remove immunizations from GPs if possible). Think this is a lost cause, can't get an answer from anyone. Suspect it's due to funding/long wait times etc. **Discharged.**
- 31.(4.35 – Once spoken to KM about the above, construct response to Nairn CC). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
- 32.(4.37 – To discuss the re-wording of the sub-events committee group document). Ongoing.
Action – NS/AP.
- 33.(7.1 – To consider an annual increase to Hall rental charges). See VH report. **Discharged.**
- 34.(8.2.1 – To ask on Facebook if any residents have space to store snow sweeper for a few months). No response on Facebook so CF has offered storage space. To arrange pickup etc.
Discharged.
- 35.(8.2.2 – To mention on-shore power at next Nigg drop in consultation on Tuesday 25th April). Confirmed that on-shore power has been included as part of the consultation. **Discharged.**

5. Youth Issues

Dominic not present but no one aware there's anything to report.

PS expressed thanks to everyone. All members agree that Fraser's monthly youth café report needs more recognition – it doesn't get added to minutes, but is mentioned, is posted on website however. CF/AP to look at adding it as a link to the portfolio reports. **Action – CF/AP.**

NS advised the school bus broke down again this week and was advised that 'it happens all the time'. Matt Hall (chair of CCDT) spoke (as he was heavily involved in the issues with the school bus contract in the past) and advised that now it's not a public service it is much better, and as far as he's aware it has only broken down once.

No further comments.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

Donation received towards the open gardens from Global Energy.

Costs this month include the replacement of 2 defibrillator pads outside The Fishertown Inn.

There were no further comments or questions.

7. Victoria Hall (VH) Report including Youth Café

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

The Victoria Hall

Feasibility study is underway for The Victoria Hall. There is an insulation expert coming out to inspect the building and there will be a repairs and maintenance report prepared by the end of June 2023.

The Youth Café

AP had a meeting with POCF re. community benefit.

They are likely to be contributing £1k in sponsorship towards the summer programme. Once that is over, there will be an application submitted for a further £5k.

It's important to note that this money was not generated from The Freeport. The contact worked with Wanda at Highlife Highland and was very surprised we'd not received anything before now.

Application form will be shared by AP (no reason why other community organisations can't benefit also). **Action - AP.**

All members agree that it would be great to create apprenticeship opportunities plus be able to cover travel expenses etc.

AP finished the discussion by advising he'd pressed the issue re. the Freeport business plan and asked why there was a continuous delay setting up open days/roadshows etc. Advised dates of these will be released soon (allowed to remain confidential until it's approved by Holyrood).

Further comments:

Black Isle Place Plan – an open meeting for all on Saturday (in Culbokie in the am, Fortrose in the pm).

CF to get back to AP re. storage for The Snow Sweeper. **Action – CF.**

NS offered to help AP fix the door to the Sheddy.

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolios

Portfolio Reports prepared by PR, PS, AT, NS and KM (**Appendix D-H**) were circulated prior to the meeting.

Peter:

Application has been made in relation to moving the bus shelter, and funding is to be received to cover the costs.

Kari:

Quote to repair the little bridge at the 100 Steps is to be received (has been in touch with Donald Maclennan).

Hedging options (discussion):

C&DCC need to make a decision on what to order (must be done by August). We must also speak to community.

Many pros and cons but a big risk we need to consider = vandalism.

What happens whilst the hedge is establishing? KM advised fence that's there will stay up and can still seek a contractor to repair/replace this.

AP suggests KM speaks to Cromarty resident who worked in forestry for a long time, and see if he can offer us any advice. **Action – KM.**

Thanks were expressed to KM for the work done to the steps at HM monument. KM to discuss with AP where shouldn't be mowed and she will put some stakes in to prevent THC from doing so. Notices are to go up telling THC not to do it again (particularly using weed killer). THC are aware we're not happy about this. **Action – KM.**

All members agree that the graveyard is atrocious, a solution needs to be sought and the contractors that are used by THC to 'maintain' the grounds, don't care how it's done, or its sentiment etc.

PS would like to continue this discussion as she's been in touch with all 3 Highland Councillors and as 2 aren't present It should be continued at next meeting. **Action - PS**

Andy:

Advised that more noise complaints were received this month.

There were no further comments or questions on any portfolio.

8.2 The Highland Council

Lyndsey reported:

- Black Isle Area Committee meeting had to be cancelled due to unavailability between all three of the councillors.
- There have been loads of improvements to the roads. THC is however too late to order the top layer of protection so although they've been repaired/resurfaced they are now to be exposed to the winter conditions without being fully sealed.
- Aware that the North Kessock toilets are being reopened after a recent round of vandalism by travellers. Also advised The Avoch Harbour Trust are giving up the running of the Avoch public toilets. If ownership is passed back to THC then LJ confirmed they will be closed.
- Recruitment levels for Fortrose fire station are low
- Di Agnew is retiring (officially) on 31st July 2023 – all agree this is a huge loss to the area.
- Seagull nest that was reported in Avoch has been removed so there should be no more attacks to children (or other passers by).

- Has received no update to her queries re. a full time ferry – still chasing.

There were no further comments and LJ was thanked for everything.
All members passed on their well wishes to Morven-May.

8.3 Correspondence Received

Nothing to note.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Cromarty Community Development Trust Ltd

Matt Hall (Chair) spoke on behalf of CCDT:

A new re-energised board was established post AGM on 4 May. They are all going to under-go training on 12 June!

Discussion commenced re. caravan park (and asking advice as to parking byelaws etc). AP and PS updated MH on previous communications re. applying for parking orders in particular areas (but who will enforce these?) & putting up signs instead. MH thinks this might be best option.

Would like CCDT & C&DCC to work together to deliver a community plan. To be discussed in a meeting at a later date (once Julie has more capacity/once caravan park is open).

CCDT don't seem to be involved in the Black Isle Place Plan, which should change, AP to send details to MH. **Action – AP.**

Everyone agreed there needs to be a mechanism that enables us to regularly meet (at both sides). MH invited us to attend their meetings, which are held the first Monday of the month at 6pm. PS to attend first one. **Action – PS.**

Cromarty Harbour Trust

Looking for support from C&DCC that will enable them to apply for further funding. Have received an email outlining the wording of the document required. All members approved wording and are willing to support The Harbour Trust. PS to send email on behalf of C&DCC. **Action – PS.**

Minute secretary note – Nige left the meeting before the next discussion took place

Cromarty Links

Was a recent incident involving an external trader who had been invited to Cromarty so that some of the residents could use/pay for it's facilities! Has now raised an issue in that other residents/traders are wondering if they can also trade on the Links.

We need to decide on behalf of the community how this is dealt with. The current agreement with the landowner (John Nightingale) is that we are allowed full use of the links for 28 days a year for community events (i.e. non-profit making).

We would have to propose to him should the use of the links become 'not for profit' and are concerned that as soon as there is money being exchanged this would cause a problem.

We need to discuss this further but all agree we're keen to not involve the landowner.

Would need to see how much spare capacity there is with our current usage of the links, and then we can decide the next steps. **Action – PR.**

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 26th June 2023 at 730pm.

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 2131pm.

APPENDIX A

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** reflects Meeting Whereby costs yet to be funded and Internet costs paid in advance. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**
2. **CROMARTY FUNDS** reflect replacement defibrillator pads for Fishertown Inn unit, strimming of Reeds Path Loop and Global Energy donation to Open Gardens. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
27/04/23

APPENDIX B
Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

| Statement of Financial Position at 27th May 2023 | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> |
| Net Assets | | | <u>Movement</u> | <u>at 21/04/23</u> |
| Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 27th May 2023 | | 12,016.13 | 778.92 | 11,237.21 |
| Paypal Balance as at 27th May 2023 | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance | | 247.20 | 17.00 | 230.20 |
| Amounts Payable | | 0.00 | 8.50 | -8.50 |
| Total Net Assets at 27th May 2023 | | £12,263.33 | 804.42 | £11,458.91 |
| | | | | |
| | | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> |
| Represented by: | | | | |
| C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2023 | | 2,093.28 | 0.00 | 2,093.28 |
| Surplus/Deficit for the year to date | | -243.16 | -105.58 | -137.58 |
| | | 1,850.12 | -105.58 | 1,955.70 |
| Community Amenities Fund | | 161.60 | -35.00 | 196.60 |
| 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 | 0.00 | 211.75 |
| Gritting Fund | | 574.32 | 0.00 | 574.32 |
| Cromarty Live Fund | | 46.01 | 0.00 | 46.01 |
| Community Defibrillator Fund | | 1,016.39 | -55.00 | 1,071.39 |
| Net C&DCC Reserves | | 3,885.15 | -195.58 | 4,080.73 |
| 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 | 1,206.86 | | 1,000.00 | 206.86 |
| Gluren bij de Buren Fund | 202.06 | 1,408.92 | 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 |
| | | | | |
| | | £12,263.33 | 804.42 | £11,458.91 |
| | | | | |
| Alan Plampton 27th May 2023 | | | | |

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** Following discussion at the last meeting, it is proposed that Rental Charges are reviewed each and every 1st September to keep pace with rising costs and avoid steep increases on a less regular basis. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance** No further updates since last meeting.
ACTION – Information only, no action required
3. **Youth Cafe** The monthly report is attached.
ACTION – Information only, no action required

Alan Plampton - VHMC
27/05/23

**APPENDIX D
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe**

This Report is a Combination of Historical (Past History) and as an Update.

Cromarty Ferry.

- The Ferry Service is still closed for the winter season. Restart for the new season is scheduled for the 1st June. (No change)
- 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) in the summer, with take away foodstuffs, Survey of the bins 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.(currently 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 had been distributed previously.
- Some small additional tools and equipment was 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. Public Meetings were held and attended.

The existing Tank Farm, that was used for the Beatrice Oli Field, is proposed to be demolished. Await confirmation of action, but not expected to affect Cromarty.

There has been no further information given on the proposed Green Hydrogen Processing Plant, e.g. how will the processed hydrogen be transported to the proposed processing plant, pipeline or tanker?

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

There was reduced activity carried out by the team of gritters to date during the past 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 had previously commented 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? 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 was 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 previously taken to Allan Square for washing by self).

A new location is still required for the snow brusher, it is still located in The Sheddie. (For further discussion.)

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, following email traffic, the principle being that the bins which are nearby would be emptied. However, I will redo an email for transmission hopefully for volunteers? (Not yet done).

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. This item is now to be removed from the "Action points".

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.)

I have seen recent comments and emails about the Cromarty Graveyard "Meadows", in which I was not involved.

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.

Current:-

Planning application has been submitted for the required planning permission, but the fee is not yet paid for.

History –

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

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.

I will need to follow this up with preferably co-ordinates. But we are looking for confirmation that they would be replaced/fixed.

There has been emails referencing and complaining about the use of weedkiller on certain areas in the town, e.g. at bench bases, partition posts.

Further emails regarding the grass cutting at the graveyard areas.

Other Meetings. (Previously Reported On.)




None since the last C&DCC Meeting.

“Sea the Value” – presentation made by Zoom. More meetings in June, at Public Meeting in Dingwall, C&DCC Representatives to be agreed.

Attachments:-

None at this time.

**APPENDIX E
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd**

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| <p><u>Planning</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Increase height of previous extension roof. Internal alterations including formation of opening in gable wall. Replace windows & external door, install air-source heat pump</u>  <p>The Cobbles 50 Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA Ref. No: 23/02055/LBC Received: Tue 25 Apr 2023 Validated: Tue 25 Apr 2023 Status: Under Consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Increase height of previous extension roof. Internal alterations including formation of opening in gable wall. Replace windows & external door, install air-source heat pump</u>  <p>The Cobbles 50 Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA Ref. No: 23/02054/FUL Received: Tue 25 Apr 2023 Validated: Tue 25 Apr 2023 Status: Under Consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Undertake repair and maintenance</u>  <p>North Pier Cromarty Harbour George Street Cromarty Ref. No: 23/01979/LBC Received: Thu 20 Apr 2023 Validated: Wed 26 Apr 2023 Status: Under Consideration</p> |
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APPENDIX F
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood

Meetings Attended

I attended the **Sea the Value Workshop 0 (Marine Biodiversity for a Sustainable Society)**, virtually on 16th May. (PR had attended the previous afternoon.). The session was the first step for a case study of the Cromarty Firth, to map the benefits of the “Natural Capital”. This is the second of two case studies being undertaken, as part of a three year project (the other being the Solent).

Mapping these benefits will enable the research project to establish a baseline. Professor Tavis Potts, Dean for Environmental Sustainability at University of Aberdeen, delivered the presentation supported by Dr Daryl Burden (an independent researcher), Vicki Paxton of the Moray Firth Coastal Partnership, and Jeremy Anblethyn-Evan, a research Fellow at University of Aberdeen. This Independent Research Group.

There will be three face-to-face workshops to follow, but these will need to be restricted due to numbers; they suggest 30 maximum attendees. CDCC have requested 1 attendee for the first meeting at Dingwall in June. Future workshops are planned as follows:

Workshop 1 – Mapping the Benefits, Dingwall 22 June 2023

Workshop 2 – Broader Benefits, 25/26 October 2024

Workshop 3 – How the benefits are distributed, 19/20 February 2024

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. There has still been no response to this.

I am aware that THC EHOs Clifford Smith and Chris Ratter were due to meet with Port of Nigg on Wednesday 26th May.

Noise Complaints in the Firth

Still no response from EHO Clifford Smith confirming the details of complaints last month have been recorded (17/4/23).

Seabed pile removal works were undertaken at Port of Nigg on a 24/7 basis. The Community raised questions around these works, specifically on licensing; I wrote to Rory Gunn, who provided a timely reply, that I forwarded to the enquirer.

Complaints raised from the Community this month on 16th May and 18th May for noise at PON; Rory Gunn did notify POCF, THC and CDCC of these occurrences. On the back of the latter, I did write to Rory asking to be informed of the results of any investigation but have not received any further correspondence.

I have been made aware that YHC EHOs Clifford Smith and Chris Ratter made a visit to PON on 24th May.

Andy Thurgood
27/05/23

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nigel Shapcott

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

The Harbour is now filling up with leisure and commercial craft. A letter of support for further funding applications is requested from the C&DCC.

Reeds Loop Path

The path was mowed at the end of April and looked really good with a fair bit of use informally reported. During “NO MOW MAY” it has not been mowed but is scheduled to be maintained in early June..

Cromarty Care Project (CCP)

1. Seagull Trust Cruises - During the summer months, the Seagull Trust operate a specially-adapted boat for people with special needs to cruise part of the Caledonian Canal. We will co-ordinate and provide transport to and from Inverness.
2. Slow Cooker Update - Currently awaiting delivery of slow cookers to deliver to 11 further households (total of 46 will have been distributed).
3. Trikes - Cycling Without Age has been shortlisted for Scottish Charity of the Year Award. Trikes are available for trips around Cromarty - we welcome requests from passengers and want to encourage potential pilots to apply. Lovely wee film produced by Eden Court now available to view on our website. It is becoming urgent to move at least one Trike to the Sheddie as CCP would like to move them to the Sheddie asap to start taking people out. Peter/Alan requested to provide a date when one or both can be moved in.
4. At West Church Hall, Table Tennis continues on a Monday morning and Playgroup continues on a Tuesday morning.
5. Callout for Carers - Need for more local carers - please consider even if only for a few hours per week.
6. Thank You! - We appreciate the kindness and compassion of our donors, whether one-off or regular giving (recently a holidaying couple donated £50 for the Larder). Donations can be made on our website. Reminder about Gift Aid.

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 was submitted by the deadline at the end of April and th award notification is due 5th - 7th July

APPENDIX H
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Kari Magee

The Woodland Trust Tree Packs

1. **Background.** The wire fence around Victoria Park requires maintenance. It has been discussed that one way of replacing the wire fence, supporting efforts to reach the carbon-net zero targets and encourage safe pathways for nature might be to plant a hedge.

2. **The Woodland Trust (Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust).** The Woodland Trust can provide free tree packs upon application. The current application window closes in August 2023 for delivery in November 2023. The community need to be involved and agree to the planting of the hedge so engagement now will be key.

3. **The Hedge Pack.** The hedge pack appears to be the best option, although the hazel trees will need to be removed from the pack to ensure that children with nut allergies can continue to play safely in the park. It is not possible to request changes to the set packs but the trees could be planted elsewhere in Cromarty or the surrounding area.

4. We would get a variety of each species for 8 metres of full, easy to manage hedging and we can request up to 4 packs per application.

- Trees: 30
- Species: dog rose, hawthorn, hazel, crab apple, dogwood
- Size of land: 6-8 metres of double-row hedging

5. **Planting.** The Woodland Trust estimates that one adult could plant up to 15-20 trees an hour and a child up to 2-3 trees an hour.

6. **Maintenance.** The commitment to maintenance in the short-term could be high to ensure that the hedge establishes itself well; eg. frequent watering. It could also be up to 4-5 years before the hedge is fully established and will require regular pruning throughout this period. However, after this period the commitment to maintenance would likely reduce; eg. pruning every 1-2 years.

7. **Risks.** If the community were to approve the planting of the hedge, there are some risks to consider. This list is not exhaustive and comments are welcome.

| Risk | Mitigation | Comment |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Hedge is damaged during mowing | Tree guards | Tree Protection & Shelters Green-tech Tubex Eco Wrap - Tree Hedge Shelter Guards Green-tech |
| Hedge is damaged by balls | Stakes | |
| Some parts of the hedge fail | Further application for hedging packs | |

