



Cromarty and District Community Council
Approved minutes of meeting held on
Tuesday 31st October 2023, 730pm
Virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at The Victoria Hall

Present

Community Councillors: Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chairwoman, Alan Plampton (AP) – Treasurer, Andy Thurgood (AT) – Vice Chair, and Nigel Shapcott (NS).

Youth Member:

Highland Councillor(s): Sarah Atkin (SA)

Member(s) of the public: David Stewart – Cromarty Community Development Trust (CCDT)

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser (CF)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from Dominic Scott-Lodge

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

CF attended online via Microsoft Teams.

9. Any Other Business (brought forward by Chairwoman)

9.1 Cromarty Community Development Trust

Everyone welcomed David to the meeting. Conversation started and he opened his report from Cromarty Community Development Trust with the topic of housing.

Has arranged an online meeting with the new project manager Albyn. Has been advised that they are looking to purchase a small piece of land (same site as before). The lawyers are looking into the ownership. David advised his background is in affordable housing.

AP mentioned he saw the latest news re. The Townlands Barn in the newsletter. Is pleased that the Trust are looking into utilising this building again for access to the housing site.

David advised he will get back in touch once he hears back from Albyn. He then asked for any questions.

The East Church (TECH) – members advised that we have gained access to TECH and are in discussion with THC/Highlife Highland as to reopening the hall. Everyone is conscious that it has been closed from sometime now and are keen for C&DCC to put a proposal forward.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points – members asked where the trust is with this and is there anything we can do to help move this along? NS advised he's aware that 'podpoint' were interested in installation of the chargers when he was secretary, and that THC advised him Cromarty were going to be included in the next round of chargers. SA did advise there is a new scheme available now via THC. David advised he will raise this at the next CCDT meeting.

Nothing else to report. PS asked when the next meeting is (9th November 2023) and advised she will try and get along. David left the meeting at 19.51pm.

2. **Declarations of interest**

No changes to declarations since meeting of 26th October 2020

3. **Approval of previous minutes, 25th September 2023**

The minutes were approved by AT and seconded by AP

4. **Matters Arising from previous minutes, 25th September 2023**

1. (4.1 – On hold – Waiting for more directions re. TMP in 2025.) **On hold.**
2. (4.2 – To speak to Wanda re. involving the kids in the redesign of the Welcome to Cromarty Sign). Paige to attend YC and speak to Wanda. **Action – PS.**
3. (4.3 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC (more recent reports)). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
4. (4.4 – To discuss action required re. progressing level-crossing system @ Reeds Loop (see May 2022 minutes for full info). Ongoing. **Action – PS/KM.**
5. (4.5 – Awaiting guidance from TSG re. Green Freeport proposals). Discussed elsewhere so to be discharged. **DISCHARGED.**
6. (4.6 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
7. (4.8 – To apply for re-imburement by Stagecoach for planning application). PR chasing Stagecoach but AP can confirm when received. **Action – AP.**
8. (4.9 – Mgmt. of the HMR has been transferred to Library Services but still waiting reports re. major maintenance issue). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
9. (4.10 – Funding needed so emergency refresher resilience training can go ahead to ensure can keep TVH as an emergency resilience centre). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
10. (4.11 – KM to follow up the youth mentoring programme with Dom post exams). **Action – KM**
11. (4.12 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church (from Craig)). **DISCHARGED** – will be Picked up again re. TECH.
12. (4.13 – Reeds Loop Weed Burning to be completed once more funding sought). Further action point as further funding to be applied for. **DISCHARGED.**
13. (4.14 – Paige to contact Lyndsey at THC to clarify some points regarding housing qualification for social housing poster). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
14. (4.15 – Community Regeneration Funding to be applied for in relation to replacing gym equipment in The Victoria Park). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**

15. (4.16 – Final discussions re. the website taking place with Alan and Andy). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
16. (4.17 – To discuss action/how to approach THC re. the reason for toilet closure/community options etc). Running ok via THC so no further action. **DISCHARGED.**
17. (4.18 – Draft email to be approved by PS to John Nightingale about hole at Pirates Graveyard). PS to follow this up with Kari as no email received. **Action – KM.**
18. (4.19 – PS to ask new ward manager who is responsible for the sign at the bus shelter). Response not received – to be chased. **Action – PS.**
19. (4.20 – To email JN re. the repairs required to The Ladies Walk). To link this into repairs re. The Reeds Loop as both are core Highland Council paths. SA advised Phil Waite is the man at THC for this. To arrange a phonecall with NS/SA & PW. **Action – SA/NS.**
20. (4.21 – Emailed Dougie @ Highland Ferries to arrange a meeting). PS to ask Dougie to attend November meeting to discuss options for ferry operations. **Action – PS.**
21. (4.22 - To speak to Denis (resident) re. Hedge options to see if he can offer advice on what we should order for the park). Ongoing. **Action – KM**
22. (4.23 – To discuss with AP where shouldn't be mowed at The Hugh Miller Monument so stakes can go in, and posters put up to stop THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM**
23. (4.24 – To continue to discuss with all three councilors re. The use of weed killer in the town, plus the 'maintenance' of the graveyards). Ongoing. **Action – PS**
24. (4.25 - Booking calendar sent out. Bookings made on application. Traders on Links for further discussion). Traders were discussed and confirmed it shouldn't be allowed. **DISCHARGED.**
25. (4.29 – To monitor the use of software for blended meetings to see whether Teams is the best communication method going forward). Sarah looking into a shared subscription that can be made available to all Community Councils. PS and AP will take this to BICC. **Ongoing. Action – ALL.**
26. (4.32 – To discuss at a later date the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). **Action - ALL.**
27. (7.1.2 – To speak to PR re. remaining in charge of the gritting & litter portfolios). As per PRs emails to C&DCC he cannot commit to this so we need to find someone else urgently. **DISCHARGED.**
28. (7.1.4 – To forward correspondence to Sarah re. rates being owed for TVH). **DISCHARGED.**
29. (8.1.1 - To apply for £300 from Ward Discretionary Funding for the Reeds Loops so maintenance can continue). **Action – AP.**
30. (8.1.2 – To speak to PR re. the bench at Braehead). Money available via Cromarty Care Profit so this project to go ahead (not sure on owner of bench). **Action - NS**
31. (8.1.3 – To send round document re. Aberdeen Shore Power to members). **DISCHARGED.**

32. (8.1.3 – To speak to Paul at The Lighthouse re. continuous noise monitoring). Done – Andy following up with Paul and Fraser. **DISCHARGED.**
33. (8.1.4 – To speak to CCDT to confirm if they do have plans to carry out EVC project or if C&DCC should look into it again). Was brought up at tonight's meeting with CCDT (to hear back from them). **Action – PS.**
34. (8.1.4 – To give Nige number to call so he can get his electoral role number). **DISCHARGED.**
35. (8.1.4 – To arrange access to keys to TECH so C&DCC can arrange access and discuss taking on this project for the community. **DISCHARGED.**
36. (8.3 – To publish information sent from PoCF on our noticeboard). **DISCHARGED.**
37. (9.1 – To speak to Cromarty Fire Service re. the reasons behind not being able to attend campervan fire in Cromarty). Lack of training. **DISCHARGED.**
38. (9.1 - To speak to Avoch fire fighter re. the reasoning to gain a better understanding of the reasoning – also to see what can be done/if there's a way around this). As above – confirmed it's due to training. All members agreed something needs to be done about this. **DISCHARGED.**
39. (9.3 – Public meeting to be held re. parking byelaws around Cromarty). **Action – ALL.**

5. Youth Issues

No issues as far as we are aware.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

Opened to AP for discussion, welcomed any questions, as nothing else to report.

There were no comments or questions.

7. Victoria Hall (VH) Report including Youth Café

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

PS handed over to AP for comments/discussion.

The Victoria Hall

Booking Fees:

Review of fees will go ahead in January 2024. By this point there will be a new boiler installed plus a full year of higher electricity costs. With the addition of regular membership it will be easier to evaluate the position.

Rates:

Good news re. the rates dilemma from September minutes. THC have confirmed there's nothing to pay.

Insulation:

To chase up meeting with insulation surveyor now that C&DCC has reformed. **Action – AP.**

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolios

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

Now that Peter Ratcliffe is no longer a standing member of the Cromarty & District Community Council there are gaps in our portfolio list. The members went through the list and items were delegated.

A few spaces still need to be filled (some more urgently than others).

Dog fouling - PS to speak to Craig see if we can recruit his help. All members agree we should target someone who has a dog. **Action – PS.**

Tourism – See if Jon Palmer will agree to be on board. PS to speak to KM to see if she'd also be willing to be involved. **Action – PS.**

Gritting & maintenance – PS and NS to speak to a couple of residents to see if they'd be willing to be involved (one of whom is directly connected to one of the youth team involved with the gritting already). **Action – PS/NS.**

An updated portfolio list is attached to the minutes (**Appendix I**).

Nige:

Eilean Dubh Home Care – there is an urgent need for home carers just now. Urgent December deadline.

AP advised that Kari has taken this on and is chasing it up/attending meetings on our behalf (she's also heavily involved through her work).

SA advised NHS are attending THC ward meeting on Monday – AP to speak to Gillian McNaught to see if she will speak to SA beforehand. **Action – AP.**

Flooding/Seaweed Debris – NS mentioned the collection of the seaweed and the flies that are multiplying! AP advised KM is going to arrange a community collection and has also offered to do sandbag training for flood prevention. KM is to email Les at THC and SA should be copied in. PS advised that she was directed to a Laura at THC re. the request for additional sandbags. **Action – KM.**

8.2 The Highland Council

Sarah reported:

- Aware of the home care crisis and confirms that childcare is also in crisis too. Finds it bizarre that £000's were spent on nursery's joining them to schools but they aren't open during working hours or school holidays. 30 hours free childcare doesn't seem ideal with regards to working parents.
- Has a lot of confidence in the new CEO – £100billion to be saved over the next three years via a 're-generation fund'. This should include less outsourcing of work to try and cut costs.
- SA speaking to Nick Thornton (THC EHO) on Thursday.
- SA also meeting with Tim Morris – Head Of Corporate Affairs for the Association of British Ports/CEO of UK major ports group. Invited AT along too (9th November 2023, Eden Court). If AT can't attend SA advised she'd arrange another meet up (potentially community wide). AT to advise if he can attend. **Action – AT.**
- Asked PS to prepare a cost sheet for all video messaging apps/options so that she can share at the BICC meeting with the hope that a shared subscription can be sought. [already an action point]

There were no further comments and SA was thanked for everything. SA left the meeting after this discussion at 2107pm.

8.3 Correspondence Received

CF to forward emails to SA received from Craig Fraser (Ex-councillor) re. The Ladies Walk/The PAYE drainage/flooding etc. **Action – CF/SA.**

Minute Secretary note - SA now left the meeting to avoid any conflict of interest over the Planning issues we go on to discuss.

9. Any Other Business (continued)

9.2 Consultation – application for Niag Cabling Plant

Discussion opened between members.

Are we commenting on just one topic, or do we need to look at the application in full & make comments on all areas we're concerned with. All members agreed this would take some amount of time, and application has to be in by 9th November 2023. Agreed that we need to deal with the specifics only and make a reasonable argument. We don't want them to exclude us from any further discussion. AP to send planning emails to AT and all members agree AT to take lead on the response. AT is to draft a response to the application on behalf of C&DCC. **Action – AT.**

We will also email the planning committee our response ahead of their planning meeting so there's time to digest the information.

There were no further comments or questions.

10. **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting – Monday 27th November 2023 at 730pm (although this may change as members have other commitments).

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 2127pm.

APPENDIX A

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** reflects Internet costs paid in advance plus the £150 planning fee STILL to be repaid by Stagecoach. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **AMOUNTS PAYABLE** reflects £4.50 p&p costs to be repaid from our Paypal account for a publications sales overpayment, by an overseas customer, and £200 that is to be used on a Primary School project. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND** reflects public donations received from the collection tin at the Bakery less replacement pads for the Fire Station unit. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **OPEN GARDENS FUND** The historic £6.86 balance to the ‘Group’ involved with running the Open Gardens event, has been returned for their usage. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
5. **TODDLERS PLAYGROUP FUND** reflects a payment for their first Victoria Hall hire. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
6. **CROMARTY RISING FUND** reflects donations received from the General Public. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

APPENDIX B

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

Statement of Financial Position at 29th October 2023				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			Movement	at 24/09/23
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 29th October 2023		11,265.63	156.23	11,109.40
Paypal Balance as at 29th October 2023		4.50	0.00	4.50
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		193.20	0.00	193.20
Amounts Payable		-204.50	0.00	-204.50
Total Net Assets at 29th October 2023		£11,258.83	156.23	£11,102.60
		£	£	£
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		-199.57	-50.00	-149.57
		1,893.71	-50.00	1,943.71
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2023		211.75	0.00	211.75
C&DCC Amenity & Event Funds	£			
Community Amenities Fund	28.95		0.00	28.95
Bonfire Night Fund	2,302.14		0.00	2,302.14
Gala Fund	2,645.70		0.00	2,645.70
Splash & Dash Fund	126.00	5,102.79	0.00	126.00
Gritting Fund		574.32	0.00	574.32
Cromarty Live Fund		46.01	0.00	46.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,014.98	-1.41	1,016.39
Net C&DCC Reserves		8,843.56	-51.41	8,894.97
Designated Community Funds				
Open Gardens Fund		0.00	-6.86	6.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund		202.06	0.00	202.06
Toddler Playgroup Fund (prev West Church)		1,369.79	-115.50	1,485.29
Cromarty Rising Fund		843.42	330.00	513.42
		£11,258.83	156.23	£11,102.60
Alan Plampton 29th October 2023				

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** - Winter bookings are in full swing. The Booking Fees review planned for 1st September, and delayed to 1st October, will now take place for implementation from 1st January 2024. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance** - Repairs to the Oil Boiler have been successful (so far!!). The recent storms have not had any major impact on the Hall. The planned visit from an Energy Insulation specialist is still outstanding, but should happen before Christmas, so we can complete our feasibility study of the Hall's energy performance and sustainability. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Non Domestic Rates** - It is very good news to report that we have been successful in obtaining 100% Discretionary Relief, despite the previously reported issues caused by the RV revaluations. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Youth Café** - The monthly report is attached. As always there has been much going on and we soon hope to be able to confirm extensions, to 31st March 2025, for both Youth Worker contracts. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

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 continues with Summer Service on a shuttling basis. There are adjustments according to bad and inclement weather, this is duly warned in advance where possible, usually using social media. [This Ferry Service is very successful, well appreciated and is well used by holidaymakers, with many choosing their route based on using the Ferry Service. Google Maps also uses the Cromarty to Nigg ferry service on its mapping system. (OLD)]
Contact. Douglas Robertson – Highland Ferries – highlandferries@gmail.com
Mobile No. 0746 8417137

Dog Fouling. (Overall). Ongoing.

There are still instances, as can be seen. 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.
- The last booking was for the Cromarty Rowing Club on September 22nd to 24th.
- Vehicular access to The Links still partially closed and locked, by Community and C&DCC decision.
- 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 – and looking good**]
- 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 were 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. **(Nigel Shapcott has now taken this on I understand?)**

Litter.

- Highland Council had 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 contact is Les Ross, Supervisor, Waste Department, les.ross@highland.gov.uk Mobile number not available.
- I had passed on a copy of my last survey on the Town Bins in town to Les.
- Sutor Creek management continued to arrange for a number of bins in the harbour area to be “topped off” to reduce the level of debris, such as pizza boxes, in the Town Bins.
- Highland Council had changed the type of Town Bin in a number of cases to those with restricted opening. This is causing issues, as to the size of deposits. (e.g. Pizza Boxes) , with take away foodstuffs, Survey of the bins was updated. .
- The Bins which are most at issue (Due to takeaway food / motorhomes/ other rubbish?) are (No change):
 - The Harbour Area (currently reduced to 2 bins)
 - 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 this was previously emptied by THC (Highland Council) Operative. Which would depend on the available THC budget]

- 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). (Old News)
- 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. (Old News)

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. (No Change.)

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 at the Nigg Site. Public Meetings were held and attended. No decision on their planning application is as yet available. (No change)

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, by pipeline or tanker? If by tanker it raises the question of increased shipping traffic past Cromarty. (Old News)

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

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. (This should continue next Winter.)

An updated Survey is required to be done on the Grit Bins, with an updated map. (There is no change to the number and locations of the existing bins.)

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).

Highland Council contact is Laura MacAllister, Senior Roads Manager,

Laura.MacAllister@highland.gov.uk, copied to communityservices.rossandcromarty@highland.gov.uk

– no named contact.

The Procedure for Community Winter Assistance is on the Highland Council Website.

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing.

Red Bins (6 No.) are being emptied on a regular basis both by some volunteers, 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 were emptied, mainly by myself (sometimes advised as full by Jeremy Price).

Due to the recent storms this bin is not now at the same location and will need to be relocated **TO BE DONE.**

The Stroopie Roadie one is also emptied.

There was no rota raised, following email traffic, the principle being that the dog bins which are nearby would be emptied to the nearest Town Bin.

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 also goes to landfill.

As a result of the recent storms and high seas, the red bin that was previously located on the Reeds Path is located on the hard standing that is on Shore Street, between Big Vennel and Little Vennel. There are photos available and in circulation. This red bin will need to be relocated, it cannot go where it was before due to the path being seriously eroded.

Les Ross is the Highland Council contact person for consumables, such as black bags. But Highland Council will not take responsibility for the emptying of the bins.

Sutor Car Park.

No changes recently.

Sutor Litter bin was previously being monitored by Nige (on his daily walks) and was 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 currently 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. The grass cutting issue, Cromarty “Meadows”, was raised at the previous C&DCC Meeting.

Consideration on Dead Trees at Side of Road on The Denny.

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

I have taken photos of most of the trees and will prepare a work package. (Not yet done.)

I have checked and most of the trees are on the Kirky Brae, which is apparently Common Good Land and thus under the auspices of the Highland Council.

Craig had recently raised and sent an email on this. To be followed up.

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?

Activity now taken on board by Nigel Shapcott.

Relocation of the Bus Stop Shelter on The Links.

Current:-

Work was completed by the Stagecoach Team. I did post on Facebook a photo and clarified on the fact that it was a “relocation” of the shelter.

The reimbursement of the 150.00 GBP for the Planning Application Fee is still outstanding from Stagecoach. After discussing with Alex Flanagan, of Stagecoach, Alan is preparing a verification documentation package for Stagecoach use, to close out the issue.

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. Paige was following up on this in conjunction with the replacement Cromarty Signage on the Shore Road. (No Change to this.)

Cromarty Streets.

Mr. Colin Dunn, Duke Street, 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 T.H.C. Procedure with action number without success, but I did not. I have sent a follow up email. The email was commented on, as now being the responsibility of Scottish Water, but the work is not yet complete.

To be followed up, the areas had been marked up in blue paint as action to be done. But we are looking for confirmation that they would be replaced/fixed. (**Ongoing** – no further action has been taken)

Other Meetings. (Previously Reported On.)

No action.

Attachments:-

None at this time.

APPENDIX E
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood

Meetings attended

18th October – As a development of last month’s CDCC meeting, I met with Paul Thompson and Fraser MacKenzie to discuss noise and noise monitoring in the Firth, and explore whether this would provide suitable basis for a student’s academic study. Although in essence this would be impractical, there was good discussion around the issue.

22nd October – I met with other elected CDCC Councillors to assess the condition of the East Church Hall, and discuss opportunities for its future.

24th October – I attended the second Green Freeport presentation – hosted as a webinar. The bulk of the presentation was delivered by the newly appointed CEO of the Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport, Calum MacPherson, supported by Derek Brown (Highland Council CEO), Ian Forsyth, Ken Gowans and Scott Dalgarno. I did submit a question in advance of the meeting, concerning the submission of the Summitomo cabling plant by Port of Nigg, and the notable omission of pursuing UK Government ZEVl funding of shore power for the project – particularly as this is something that Port of Aberdeen have been successful with. It wasn’t directly answered in the Q&A, but they did state that answers to questions would be posted to the website. (Interestingly, my last question from the first webinar did appear on the website in the last month – over six months later! And it didn’t specifically answer the question!).

At the time of writing this report, the Green Freeport have not distributed the slides, however, I have included screenshots of the event for Councillors.

Noise nuisance from the Firth

No specific noise related incidents appear to have been identified since my last report.

I wrote to the Highland Council Green Freeport Monitoring Group on 28th September to identify the failure by Port of Nigg, to actively pursue UK Government ZEVl funding for the provision of shore power to support the Summitomo cabling plant development. This is significant when berthed service vessels run auxiliary engines on diesel, creating noise and exhaust emissions, within a designated ‘Green’ Freeport, that is supposedly targeting Net Zero. This a significant lost opportunity, and I believe that CDCC should comment on the planning proposal, to insist shore power is included in the proposed development, so as to address environmental nuisance.

On 23rd October, I discussed by phone, the parameters of regulatory noise monitoring with Highland Council EHO, Nick Thornton.

APPENDIX F
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nigel Shapcott

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

Harbour update by Colin Dickie

Subject to contracts – and there are many – we have secured the necessary funding to repair and repoint the East Pier. Back in April, the tender price came in at £157k and we have now met that, courtesy of funding from eight different sources. It is quite remarkable to get so much financial support from such a number of funding bodies and supporters and gives encouragement and validation for the restorative work we continue to do at the harbour.

We are presently updating the price due to inflationary concerns and seeking a start date with the contractor, most likely April 2024.

This will mean that the East Pier will be closed to all traffic for the period when work is taking place.

Additionally, Storm Betty caused damage to two of our supporting ancillary pontoon brackets; this remains an engineering challenge to be resolved as well as a financial one.

Reeds Loop Path

On Sunday 29th October 2023 storm Babet which had been raging since Friday night eroded the seashore in a number of places in Cromarty. This was probably similar to the storm in December 2012 which uncovered what became a major archaeological site in Cromarty. About 50 metres or more of the Path has been completely washed away. Other significant damage has occurred at the first set of steps at the One Hundred Steps end. Highland Council have been alerted on an emergency basis. This is a Highland Council Core Path. Clearly C&DCC will be closely following this.

CCP Update for C&DCC: October 2023 A. Seller

Crisis in Home Care – This is very concerning

On Friday 13th October, Jill Stoner attended a meeting with NHS Highland Health and Social care and Eilean Dubh Home Care about the impending crisis that will occur across the Black Isle on December 20th if more home carers are not recruited. On that date Topcare and Highland home care are pulling out. There will be a short fall across the BI of 205 hours a week in care. In Cromarty that figure will be 40 hours per week. CCP and Eilean Dubh Home Care are advertising widely for new recruits.

Lunch Club

Monday Lunch Club has re-convened at the Fishertown with approximately 13 participants regularly attending.

Larder Shed

We are still awaiting the outcome of our bid to cover the shed costs. Should be any day now. If we are unsuccessful, we will go ahead with purchasing the shed from our own funds.

“Chairs for Chats” Bench (funded by MADL/Nisa Retail)

Highland Council, who own the land at Townlands have in principle agreed to allow a small bench. However, they (and we) are now awaiting confirmation from Housing.

Table Tennis

There has been an increase in participants at Table Tennis and over the October school holidays we were delighted to have some young folk join in.

Major Donation from Global Energy

We were approached by Cromarty Primary School for help with costs of this year’s school

trips for P5, P6 and P7. In the case of the residential P7 trip, this is £400 per pupil. The Parent Council have applied to the Middleton Trust to cover the costs to pupils who are eligible for free school meals (to be notified in November). Meanwhile, we approached Global Energy on the school's behalf and are delighted that GE have picked up the tab for the remainder costs of the trips, excluding transport costs. This is a donation of £3,600 and will benefit a total of 25 families in the community.

Trikes (addition by NS)

These are still operational although they will be put to bed for the winter in the next little while.

Trustees

Our AGM is next Monday (6 th Nov) at which time:

Brenda Monk will be retiring as Treasurer, to be replaced by Karen Mackay.

Shirley Matheson and Fiona Grist will be retiring and Jenny Henderson and Ryan McManus will be joining the Board. This will leave one space on the Board still to be filled.

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

1. **BICC** Nothing new to report. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Housing** Awaiting Albyn Housing proposals, as they try to get an application in before the new IM-FDP is adopted. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 29/10/23

APPENDIX H
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd

<u>East Church Hall</u>	Attended the East Church hall with C&DCC representatives to discuss a way to re-open the hall. Going to speak to HC to see what it would take to get the hall re opened and leased from them.
<u>CCDT</u>	I attended the meeting of the Development Trust as to feed into their meeting. The East Church hall is on their radar but would need volunteers from the community. EV charging points was also discussed and Fraser is working to speak to various organisations but is proving challenging.
<u>Road Surfaces</u>	With the cold weather starting to set in now please report any potholes which appear in the road at the moment.
<u>Meeting Platform</u>	Blended meetings to continue. Alan and I too take it to the BICC to see if the HC could subsidise a meeting platform to be used by us all.

**APPENDIX I
AGENDA ITEM 8
UPDATED LIST OF PORTFOLIOS**



**Cromarty & District Community Council
Councillors' Ex-Officio Portfolios**

***Non-councillor or Associate Member support role only**

ITEM	Lead Role	Supported By
Black Isle Community Councils (BICC)	Alan Plampton	Paige Shepherd
Bus Services & Road Surfaces	Paige Shepherd	
Cromarty Care Project	Nigel Shapcott	
Cromarty Community Development Trust	Paige Shepherd	
Cromarty Ferry	Paige Shepherd	
Cromarty Leaflets & Booklets	Estelle Quick*	Alan Plampton
Communications (CC Facebook/CC Email)	Claire Fraser*	Alan Plampton
Community Groups & Events	Alan Plampton	
Community Noticeboard	Kari Magee*	Torben & Hector*
Core Paths	Nigel Shapcott	
Cromarty Live (Website/Newsletter)	Andy Thurgood/Alan Plampton/Claire Fraser	Jon Palmer*(to 31/12)
Defibrillator Administration	Alan Plampton	
Dog Fouling	To be confirmed	
Gritting & Machine Maintenance	To be confirmed	Alan M
Harbour Trust	Nigel Shapcott	
Housing	Alan Plampton	Paige Shepherd
Hugh Miller Institute Bookings & Keys (CLOSED)	Alan Plampton	
100 Steps Maintenance/VP Green Fencing	Kari Magee*	
Links & Links Events Diary	Claire Fraser*	
Litter	To be confirmed	
Middleton Trust	Paige Shepherd	
POCF/Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport	Andy Thurgood	
Planning	Paige Shepherd	
Police Liaison	Paige Shepherd	
Resilience inc Emergency Action Plan	Andy Thurgood	
Tourism	Kari Magee*	To be confirmed
Traffic Management Plan, Cromarty	Andy Thurgood	
Victoria Hall and Youth Cafe Committees	Alan Plampton	Paige Shepherd