



Cromarty and District Community Council
Approved minutes of meeting held on
Monday 30th January 2023, 730pm
In person at The Victoria Hall and virtually via Whereby

Approved
Minutes
28/02/23

Present

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

Highland Councillor(s): Lyndsey Johnston (LJ), Sarah Atkin (SA) and Morven May-MacCallum (MMM).

Member(s) of the public: Fraser Mackenzie (FM), Lindy Cameron (LC), Steve Agyei, Justin Tait (JT), Christophe Marchand, Jane Clunas (JC), Julie Howat & Paul Thompson (PT) – at The Victoria Hall. Plus Laura Girvan, Terrie Sawyer, Anna Terje (ATe), Duncan Bowers & Julie MacRae (JM) (online).

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser (CF)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year.

No apologies received.

Minute secretary note – PR, AP and PS were in attendance from The Victoria Hall (plus 8 members of the public shown above).

9. Any Other Business

9.1 The Freeport

Minute secretary note – PS brought this agenda item forward so we could have an open discussion with the community to gather their thoughts/opinion on this very important subject and decide on our next steps.

Discussion started.

NS confirmed he'd read in an announcement from a politician (he'd circulated these to members prior to the meeting), that there was mention of nuclear, rather than tidal activity. This is a big worry! Also aware that the employment will only benefit us on The Black Isle if there is a year round ferry service.

FM: Is anyone clear on what the Freeport is? It's not clear to him from any of the information/advice out there and wondered if it was just PR.

KM: The port invited public to meetings 2.5 years ago, to tell everyone what they were proposing (but without being able to comment). KM attended lots of these meetings and each time their 'proposals' changed. This shows there is no clear understanding of their plan & the C&DCC weren't given any indication either way. Hopes that there will be one now!

SA: Would be surprised if the Freeport was a plan back then, & is sure there were business plans. KM disagreed, and proved later on that from her prior meeting notes, a presentation was given to C&DCC in November 2020 outlining what they are proposing and what they initially proposed (including The Freeport)!

PR: Freeport is the commercial/money side of things, but he doesn't understand where the hydrogen comes into things (on the industrial side).

LJ: Her understanding is that the Freeport is to do with tax imports and exports, the infrastructure is the fabrication side (including Dalcross). Side note, she has suggested a year-round ferry service to THC (but relies heavily on budgets).

JT: Now that the bid has been won, what does this mean?

PS rounded things up and agreed that we're not totally aware of what's happening. Suggests we speak to someone independent.

AT continued: There needs to be consultation in some form or another. He advised he is always bringing the community points to the meetings with the Port. He is positive that the discussions are now being heard, and that they are now starting to listen to us and are willing to work with us. The mention of nuclear was also a total mystery to him, and this will for sure be brought up the next time he meets with them. He will seek to understand their scope and timeframes etc too.

SA: Would like a presentation to be given now that the bid has been won - containing all the facts and figures. Suggests the three councillors get together, find out the information and present the information on THC website.

JC added: Who is the nuclear decision going through? They mention 'they' but it's not clear. Is it Kate Forbes? Rishi Sunak? Or is it commercial, maybe via Global?

PR agreed that we need to find out what is involved. How is the hydrogen being transported?

LJ advised she'd ask Raymond Bremner (SNP councillor, head of THC) to come and speak to us, and potentially Derek Loudon also (Tain & Easter Ross Councillor).

LC: has emailed Ian Blackford (SNP) about the nuclear side of things. They have confirmed they are still anti-nuclear and would like to be kept up to date on matters. LC is concerned re. emissions from the big tankers that are carrying the hydrogen etc. and they need someone to police this (rather than just passing the buck, like SEPA have been doing on a separate matter concerning the Rigs).

PT: It's a UK wide issue now, more information is needed for sure.

ATe: Can we ask to see an environmental assessment? PT & SA confirm it won't have been done yet because the bid has only just been won. JM suggested we speak to UHI too as they were advertised as supporting the project. ATe will look into this as she works for UHI.

JM, who has done a bit of research re. The Freeport, suggested that there will be winners and losers, however she suggested we educate ourselves first and sent a few links to iPlayer documentations re. Freeports.

NS rounded off the conversation by suggesting we speak to a reporter, someone who will take interest in the story. Also recommended we contact Kate Forbes office (a formal letter from the C&DCC), as this should be of great concern to them (by all means keep Ian Blackford in the loop too).

AP asked how we see the Bid. The three Highland Councillors will find this out for us.

PS concluded the discussion. She requested that we retain everyone's information, and that we arrange a further meeting with independent parties that can give us facts on the position going forward. She asked everyone to bear with us on this subject for now, whilst we come up with a plan of action.

If anyone has anything further to add, or finds out any further information, please send it to the C&DCC email address.

The Freeport discussion concluded at 2013pm and PS thanked everyone for coming.

Everyone left, apart from the Community Council members, Julie MacRae (CCDT), Claire Fraser, and two of the Highland Councillors, Lyndsey Johnston and Morven May-MacCallum.

2. Declarations of interest

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

3. Approval of previous minutes, 28th November 2022

The minutes were approved by PR and seconded by AT.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 28th November 2022

1. (4.1 – On hold – Waiting for more direction re. TMP in 2025.) **On hold.**
2. (4.2 - To discuss redesign of the Welcome sign for Cromarty). Email sent to Fraser to discuss next steps. **Action – PS & FT.**
3. (4.4 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
4. (4.5 – To discuss action required re. progressing level-crossing system @ Reeds Loop (see May minutes for full info). Ongoing. **Action – PS/KM.**
5. (4.7 – Still waiting guidance from TSG re. Green Freeport proposals). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
6. (4.8 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
7. (4.9 – Hot spot areas identified re. caravan parking. To work with THC re. the Byelaw etc). Discussed with Julie at the meeting, and to be discharged.
8. (4.10 – Residents to continue to submit noise complaints directly to THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
9. (4.11 – Draft letter for local businesses re. current vacancies to be submitted for approval). Letter to be sent this week for members approval. **Action – PS.**
- 10.(4.12 – Seek a new contractor for bus shelter repair). More damage has been done. Email has been sent to Stagecoach (trying to see if they'll action the repairs). **Action – PR.**
- 11.(4.13 – On hold - finance needed from THC re. Reeds Loop maintenance, but enough in budget just now).
- 12.(4.14 – Pictures of damaged fence sent to Cai at THC for action)). Chased up. **Action – PS.**
- 13.(4.15 – Re-visit our approach for requests re. large events in the future). **Action – ALL.**
- 14.(4.16 – Still awaiting reports re. major maintenance issue at Hugh Millers Institute). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**

- 15.(4.17 – Refresher resilience training to be arranged). Ongoing – see VH report. **Action – AP.**
- 16.(4.18 – Awaiting response from keyholders re. providing names of the regular users/key holders of the hall to PS post financial year end). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 17.(4.20 – Location to be confirmed re. youth mentoring programme). Discussed at the meeting. KM to follow up with Dom. **Action – KM & TG.**
- 18.(4.21 – To try and retrieve funds held back by Di Agnew for repairs to TVH (Common Good) post AGM). Ongoing – likely to be linked to year-end financial statements. **Action – AP.**
- 19.(4.22 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church). **Action C&DCC.**
- 20.(4.24 – Community regeneration fund application to aid with further insulation for the hall). Approval has been granted for £3k funding. Professional survey to be carried out at end of March 2023 re. possible work. **Action – AP.**
- 21.(4.26 – Test burn completed satisfactory on Reeds Loop – weed burning to be completed). Waiting for the weather to improve. Ongoing. **Action – NS.**
- 22.(4.27 – Decision being made in January re. 3 year funding programme (YC)). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
- 23.(4.28 – Ongoing monitoring of daffodil field maintenance required). **Action – PR.**
- 24.(4.29 – To discuss hedging options for The Victoria Park at future date). **Action – ALL.**
- 25.(4.30 – Prepare a poster to encourage folk to apply for social housing regardless of their circumstance). Letter to be sent to members for approval. Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 26.(4.31 – Advise AP the supplier of the chippings in The Victoria Park (work organised once supplier identified)). **Discharged** – no longer required.
- 27.(4.32 – Contact other members of THC re. raising funds to replace gym equipment in The Victoria Park). Ongoing as grant application was refused under (4.37 in Nov 22 minutes). **Action – AP.**
- 28.(4.34 – Package to submit to THC re. new team management for gritting team). Package submitted, team set up – 5 more bins are located on site. To be monitored. **Action - PR.**
- 29.(4.38 – To pass information re. lease of THC carpark (on links) to Julie). **Discharged** – EV charging will be outside cinema.
- 30.(8.1 – Taking over the updating of Cromarty Live website). AT has been given the admin log in. **Action AT.**
- 31.(8.3 – To arrange collection of Snowplough donated by residents). **Discharged** – collected and stored at The Sheddie.
- 32.(9.3 – POCF want to contribute to The Cromarty Newsletter). Await reply from newsletter team. **Action – PS.**
- 33.(9.4 – To send POCF questions for the C&DCC round to members for discussion). Added to PS portfolio, with information on how to contact the port. **Discharged.**

5. Youth Issues

DSL spoke on behalf of the youth in Cromarty.

Pleased to report that there is now an official school bus for Fortrose Academy pupils. It does appear to be quite consistent now. An additional note was that the school bus however does not go all the way to town so if you attend college on a Friday (like Dom), you'd need to get the public bus (which as we know can be temperamental for turning up).

DSL left the meeting.

KM confirmed she'd follow up re. action point 4.17 with Dominic offline (via email).

6. Treasurer's Report

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

There were no 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 Report, prepared by Fraser Thompson, were circulated prior to the meeting.

There is to be a survey done re. insulation and renewable energy sources. A roof survey has been done, but the question is, are there funds in the budget to allow for any repair works? The boiler problems are also to be addressed in February, via a contractor.

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolios

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

- Alan:

NS - The sub-committee document circulated by AP needs work. This will be discussed further offline/at the next meeting.

- Peter:

THC/waste bins – they have reduced in numbers, and also have changed to having the hold in the top for rubbish (doesn't allow for disposing of pizza boxes!) PR has followed this up with THC and they are working with us to provide bins/emptying of them as and when we need them. They confirmed they have not yet considered the volume required for the up and coming tourist season.

Bus shelter – has received a response from Stagecoach re. arranging a date for a site visit to be carried out. PR to respond to them.

There were no further comments or questions on any portfolio.

8.2 The Highland Council

1) BIAAC meets Tuesday 31st January 2023.

They will be going through the applications for the regeneration funds.

Can confirm there's been no hate crimes reported via Police Scotland.

Has also advised that THC budget for 2023/2024 is not good. There has been a £40–50m drop in budget across the whole council. This is likely to mean that the roads are not going to be in a very good condition, and only emergency repairs will be carried out, in order of priority.

Members asked how much is in the regeneration fund – Lyndsey will pass this on (had to check). AP also asked if the roads budget comes from capital or revenue budgets – also to come back to us on this.

2) The Kessock Bridge.

- a. Attended a meeting with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland etc. re. The Kessock Bridge. They are looking at a strategy to prevent the closures. Has had confirmation however that even if the bridge is closed, emergency services can still cross (if they can get through the congestion).
- b. DSL asked if the rumour re. it being a tik-tok trend was true. Lyndsey couldn't confirm or deny, but she said it was closed 22 times in December 2022 alone, 10 of which were in relation to separate individuals.
- c. Has confirmed there is no way they will put a contraflow on the bridge, as it could danger the individuals even more, or trigger people to see the events that are occurring. Also confirmed that emergency vehicles will still be allowed over the bridge in the event of a closure, but they'd have to get through the tailbacks!
- d. There are lots of things being considered, including catch nets & anti-climb barriers, but for now shelters will be put up at the 4 corners of the bridge. Discussion opened re. this and all members agreed individuals aren't thinking rationally by the time they get to the bridge, so these might not help, open conversation is needed but they underlying issue is much bigger. Mental health is a huge concern, and more needs to be done.
- e. Lyndsey rounded off by advising that the meetings are for public attendance, but she'd be happy to feedback our comments to Transport Scotland etc.

MM didn't have anything to add, confirmed Lyndsey had summed it up perfectly.

MM left at 2037pm.

8.3 Correspondence Received

None.

9. **Any Other Business**

9.2 Cromarty Community Development Trust (report from Julie):

JM started off by advising us that she'd not been around much over the last month, due to personal reasons, but that she is slowly getting back to it now.

East Church Hall (TECH)

Open day still planned. Has had lots of contact from residents with interest, will chase these up. Suggests waiting for the weather to be nicer/warmer due to no heating in the building currently!

AP spoke – THC have invited C&DCC to meet with them about TECH, and have advised that they've not been given the business plan by CCDT. AP asks Julie for any information she can give them with regards to their plan, so that it can be discussed with THC. JM confirmed there is not yet a business plan because it's all in the early stages. They put forward an expression of interest to ensure the property isn't sitting empty, and are aware that even the section that was done up during the millennium is deteriorating!

It will be more sustainable if it was mixed tenancy (because then costs are shared), and JM has researched what can be done/what grants they can receive in order to maintain the property. They do still require community engagement and still plan on having an open day to decide on the best use for TECH.

AP & PS to meet with THC week commencing 06/02/23.

Campsite

... is under construction! All going well so far. The works are stepping up now that the weather is improving. Have cleared a lot of older dutch elm, but all will be replanted. There is no set date for opening because once the works have finished, an environmental assessment is needed. Plan to open in late Spring/early summer and 1 or 2 jobs should be created.

JM is meeting with the roads department this week to discuss extending the public footpath, and what planning permission is required etc.

AP asked JM re. the byelaws to prevent illegal parking that the C&DCC had been asked to help with by the CCDT. THC had advised us to apply parking orders instead, and AP was hoping we could work with JM on this. JM thinks we hold off for just now. We don't know how busy the campsite is going to be, and there could be other options we could use before preventative parking measures (like asking a landowner for use of their field incase of any overflow for example). Members agreed that it will upset residents if they suddenly can't park in places they always have! & that the C&DCC weren't going to be able to enforce any fines anyway.

JM agreed and C&DCC are happy to take her lead. We will let the campsite run for atleast a year before discussing again.

Housing

Certain Facebook comment has reached the head of THC, plus directors of Albyn housing, so there certainly has been a lot of hearsay. Has had a discussion with Sean Currie at Albyn and he's advised JM that he's trying to make the housing work, and has asked for another couple of months, and then he will be in a position to have a more detailed conversation with C&DCC/CCDT about things.

PS was frustrated by this and said that nothing has changed in 2 years, Albyn housing have given minimal contact. As far as the C&DCC are concerned, there will be no change of hands/ownership of the park.

AP agreed and advised that from recent correspondence with John McHardy at THC (The Housing Development Officer), he has been under the impression that the C&DCC is the same as the CCDT, hence why C&DCC have had no word from him. Conversation has now started however, and C&DCC are working on coming to a solution.

JM recommends both CCDT & C&DCC get together to discuss this. PS isn't sure the best way forward however, but agrees that JM has started a good relationship between the two community organisations. NS suggests we take it to a public meeting. TO discuss at the next meeting.

Note – LJ left at 9pm.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 27th February 2023 at 730pm.

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 2154pm.

APPENDIX A

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** show Amounts Receivable/Payments in advance that reflect the anticipated funding of our Whereby meeting costs and the Amounts Payable reflects the Cost of Living Grant received in December not yet spent. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **CROMARTY LIVE FUND** movement reflects the public donation to fund the subsequent purchase of Newsletter Mailing costs. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
27/01/23

APPENDIX B
Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting				
Held on Monday 30th January 2023				
Agenda Item No 6 - Treasurer’s Report				
Statement of Financial Position at 27th January 2023				
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Net Assets			Movement	at 25/11/22
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 27th January 2023		12,498.21	723.00	11,775.21
Paypal Balance as at 27th January 2023		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		161.50	-26.50	188.00
Amounts Payable		-1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00
Total Net Assets at 27th January 2023		£11,659.71	-303.50	£11,963.21
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2022		2,332.16	0.00	2,332.16
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		0.92	-208.50	209.42
		2,333.08	-208.50	2,541.58
Community Amenities Fund		94.53	0.00	94.53
Emergency Resilience Fund		24.96	0.00	24.96
Covid-19 Resilience Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 25th November 2022		78.75	0.00	78.75
Gritting Fund		682.32	0.00	682.32
Cromarty Live Fund		46.01	30.00	16.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,006.88	0.00	1,006.88
Net C&DCC Reserves		4,266.53	-178.50	4,445.03
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		0.00	126.00
Open Gardens Fund	206.86		0.00	206.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06	5,514.76	0.00	202.06
Designated Community Funds				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00
Cromarty Rising Fund		528.42	-125.00	653.42
		£11,659.71	-303.50	£11,963.21
Alan Plampton 27th January 2023				

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** are steadily increasing. The History Society has now moved to the Victoria Hall ahead of the West Church closure. **ACTION – Information only, no action required.**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance** is ongoing. A survey of the whole roof has been completed and action is awaiting THC Clerk of Works approval for significant work. Problems with the boiler are being addressed slowly with the next engineer visit planned for mid February. The disabled toilet has developed an electrical fault in the light/fan which was likely caused by damage via the external ventilation cover. Remedial work is in hand but until completed, we have no disabled toilet. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Sheddie** has seen the Trikes serviced and in action during the wintery periods. The donated snow sweeper has arrived. Space is now a premium and users are urged to be tidy. Emergency Resilience/Action Plan refresher training will commence once the keyholder register has been updated and confirmed (nearly there. Two to go!). **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Youth Cafe** The latest monthly report is attached. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
28/01/23

APPENDIX D PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe

Cromarty Ferry.

- The Ferry Service is closed for the winter season.

Dog Fouling. (Overall). Ongoing.

There still appear to be instances recently, however we 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.
- I will return the key that I have, as there are other keys and the Cinema access is available.
- 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 and wild flowers grow. All donated by a local resident, all flower seeds gratefully received. [**Ongoing**]
- The Dog Waste Bins continue to be emptied, by Craig Fraser, by others, and myself.
- There is an old wooden bench, actually up on Braehead, that needs to be repaired or replaced. [Had comments on Facebook but no positive action taken to date. 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.
- Highland Council have changed the type of bin in some cases to those with restricted opening. This will cause issues. Survey to be updated. Email sent to Department on this and the number that were removed.
- Highland Council Waste Department had an operative clearing excess rubbish at the bins last busy season.
- The Bins which are most at issue (Due to takeaway food / motorhomes/ other rubbish?) are (No change):-
The Harbour Area. / The Cinema Area. / The Toilets Bin / The Bins (now 2) on Shore Street, in the vicinity of “Old Fish Store”. (Photos are available) We also have an issue with the sole rubbish bin at the Sutor Car Park getting emptied. [But being emptied to date.]
- Local volunteers, and some from out of town, continue to uplift litter and dump in the Town Bins. Cromarty Litter Pickers - equipment has been distributed.
- Some small additional equipment is stored in the Sheddie, to be distributed, and to be used by litter expeditions.

Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport Proposal.

Main Report issued by Kari Magee and Andy Thurgood.

Emails being received regarding next Community Meetings with PoCF.

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – Opportunity Cromarty Firth have now been awarded one of the Contracts.

Green Hydrogen Processing Plant – according to news comments, Twitter etc, planning and preparations continue. Not aware of any decision yet.

Nigg Liaison Group Meetings – (Attended by Andy Thurgood last time.) on an ongoing basis.

Notifications are as sent out by email.

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

Newhall Smithy have carried out some maintenance on the gritters.

Grit bins have been topped up by Highland Council Community Services, but the bins need to be surveyed regularly. A further 5 no. bins were 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. Additional volunteers joined the gritting group. The submittal was sent to Highland Council as required for the Community Assistance Scheme. Survey done on most of the Grit Bins, but I missed the Nichol Terrace one. What is the progress on the water supply for rinsing the units at the Sheddie? (Ongoing)

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing.

Red Bins (6 No.) are being emptied on a regular basis both by some volunteers and 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. The Reeds Walk and Bowling Green Car Park ones are emptied. Also The Denny and Stroopie ones.

Dog waste continues to be dumped in town bins, I do check, and it is reassuring that those concerned do this, rather than leave lying on the ground or around. Though I am sure that people rely on the bins (all types) being available. The industrial bins are collected on a Tuesday and all this waste goes to landfill.

John Nightingale Follow Ups.

Previous email contact regarding the anticipated clearance of the Daffodil Field was sent to John Nightingale and responded to. Clearance works to the area not fully actioned as yet, the roadside areas were cut back.

So no further contact on my part.

Sutor Car Park.

No changes recently.

Sutor Litter bin continues to be monitored by Nige and was being emptied by visiting HC worker.

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

Gaelic Chapel.

Previous virtual Meeting 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 were signs of the area being used and visited.

Graveyards in General. No. 1,2,3,4.

Consideration to be given to vegetation clearing and review of work carried out by Highland Council.

No recent check done. Winter season is ongoing.

Trees on the Denny – to be reviewed.

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.

There was more damage done to the shelter, photos are available. An email has just been sent to Stagecoach. The intention/plan being that Stagecoach take on all works. Waiting for response back.

Local contractor, Colin Keith, was approached by Craig. The previous plan and submittal are being followed up, as per Craig Fraser's emails of February / March 2020.

Other Meetings.

None by self.

APPENDIX E
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd

<p><u>Planning</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of extension to car park and formation of paths <p>Land 1350M SW Of Glenurquhart Farmhouse Cromarty Ref. No: 22/05494/FUL Received: Thu 17 Nov 2022 Validated: Fri 02 Dec 2022 Status: Decided</p>
<p><u>Police Update</u></p>	<p>No Update</p>
<p><u>Victoira Hall Fence Repairs</u></p>	<p>Paige to chase the HC on when we can expect repairs to take place</p>
<p><u>Port Authority</u></p>	<p>Andy, Cllr Sarah Atkin and I are due to meet with the Port Authority again in February. They have asked us for the time being can anybody effected by the rig noise please log their issue on the Port website https://pocf.co.uk/contact/. They have asked could the contactor provide as much information as they can about the time and type of the noise and whether they have been able to identify a likely source. I am awaiting to hear back from the newsletter regarding updates from the Port.</p>
<p><u>CALA</u></p>	<p>I met with Jaci Douglas from the Care and Learning Alliance to discuss the after school care provided in Cromarty. As we are all aware the dwindling school numbers are having an effect on the hours provided due to lack of numbers. CALA were interested to get the view of parents about this issue going forward and keen to meet in person. They are due to review in February and after this meeting we will discuss CALA next steps going forward.</p>

APPENDIX F

PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

1. **BICC** No new meeting since the last report but the proposals for our involvement in the Place Plan Strategic Steering Group in January, have yet to be received. In accordance with the previous BICC decision, we have received offers of support in the challenges posed on Housing and Freeport news. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

2. **Housing** Following recent social media activity on this subject, Paige and I are seeking confirmation of facts rather than speculation, from the Highland Council and other interested organisations. As yet there is no new news that is confirmed to be true. **ACTION – Information only, no action required.**

3. **Cromarty Live Fund** is used to fund our website and newsletter and, as reported in the Treasurer’s Report, a public donation of £150 was received to help keep the Newsletter going until at least the end of April 2024.

4. **Community Events**
 - a) **New Proposed Community Events Sub-Committee** Following the creation of this new sub-committee, please find attached the draft Terms of Reference that have been circulated to the community members who have been approached to join.
ACTION – Approval of draft Terms of Reference

Alan Plampton 28/01/23

APPENDIX G
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood

A very quiet period over the last two months (although I have been incredibly busy with work commitments, and work-related travel).

Noise Issues in the Firth

CDCC have been informed of two issues of noise disturbance from the Firth since the last meeting, reflecting perhaps the quiet time over the Christmas period. Whether or not this truly reflective of the actual situation is uncertain.

I have scheduled another noise specific meeting with Port of Cromarty Firth, Port of Nigg, and the Highland Council EHO for 23rd February (Paige and Sarah Atkin will also attend).

Community Councils Liaison Meetings – Port of Cromarty Firth, Global Enterprise Group

Neither organisation has released the dates for their next liaisons meetings at this time, and there have not been any meetings since CDCC last met.

CDCC Website

I undertook a benchmarking exercise in December of other Community Council websites (approximately 20). The site posted by Contin Community Council stood out as exemplar – but hosting a site of this type would increase costs.

Two thoughts come from the exercise; firstly, the degree of security that the current website has, and secondly, how much information is required? I would propose a project group for this – and I recall that Claire has expressed an interest.

Andy Thurgood
27/01/23

APPENDIX H
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nigel Shapcott

Harbour: No news from the harbour as it is essentially closed down in the winter.

Gritting: Snow plough delivered and handed over to Peter. I recommend a thank you letter if one has not been sent.

Cromarty Care Project- An order of slow cookers for lower cost cooking has been placed; Maxine Chapman has agreed to become a Trustee; The Care Project Office has now been handed back to the West Church; the community larder continues to be used and stocked

Daily; The Cromarty Care Project awarded £5,000 + 250 from Corra for fuel payments- fifty eight households received £90 each.