



Cromarty and District Community Council
Approved minutes of meeting held on
Monday 27th March 2023, 730pm
Virtually via Whereby and in person at The Victoria Hall

Approved
Minutes
24/04/23

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):

Member(s) of the public:

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser (CF)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from Dominic Scott-Lodge - Youth Member.

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

2. Declarations of interest

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

3. Approval of previous minutes, 27th February 2023

The minutes were approved by KM and seconded by AT.

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

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). Not funded by THC so to look into funding sources and utilizing the youth café. **Action – PS & FT.**
3. (4.3 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
4. (4.4 – To discuss action required re. progressing level-crossing system @ Reeds Loop (see May minutes for full info). Ongoing. **Action – PS/KM.**
5. (4.5 – Still waiting guidance from TSG re. Green Freeport proposals). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
6. (4.6 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
7. (4.7 – Residents to continue to submit noise complaints directly to THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
8. (4.8 – Letter for local businesses re. current vacancies passed round to members. To discuss how to send round – email or post?). THC cannot release the addresses for businesses in the town. To discuss. **Action – PS.**

9. (4.9 – Ask Stagecoach to fund the cost of the planning application needed for the bus shelter repair). **Action – PR.**
- 10.(4.10 – On hold - finance needed from THC re. Reeds Loop maintenance, but enough in budget just now).
- 11.(4.11 – Chased Cai at THC for an update re. repairs to fence at The Victoria Park). Quote has been provided but is hefty, awaiting reply from Cai re. next steps. To discuss with members. **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 – See VH report re. refresher resilience training). Ongoing – planned for summer. **Action – AP.**
- 15.(4.15 – Awaiting response from keyholders re. providing names of the regular users/key holders of the hall to PS post financial year end). Ongoing, part of 4.14. **Action – AP.**
- 16.(4.16 –KM to follow up the youth mentoring programme with Dom). **Action – KM**
- 17.(4.17 – Retrieve funds held back by Di Agnew for repairs to TVH (Common Good) post year-end financial statements). **Action – AP.**
- 18.(4.18 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church). **Action C&DCC.**
- 19.(4.19 – £3k funding from community regeneration fund under review). **DISCHARGED.**
- 20.(4.20 – Weed burning to be completed once weather improves). Ongoing. **Action – NS.**
21. (4.22 – Daffodil field has been cleared = continue to monitor). **Action – PR.**
- 22.(4.23 – To discuss hedging options for The Victoria Park at future date). **Action – ALL.**
- 23.(4.24 – Poster re. social housing to be discussed with Lyndsey). **Action – PS.**
- 24.(4.25 – Continue to look into raising funds to replace gym equipment in The Victoria Park). **Action – AP/LJ.**
- 25.(4.26 – Grit team set up, THC have paperwork. Not much use at the moment). Equipment on standby for the summer – can be discharged. **Discharged.**
- 26.(4.27 – Looking at existing security parameters re. the website). See 8.1.4 – discharge. **Discharged.**
- 27.(4.28 – Await reply from newsletter team re. POCF regular contribution). **Action – PS.**
- 28.(4.29 – Discuss the sub-committee document circulated by AP (led by Nige)). See AOB for further movement on this. **Discharged.**
- 29.(6 – To advertise the vouchers that can be redeemed via S Creek on FB/Newsletter). **Discharged.**
30. (8.1.1 – To share with members correspondence from residents re. TECH). **Discharged.**

31. (8.1.2 – To discuss the application for year round ferry funding). See Members portfolios for further action on this. **Discharged.**
32. (8.1.2 – Contact Cromarty Ferry to see if they've applied for any funding and mention POCF being interested). Done – update in report. **Discharged.**
33. (8.1.4 – Email Plexus asking re. their existing firewall/security procedures re. the website). **Action – Claire.**
34. (8.1.4 – Pass Garve's email to Claire). **Discharged.**
35. (8.2 – To discuss action/how to approach THC re. reason for toilet closure/community options etc). **Action – ALL.**
36. (8.3 – Reply to resident re. ladies walk and advise them to contact Cromarty Estate). **Discharged.**
37. (8.3 – To follow up Alan's email supporting the repair work to The Ladies Walk). For discussion! See members portfolios. **Discharged.**
38. (9.1 – To email John Nightingale re. hole at The Pirate's Graveyard). **Action – KM.**
39. (9.1 – To send KM contact details for a contact at 'Friends of Hugh Miller' to help with contacting John Nightingale). **Discharged.**
40. (9.2 – Contact Craig Fraser and ask who is responsible for the sign at the bus shelter). **Action – PS.**
41. (9.3 – Email Julie @ CDT re. meeting dates). Waiting to hear back with dates that most of the directors are free. **Action – PS.**
42. (9.4 – Draft a document re. the Black Isle Place Plan and send to members). **Discharged.**

Minute secretary note – NS left the meeting at 2027pm.

5. Youth Issues

Dominic not present & there were no comments from any of the members.

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 was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Victoria Hall

The figures from the Year End Accounts will be available at next month's meeting.

The security lock at The Sheddie was accidentally broken, AP has fixed it but it's only temporary, a solution needs to be sought.

A discussion then opened re. the snow plough that was donated.

- 1) Do we have the space for it?
- 2) Do we really need it?
- 3) Will it be used?
- 4) Do we think selling it and keeping the money, would be better?

At the moment the trikes can't be stored in The Sheddie because there isn't space for them, with the snow plough and the gritters.

There is also the cost of annual maintenance that we'd need to consider.

All members agreed that we should:

Contact the original donors to see if they're happy for us to sell it.
Check if there is a resident that could store it for us
Speak to Nige, as donation came via his contacts

Action - Alan

The Youth Cafe

Big Easter programme is about to start.

Fair share deliveries have increased recently (they have doubled in 6 months)

& due to the recently donated freezer, the Youth Café is about to receive a delivery of frozen goods also.

Highlife Highland have made big cuts in staff costs, they are also budgeting for only 6 months, not a full year.

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolios

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

8.1.1 Andy:

Website

Costs from Plexus – will increase from £25 p.a. to £78 but all old information will be transferred over, it will be secure and the domain will continue to be run through Calico.

Members read email circulated by CF and can discuss offline re. final decision on updating website. **Action – ALL.**

8.1.2 Peter:

Still to prepare a letter of thanks to Simon & Jenny Gunn for donating the snow plough

Still to fill out the planning permission form in relation to the bus shelter

8.1.3 Nige:

Report from Harbour (See Nige's report). The gate is going up imminently (there will be an article in the Newsletter that will be published at start of April). The crucial message is that it's a health and safety issue and it's only closed when health and safety is at risk.

8.1.4 Paige:

Letter for local businesses

THC won't give us their address list so to find another way to approach the businesses in the town.

Quote to repair fencing at The Victoria Park

Has gone back to THC to check if the cost mentioned is for a whole new fence (as only repairs are required). Members wondered if we could source our own quote? PS to contact local contractors.

KM asked about hedges (see action points). It is now worth thinking about this, as we could plant some to save the cost of repairing fencing. Need to look at The Woodland Trust who quite often do giveaways. KM to look into and apply. **Action – KM.**

Email to JN

PS was to email John Nightingale supporting resident email re. repairs to The Ladies Walk, however she has never received a response to any emails in the past so is unsure whether she is the person who should be emailing about this. AP is about to email JN re. another project, so will add this in. **Action – AP.**

The Ferry

Has confirmed that they will be subsidised by THC from June to September. IN 2022 the ferry ran throughout May but this was without funding and have chosen not to do this again this year as it wasn't worthwhile.

Questions to ask Dougie @ Highland Ferries:

Did he apply for funding for a year round service? If yes, no further action
If not, it's worth applying just to see response.

Before end of meeting Dougie got back to PS advising he didn't apply to THC.

We need to establish if he wants to run an all year round service, if a subsidy was given!
PS to arrange a meeting with Dougie. **Action – PS.**

Still awaiting response from THC via Lyndsey re. supporting the year round service.

The Welcome Sign

Finally, The Welcome Sign to Cromarty won't be funded by The Highland Council, so PS is discussing involving the Youth Café with Fraser, and looking into other funding options.

PR also recommended contacting resident who'd approached him re. re-designing the signs on the links. PR to pass contact information to PS. **Action – PR/PS.**

There were no further comments or questions on any portfolio.

8.3 Correspondence Received

- 8.3.1 Sarah Atkin (Highland Councillor) forwarded an email to C&DCC re. correspondence received from Nairn CC re. GPs no longer carrying out the baby immunizations and how it will impact vulnerable/rural communities.

Do we as a community want to support this? There is a conflict of interest as The Victoria hall is now a clinic, and this is providing a great source of income (for at least 6months) to Cromarty.

All members agree that it is more than likely down to funding. KM to find out the rationale behind the decision if she can, and report back.

AP can then construct a response to Nairn CC. **Action KM/AP.**

- 8.3.2 CF received a Facebook message from a Cromarty resident asking to be removed from the events management team due to a change in circumstances and relocation. All members made aware and have acknowledged this, it will be a big loss to the events held in the town.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Top Care

To email Maxine at Top Care and see if there's anything we can help her with. She was meant to have attended the meeting tonight, but was having trouble accessing the link. **Action – CF.**

9.2 Events sub-committee group

NS not sure about this, asked for an explanation on where this came from, what is involved.

The idea of the sub-committee is that it brings together all community groups and people involved in events (when organising an event that they require to be covered by C&DCC insurance). NS thinks that this document needs to make this more clear.

The sub-committee group will make everything more formal. C&DCC are to contact all previous organisers to see if they'd like to be involved in this sub-committee and then put it out to the community seeking interest. It is an open invitation to all those who are willing to put in the work to hold community events.

Documents need to be reworded. Members to discuss offline. **Action – AP/NS.**

9.3 Cromarty Community Development Trust

Email received prior to the meeting (but not seen until after) apologising for Julie's absence tonight.

Advised that they are trying to find a date that works for all of the directors, to meet with the C&DCC members and that they are still to decide on a date to hold the East Church Hall Open Day.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 24th April 2023 at 730pm.

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

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. Year end statements are in preparation and although there will be a few minor adjustments, the bulk of these figure will represent what is going to the auditor, and will appear at next month’s meeting, ahead of the AGM in May. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **CROMARTY GRITTING FUND** movement reflects the servicing of the gritters ahead of their summer storage. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
26/03/23

APPENDIX B
Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

Statement of Financial Position at 26th March 2023				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 26/02/23</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 26th March 2023		11,292.06	-1,158.00	12,450.06
Paypal Balance as at 26th March 2023		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		178.50	0.00	178.50
Amounts Payable		0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Total Net Assets at 26th March 2023		£11,470.56	-158.00	£11,628.56
		£	£	£
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		-99.08	-50.00	-49.08
		2,233.08	-50.00	2,283.08
Community Amenities Fund		128.38	0.00	128.38
Emergency Resilience Fund		24.96	0.00	24.96
Covid-19 Resilience Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 25th November 2022		78.75	0.00	78.75
Gritting Fund		574.32	-108.00	682.32
Cromarty Live Fund		46.01	0.00	46.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,006.88	0.00	1,006.88
Net C&DCC Reserves		4,092.38	-158.00	4,250.38
Community Event Funds				
Bonfire Night Fund	2,302.14		0.00	2,302.14
Gala Fund	2,677.70		0.00	2,677.70
Splash & Dash Fund	126.00	5,105.84	0.00	126.00
Open Gardens Fund	206.86		0.00	206.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06	408.92	0.00	202.06
Designated Community Funds				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00
Cromarty Rising Fund		513.42	0.00	513.42
		£11,470.56	-158.00	£11,628.56
Alan Plampton 26th March 2023				

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** The first Baby Immunisation Clinic was well received by the Clinic staff and parents attending. Hall Financial Statements will be discussed at our April meeting. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance** A number of leaks have appeared and we still have no disabled toilet. No news about major repairs to flat kitchen roof as recommended in the contractors' report to the HC Clerk of Works. Fire extinguishers have been serviced. The environmental checks for wildlife have been done. The boiler still needs a lot of TLC but is functioning. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Sheddie** Sadly we have discovered unreported damage to the shutter locking mechanism which had rendered the Sheddie unsecured, and thereby its contents uninsured. A temporary fix has been done to secure the building but until repaired completely the Trikes cannot yet be housed for summer use. Discussion about use of the donated snow sweeper is to be had because it takes up valuable space and is not yet being used. All the gritters have been cleaned and put away for the summer (thanks to Peter and Theo). **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Youth Cafe** Due to illness there is no monthly report attached. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
26/03/23

APPENDIX D PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe

Cromarty Ferry.

- The Ferry Service is closed for the winter season.
- Paige is following up on the proposal for extending the Ferry Service, following discussions.

Dog Fouling. (Overall). Ongoing.

There still appear to be instances, however, 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.
- There was a booking for The Cromarty Film Festival, for 23 to 27 March 2023. Copies of Diary distributed by email to C&DCC Members and interested parties.
- 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, (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.
- Highland Council have changed the type of bin in some cases to those with restricted opening. This will cause issues, as to the size of deposits. Survey to be updated. Email sent to Highland Council Department on this and the number that were removed, and was responded to.
- 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". (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.]
- Local volunteers, and some from out of town, continue to uplift litter and dump in the Town Bins. Cromarty Litter Pickers – some equipment has been distributed previously.
- Some small additional tools and equipment are stored in the Sheddie, to be distributed, and to be used by litter expeditions, such as the recent one on the 100 Steps arranged by Kari.

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. They had an Open Day in the Cromarty Victoria Hall, attended by self and others. Very interesting show on **some** of their future plans. Global Energy have their plans for the Rolling Mill, as well as the cable manufacturing plant, which would all revolve around the new quay in my opinion. The existing Tank Farm, that was used for the Beatrice Oli Field is proposed to be demolished. There was no further information given on the proposed Green Hydrogen Processing Plant. Opportunity Black Isle Open Day was held at the Cromarty West Church Hall, attended by self, regarding discussion on the future of the Black Isle.

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

There has been activity carried out by the team of gritters to date this winter. Additional volunteers joined the gritting group. (Old News). Thanks are

Grit bins have been topped up by Highland Council Community Services, but the bins need to be surveyed regularly. A further 5 no. bins had been requested and 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.

The Cromarty Community Assistance Request submittal had been 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 "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 occasion. I did comment to THC on this, also sending thanks for the support to date.

There was a snow brushing machine/plough donated to the town by Simon and Jenny Gunn, however we have not had enough snowfall in order to try it out. Training not carried out either. 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? We did not get sufficient snowfall – the equipment has not been used yet. Must investigate laying up requirements for the summer.

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

As it is not anticipated that there will be more heavy snow this year, the gritters that were located in the Sheddie were washed, cleaned and hung up in the Sheddie for the Summer. Space is required for the Trikes to be stored for easy access, and usage over the summer.

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing.

Red Bins (6 No.) are being emptied on a regular basis both by some volunteers and 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 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 bins are emptied on a Tuesday and all this waste goes to landfill.

John Nightingale Follow Ups.

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

Additional Benches - no further approaches to self.

Sutor Car Park.

No changes recently.

Sutor Litter bin was being monitored by Nige (on his travels) and was being previously emptied by visiting HC 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 were signs of the area being used and visited.

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 coming to an end so needs to be re-assessed. (No change.)

Consideration on Trees at Side of Road on The Denny.

Previously, the Trees on the Denny at the roadside have been commented on for safety reasons – needs 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. (No recent progress recorded)

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

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

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

The Highland Council Planning Department (Erica McArthur) have advised that, as before, planning permission is required. With the action to be taken, with submittal by C&DCC, at last meeting the feeling was that approach be made to Stagecoach for them to bear the cost of the planning application. (Not yet done)

the cost to be reduced to £150.00 if application is made by C&DCC.

John Nightingale, as before, has agreed with the proposal with conditions, such as clarification regarding planning permission, and action on the re-siting of the bins. Emails have been circulated to interested parties.

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?)

A more comprehensive report will be prepared on this Project. In the meantime I had attached a Binder of the relevant emails that have been already forwarded. There are no photos included.

Other Meetings. (Previously Reported On.)

Opportunity Black Isle – in Cromarty West Church Hall on Monday 14th March 2023. – previously referred to here. (Attended)

Nigg Energy Park (Global Energy) – Cable Manufacturing – Tuesday 21st March 2023 – previously referred to here. (Attended)

Cromarty Firth Greenport – Webinar on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 (Attended).

Attachments:-

None at this time.

APPENDIX E
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd

<u>Planning</u>	No new planning
<u>CALA</u>	There has been a report release but CALA showing the funding deficit for the afterschool program in Cromarty due to lower numbers. CALA have asked the community if they have any funding ideas to help fund the service to keep it running. They are approaching HIE and the Scottish Government but if we no of any other grands which could assist to please let them know.
<u>Cromarty Ferry</u>	I have spoke to Dougie Robertson who is the skipper for the Nigg Ferry. The ferry has been subsidised from Highland Council from June until end of September. Last year the Ferry started 1 month early and unfortunately this will not be the case this year. In May there was not enough footfall to make the extra month viable. Dougie has agreed to meet with members regarding going forward with the ferry.
<u>Cromarty Toilets</u>	The Public Toilets have reopened at the start of the month which is good news. There has been an honesty box installed at the site to help with any repairs required. Hopefully this won't be the case but we ask residents to remain vigilant and any issues to be reported as soon as possible.
<u>Rodents</u>	There have been several reports of Rats raised in Cromarty of the past couple of weeks. Please, if you spot any rodents can you report to environmental health as soon as possible.

APPENDIX F
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

1. **BICC** There are no official updates. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Housing** There are no official updates. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 26/03/23

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

I attended the Place Plan consultation and provided feedback.

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

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

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

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

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

Questions specifically on Cromarty included:

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

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

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

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

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

Andy Thurgood
24/03/23

APPENDIX H
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Kari Magee

100 Steps Project

1. **Litter Pick.** (18 March 23) The litter pick turned up 3 bags of rubbish. Many thanks to Hector, Torben and Andy for all their help!
2. **Tree Health Check.** The trees along the path were checked again and no issues were identified.
3. **Deteriorating bridge.** Photos to support the request for a quote have been sent to Donald McLennan.
4. **Wildflower Steps.** (26 March 23) The first two steps from the road up the first bank leading to the wildflower meadow have been completed. The steps for the next slope will be tackled before May 23. Many thanks to Hector, Torben and Andy for all their help!

APPENDIX I PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nigel Shapcott

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

Protocol for using the new harbour gate (due to be installed imminently). This was discussed with the CHT at a previous meeting in November 2022. The main issue is one of health and safety for anyone using or in the vicinity of the harbour. The full protocol is at the end of this document.

The annual crane-in of boats is scheduled for 21st April 2023. The harbour pontoons will be craned-in on the same day. The pontoons will be assembled when conditions allow in order for the leisure craft using the harbour to be moored in the harbour. The crane-in is a potentially hazardous operation, as is the lifting of any heavy and large objects, and is carried out with safety as the priority.

Reeds Loop Path

Weather conditions at the current time do not allow the needed maintenance - the contractor will start as soon as weather permits.

Cromarty Care Project (CCP)

1. Cycling Without Age- Trishaws have been out last week for an Eden Court filming session. CCP would like to move them to the Sheddie asap to start taking people out. Peter is requested to provide a date when they can be moved in.
2. Community Larder-still in great use (the frequency of restocking from Bookers cash and carry is increasing) absolutely we are still accept donations.

Grants

1. "Cost of Living" application to Highland Council - asking for a proportion towards the Monday Lunch Club, costs for ingredients for Fourways afternoon tea and cost of re-stocking the Community Larder (£5500). This was partially funded for the Community Larder (£1200). Topped up by a successful application to the North Highland Initiative (£2000).
2. MADL (Making A Difference Locally - organised through Nisa Retail, thank you for nominating CCP through the Cromarty Stores Marcel) - We were successful in our application and have been awarded £3000. Slow cookers (which are low energy and therefore cheaper to run) have been obtained and distributed within our community.
3. Other 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.

Cromarty Harbour Trust – Proposed procedure for the operation of the gate on the West Pier

The Trustees have agreed that a gate needs to be erected and used to control a number of potentially serious health and safety issues for the wellbeing of all harbour users. The proposal was also presented and discussed with CDCC late in 2022. This note reflects how the Trust intends to operate access to the wider pier areas affected by the installation of a gate on the bridge.

It is important that the harbour continues to manage and balance those safety risks posed to harbour users, and access granted to the community as a whole, and appropriate visitors to Cromarty. Appropriate is deemed to mean the number and purpose of visitors using the harbour. The decision to close (and open) the gate is at the discretion of the harbourmaster (or a designated representative), having assessed the developing situation on site and it would also be his decision when it is deemed safe to reopen it. The harbourmaster will maintain a detailed log of closures that will be used to monitor gate access and determine future policy. **The expectation is that gate will only be closed in exceptional circumstances where the harbourmaster considers there is a serious risk to health or safety such as concerns relating to:**

- **adverse weather conditions;**
- **overcrowding in the outer area (including The Mole); and**
- **multiple fishing lines representing a risk to the individuals themselves and to other harbour users.**

To ensure members of the community continue to have access to the pier for fishing, the Trust will initially issue up to 30 resident fishing permits to allow access in the event of closure. A member of the community is one that is deemed to reside, either in part or full time, in a property with an IV11 postcode. The permit holder is allowed to be accompanied by up to one member of their family or friend. However, a permit does not guarantee that the holder can access the pier/fish on any given day if the harbourmaster has closed the gate due to adverse weather conditions, or any other safety concerns. The harbourmaster's assessment of risk will also take into consideration the number of people accompanying anyone fishing, whether fishing or not.

The expectation is that at most up to 15 fishing lines will be permitted on the seaward side and restricted to the Outer Pier only. This number can change depending on factors beyond just the number of people fishing on a given day. To direct and manage those intending to fish, signage (both fixed and portable) will direct them to the designated fishing area. Fishing will be restricted to the designated area only. No fishing will be permitted in the region of the harbour mouth or basin. Anyone doing so will be requested to leave the pier and if they are a permit holder, their permit will be withdrawn.

A record of permits being issued will be kept electronically; email or messenger will be used to advise permit holders of the gate code. Misuse will result in the withdrawal of the permit.

CHT will need to consider Data Protection Act issues. A look at the 7 principles within the Act indicates that we do not require any significant documentation to comply, simply a designated officer to compile and liaise with those residents who provide the data. As CHT will hold limited personal information, at the time of issue permit holders will be informed that we will retain their information until such times as they/we terminate our association, at which time their data will be deleted. The Act gives individuals the right to inspect their data anytime during association.

There is no particular time or date expectation of when access could be restricted. Where the harbourmaster is unavailable the decision will be delegated to Ryan in the first instance, then David.

Colin Dickie
Chair, Cromarty Harbour Trust
9 March 2023