



Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting held on

Monday 25th March 2024, 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, Alan Rycroft (AR) and Nigel Shapcott (NS).

Youth Member: n/a

Highland Councillor(s): Sarah Atkin (SA)

Member(s) of the public: Phoebe Fox (on behalf of CCDT)

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser (CF)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

CF, PF, NS and AR attended online via Microsoft Teams.

Apologies received from Dominic Scott-Lodge (DSL)

2. Declarations of Interest

No changes to declarations since meeting of 26th October 2020

9. Any Other Business (brought forward by the Chair)

CROMARTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Phoebe spoke on behalf of the CCDT.

The Royal Hotel:

Funding has been approved for the feasibility study to go ahead

East Church Hall:

Individuals/businesses that were in touch before/during the open day are now working with the CCDT and business plans are being produced

CCDT are looking at the costs involved with running the ECH (via Highlife) but are yet to receive a response. SA offered to chase this up if no response is received. PF to speak to SA offline about this.

Campsite:

Has been completely full recently

In the position to now take on an apprentice – local Cromarty lad and everyone's really pleased to be able to give him this role

Can confirm the campsite is really benefitting local businesses as well as the town

Ferry slipway:

More work is to be done to repair the slipway at the Nigg side but it will be completed before the season starts in June

Thrift shop:

Reopens on 6th April 2024

Other news:

Matt & Julie visited the Fourways club which was very positive – they even heard the Cromarty song!

Next meeting is Monday 1st April – anyone from C&DCC to attend? PS confirmed.

PF left shortly after this update.

GOVERNANCE

Nige has prepared a document regarding the governance of the Black Isle Place Plan and changes that need to be made to ensure it is fair to all and also has an element of independence (free from any bias). The document was sent to the organisers for their comments/review.

Discussion opened, with Nige explaining the document and summarizing recent events – since our last meet there had been one governance meeting held at Fortrose Library, followed by a Black Isle Community Council meeting and then another governance meeting, again at the library.

Earlier this evening an updated governance document was sent round by the organizers of the Black Isle Place Plan. NS went through a few areas of change he would make (nothing major) and all members were in agreeance that he would respond with haste re. his comments/amendments. **Action – NS.**

John Stott (Chair of Killearnan CC) has arranged a meeting for all Community Councils tomorrow night (Tuesday 26th) at 730pm in North Kessock to discuss in person. AP, PS and NS to attend.

A massive thanks was given to Nige for all of his work involved in this.

NS left at 20:05pm.

3. Approval of previous minutes, 25th February 2024

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by PS

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 25th February 2024

1. (4.1 – On hold – little movement with THC on TMP and 20mph in urban areas until 2025.) **On hold.**

2. (4.2 – Paige to catch up with Wanda re. inter-generational activities & welcome to Cromarty Sign). Dom is involved with the inter-generational activities so can be **discharged**. PS to be involved with the design of Welcome to Cromarty sign. **Action – PS.**
3. (4.3 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC (more recent reports)). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
4. (4.4 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
5. (4.5 – AP to confirm when funding from Stagecoach has been received). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
6. (4.6 – Mgmt. of the HMI has been transferred to Library Services (still waiting reports re. major maintenance issue)). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
7. (4.7 – SSE refused funding so additional source required for emergency resilience training). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
8. (4.8 – KM to follow up the youth mentoring programme with Dom post exams). **Action – KM**
9. (4.9 – Paige to contact Lyndsey at THC to clarify some points regarding housing qualification for social housing poster). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
10. (4.10 – PS to look into replacing equipment in The Victoria Park). **Action – PS.**
11. (4.11 – Agreed plan with proposed launch of new CL website – Easter (29th March)). Members asked to agree that the new CL website as circulated can go live. All members agreed at meeting! **Action – AP/CF.**
12. (4.12 – Ask Kari re. the email to John Nightingale about the hole at Pirates Graveyard (was to be sent to PS to approve)). Paige to speak to Kari re. this. **Action – PS.**
13. (4.13 – Chase response from new ward manager at THC re. who is responsible for sign at the bus shelter). PS to look into this a bit more and follow up with SA for correct contact. **Action – PS.**
14. (4.14 – Dougie @ Highland Ferries should be attending next meeting). **DISCHARGED.**
15. (4.15 - 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**
16. (4.16 – 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**
17. (4.17 – To continue to discuss with all three councillors re. the use of weed killer in the town, plus the 'maintenance' of the graveyards). PS discussed with SA and she advised speaking to Ingrid & John @ THC and can also ask them re. Community Payback Scheme. **Action – PS**
18. (4.18 – To discuss at a later date the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). **Action - ALL.**
19. (4.19 – Public meeting to be held re. parking byelaws around Cromarty). **Action – ALL.**

20. (4.20 – Dog fouling portfolio needs actioned). PS to put a shout out on socials for any interest (none of C&DCC in Crom have dogs so should be someone that does). **Action – PS.**
21. (4.21 – To see if Kari is willing to be involved in tourism portfolio (potentially alongside other resident)). PS to catch up with KM. **Action – PS.**
22. (4.23 – To go back to Sheila re. our comments on the positions of CCDC vs CCDT). Ongoing. **Action - ALL.**
23. (4.24 – To meet with Ingrid in the New Year and discuss plans for Townlands Park). Paige to speak to SA re. this and arrange a meeting. **Action – PS/SA**
24. (4.25 – Rector of Academy to be asked to keep record of Stagecoach). **On hold. Action – PS.**
25. (4.30 – To draft proposal re. BIPP to bring to BICC meeting). Ongoing. Proposal to be agreed at 26th March 2024 meeting. **Action – AP.**
26. (4.32 – To speak to teachers re. meals at CPS after complaint from Avoch parents). SA shared response from Catering Services at previous meeting. The Food in Schools Group is a good place to raise issues in future. **DISCHARGED.**
27. (4.33 – To go back to resident re. complaints @ Farness Road and suggest resubmit to THC). **Action – PS.**
28. (4.34 – To forward pictures re. Farness Road to Ian Moncrieffe @ THC). Done – awaiting a response. **Action – PS.**
29. (4.35 – To publicise our discussion with Lothian Broadband). More comments re. Lothian Broadband in AOB. **DISCHARGED.**
30. (4.36 – To pass on details of Police Scotland contact to AR so can be picked up as part of his portfolio). See comments in AR portfolio. **DISCHARGED.**
31. (4.37 – To look into and follow up on the Black Isle Swimming Pool). See comments in portfolio's (no action under this point). **DISCHARGED.**
32. (5.1 – To email Highland School Transport contact at THC re. the continuous difficulties with timings of the Cromarty to Fortrose bus). Emailed the officials – said they were going to speak to Stagecoach. Advised them of delays due to the broadband works too, of which they were unaware of. Contract between Stagecoach and THC runs to 2027. To chase. **Action – SA.**
33. (5.2 – To forward timetable of events to PS (school bus)). Done – but is ongoing. **Action – Dom.**
34. (7.1 – To discuss offline with members re. recruitment for TVH committee). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
35. (8.1.1 – To create a Freeport Whatsapp group to keep in touch with residents). AP forwarded contacts to AT but believe it's a bigger problem – probably a sub-committee rather than a Whatsapp group. **On hold. Action – AT.**
36. (8.1.2 – To look into Community Payback Scheme (if still available) and utilise it for street cleaning around the town). **Action – PS/AR.**
37. (9.1.1 – Send IMFDP to Dougie @ Highland Ferries). Done – **DISCHARGED.**

38. (9.1.2 – To look into funding for Dougie to extend ferry service). To be discussed further – it won't be in place for this summer anyway. **Action – ALL.**
39. (9.2.1 – To advise Becky (BR) re. attendees from C&DCC to meeting at Fortrose Library). Done – **DISCHARGED.**

5. **Youth Issues**

Dom wasn't present and didn't have any updates on youth issues, other than the school bus still having its usual issues.

PS is working on this with Fortrose Academy and will chase it up when the time is right (already an action point).

There were no further comments.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

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

Opened to AP for discussion – advised that the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2024 are being prepared. Not much else has happened or is happening!

There were no 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.

Victoria Hall:

As #6 above not much has happened or is happening as we are coming towards the end of the year but there continue to be lots of regular (and new) bookings.

Feasibility study has halted for now but it will recommence post year end.

Maintenance of all the fire systems will be done soon.

Also received an oil spill tray but it didn't come with any information!

Youth Café:

Have just secured funding from National Lottery for two years!

This will secure the youth workers job until March 2026.

To finalise application via C&DCC as we're required to act on behalf of Cromarty Youth Café – all members agreed this was ok.

Discussion ended by confirming **NO** repairs are required to the gritters and that Alan Munro (Cromarty resident) has done an amazing job. ALL members agreed!

There were no further comments or questions.

8. **Members' Reports**

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

Alan R:

Police Report:

Still trying to meet with former liaison officer and area deputy commander to arrange a regular police report to C&DCC.

Black Isle Swimming Pool:

Have emailed the chair (not local to Scotland). Will report back with any findings.

AR sent round some documents re. a 'Deep Green' company who are a London based business that heat swimming pools all over the UK by immersing computer servers in mineral oil. They've been awarded £200m in government grants to heat 150 pools in the UK.

Doesn't know however if this will cover new pools or existing ones only. Just for information (no action).

Paige:

Dog Fouling:

Is aware that we need to find someone to take over the dog fouling portfolio. None of the members of C&DCC own a dog so should be someone willing to lead this within the community. PS to put a shout out on socials (already an action point).

Nige:

There were no comments or questions – largest part of portfolio discussed at start of meeting (Governance).

Alan P:

Emergency resilience training sub-committee.

Recruitment of members is on hold due to a bereavement

Open Gardens

To come back under the C&DCC umbrella so they can utilize our insurance and have agreed to be more transparent. AT will represent C&DCC and minutes will be shared

Andy:

Meetings:

To attend meeting tomorrow night (26th March 2024) at The Victoria Hall held by Global Energy Group/Port of Nigg (open to all as usual) re. latest round of planning.

Acknowledged a complaint by a member of the community regarding the advertising of the event. PS will respond after the meeting (we advertised what we were given). **Action – PS.**

Will also attend Port of Cromarty Firth (PoCF) liasons meeting on 11 April 2024.

Noise monitoring:

Results of some noise monitoring have been received however errors were found & it's clear more data is needed. A sign of lack of staff/resources.

Confirmed that only one noise complaint was received last month, which is positive but doesn't mean no one else was bothered by the sounds just means no one is saying anything about it.

Light Pollution:

AT also chased response from John Allen at THC re. email regarding 'darker skies' from earlier month (see January 2024 minutes for further info).

Sweeper:

Hasn't had much interest on eBay – members thought it was a good suggestion to list on Gumtree for a slightly lowered price of £725. PS to do. **Action – PS.**

Also discussed selling to local business – potentially Frank Nicol?

All members agreed/are aware that we're coming into the wrong season to sell this piece of equipment.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Andy for the milestone he is to reach next week and we wish him the best of luck with his retirement.

There were no further comments on any of the member's portfolios.

The Highland Council:

- Attended the main council meeting last week. 22 item agenda – meeting lasted 2 days!
- Ferintosh wee bus – the daytime driver is no longer carrying out this service so bus not available. THC have put on a Tore to Culbokie bus in the meantime. Bruce @ Ferintosh CC is however in discussion to start a Community Council transport company!
- Roads – THC need to find a way to generate funds for infrastructure. SA feeling much more positive about this though now there's a plan!

Correspondence Received:

Email from resident re. The PAYE. Has met with THC re. the maintenance required and was documenting it with C&DCC. We will be kept in the loop as to how things progress. Just for information, no action required.

9. **Any Other Business (continued..)**

CROMARTY STORES

Confirmation that it will be open Monday to Saturday during the summer months

CALENDAR FROM PETER R

CF took this over as part of her portfolio but isn't aware of how it works. To look at it offline but is aware it's a simple spreadsheet so should be straight forward enough.

LOTHIAN BROADBAND

All members agreed they have not kept up the communication that was promised and advised works starting on XX road when in fact work started on XY road – making us look pretty silly! AP to email Claudette Bruce about this and arrange a catch up if possible. **Action – AP.**

SA advised she has spoken to the contractors for Lothian Broadband (due to complaints from the general public) and they confirmed the 'crew' will be dropping from 18 to 8 post Easter weekend. This was possible news for all members.

There were no further comments or questions.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 29th April 2024 at 730pm

Meeting ended at 2140pm.

APPENDIX A

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 25th March 2024

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** still reflects Internet costs paid in advance plus the £150 planning fee STILL to be repaid by Stagecoach. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **AMOUNTS PAYABLE** still 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 (ex Open Gardens donation). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** still reflects Resilience costs (to be funded by someone!). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **CROMARTY RISING FUND** reflects donations received from General Public and payment to Environmental Lawyer. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
5. **ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** to the 31st March 2024, currently being prepared and the Final Draft Financial Statements (pre audit) will be presented at the next C&DCC meeting (29th April). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
24/03/24

APPENDIX B
Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting				
Held on Monday 25th March 2024				
Agenda Item No 6 - Treasurer’s Report				
Statement of Financial Position at 24th March 2024				
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 26/02/24</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 24th March 2024		12,166.69	-624.94	12,791.63
Paypal Balance as at 24th March 2024		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 24th March 2024		£12,159.89	-624.94	£12,784.83
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2023		2,093.28	0.00	2,093.28
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		-397.09	0.00	-397.09
		1,696.19	0.00	1,696.19
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2023		211.75	0.00	211.75
C&DCC Amenity & Event Funds	£			
Community Amenities Fund	1,384.46		0.00	1,384.46
Community Fund ex Bonfire	2,302.14		0.00	2,302.14
Community Fund ex Gala	2,645.70		0.00	2,645.70
Community Fund ex S&D	126.00	6,458.30	0.00	126.00
Community Gritting Fund		561.33	0.00	561.33
Cromarty Live Fund		4.01	0.00	4.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,014.98	0.00	1,014.98
Net C&DCC Reserves		9,946.56	0.00	9,946.56
Designated Community Funds				
Primary School Fund ex Open Gardens		0.00	0.00	0.00
Gluren bij de Buren Fund		202.06	0.00	202.06
Toddler Playgroup Fund (prev West Church)		1,657.79	0.00	1,657.79
Cromarty Rising Fund		353.48	-624.94	978.42
		£12,159.89	-624.94	£12,784.83
Alan Plampton 24th March 2024				

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** have stayed strong as a review of the Booking Fees is to be completed on 1st April 2024. Although the annual Financial Statements are not yet completed, the Hall is still solvent. Meanwhile we have now found room for a third table tennis table as that group becomes more popular. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

2. **Repairs & Maintenance** The introduction of the stage front curtains seems to be popular. The final stage of the feasibility study has been delayed and will now take place once the year end is out of the way. Servicing of the Heating Boiler, Fire Alarms and Fire Extinguishers are all booked over the next few weeks. Delivery of an Oil Spill Tray has been taken, to be fitted at the service. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

3. **Sheddie** Emergency Resilience Funding is still being sought. The Winter Resilience team have now cleaned and serviced the gritters, which will now be put away for the summer. A special thank you to Allan Munro, who has been amazing. A date for the CCP Trikes arrival is expected soon. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

4. **Youth Cafe** The monthly report is attached. Again, during the last month, more funding applications have been successful. This includes a major 2 year funding deal from the National Lottery funders, Awards for All. Due to technicalities in this particular funding, it has been necessary to agree that this application will be in the name of the C&DCC, rather than the CYC. Given the importance of this to the Youth Café's budget, I hope that Members are happy to agree this request. As a result, and we await the money, we hope to yet again extend both Youth Workers' job contracts. This time until at least 31st March 2026. **ACTION – Information but also Members' agreement to the funding**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
25/03/24

APPENDIX D
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Rycroft

Portfolio Report for Cromarty and District Community Council – March 2024 - Alan Rycroft

Police Liaison

I am somewhat disappointed not to have yet received any response from the nominated police officer, Constable Dan Zaborowski. As regards senior officers, Police Scotland are currently engaged in personnel changes at Dingwall. Once Inspector Ross's replacement has been appointed, I will attempt to speak with him. Meanwhile, I will of course persevere in attempting to achieve dialogue with PC Zaborowski – I am not particularly surprised at the pace of progress, in view of past experiences in trying to establish meaningful liaison with Police Scotland.

Black Isle Swimming Pool

Although not strictly a portfolio item, it might be useful to mention that Nige and I have continued to try to ascertain the current status of the long-running campaign to secure a pool for the Black Isle. We have recently written to the last-known chair of the Black Isle Swimming Pool Foundation, whose listed home address is in Perth. We await his response.

APPENDIX E
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd

<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alterations to garden wall <p>Land 20M East Of Public Toilets Allan Square Cromarty Ref. No: 24/00154/LBC Received: Thu 18 Jan 2024 Validated: Wed 24 Jan 2024 Status: Decided</p>
<p>Town Maintenance</p>	<p>I have had an increased number of residents asking about general maintenance around the town. Last year we had the Community Pay back scheme help with the sheltered housing and tidying up the paths and removing weeds. I am going to see if this scheme is available again.</p>
<p>Dog Bin Rota</p>	<p>One of the missing gaps for our Portfolios is the Dog poo bin rota. Paige to speak to members tonight as there is many dog walkers in the town and a call to arms may be required. With the summer months vastly approaching we do not want to be in an overflowing situation come the height of tourist season.</p>
<p>Roads</p>	<p>I have submitted residents' photos to the HC as the road conditions have not improved. Awaiting to hear back from HC.</p>

APPENDIX F
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nige Shapcott

Portfolio Report for Cromarty and District Community Council- March 2024 - Nigel Shapcott

HC Core Path report- Reeds Loop Path, Lady's Walk, 100 Steps

Reeds Loop

No further along as I have not had a reply to my email. *(Feb Report) path is now reopened and is in use with notices saying take appropriate care. The path is showing some wear and tear due to poor weather but is still being used. Phillip Waite of HC is planning to get quotations to understand the cost of repairs but HC is not in the position to fund these. It will be up to the community to apply for funds to help HC take care of repairs- Coastal Communities Fund for example?*

100 Steps

No further along as I have not had a reply to my email. *(Feb Report) by report this path is deteriorating badly and I have requested to HC that the contractors quoting for the Reeds Loop look at this as well.*

NAF/LAF Meeting - March 20th 2024

Attended this meeting which is a high level meeting of the Joint Meeting of National Access Forum and Local Access Forums. The main aims were to discuss Communication and Training. Considering this was online only group discussions worked pretty well and there will be outcomes improving networking between Core Path officials.

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

No report received at this time.

Black Isle Swimming Pool

Alan Rycroft will be reporting on this.

Cromarty Care Project (CCP)- report provided by Alison Seller

Lunch Club:

We are hopeful that Cromarty Primary School are going to host a "Summer Café" for our over-60's during the school summer term. We have not publicised this as yet, since we are awaiting confirmation of funding. More about this next month.

Playgroup will break for the Easter Holidays (finishing 26th March).

Cinema Club is continuing on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Assembly of the "Chairs for Chats" bench, to be situated at the sheltered housing in Townlands, has been delayed. Hopefully will be completed soon.

New Larder Shed:

We now have proper shelving in place and the volunteers are very happy with improvements!

Craigie Urquhart Trust:

Still awaiting paperwork from Highland Council.

CAB:

Christine Macdonald of Citizens Advice would like to speak to various groups in town to explain the services offered by CAB. We'll arrange with Playgroup, Lunch Club and Fourways. Are there any other suitable gatherings which C&DCC can suggest?

Nicola Campbell presented a "CAB Focus On . . . Attendance Allowance" as the first in a regular slot in the March Cromarty Newsletter.

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 25th March 2024

1. **BICC** Meeting scheduled for 26th March. Knockbain CC hosting. Urgent BICC discussion re Final BI Place Plan Draft, and in particular, its governance proposals to address concern at any BIP involvement in BIPP governance, following recent Governance Workshops held. **ACTION – Information and discussion**

2. **Housing** Still awaiting Albyn Housing proposals on CM01. No further update re IMFDP. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

3. **Resilience** Proposed creation of a Resilience Sub-Committee to all aspects from Emergency Action Plans, Resilience Centres and Winter Resilience. Recruitment to Sub-Committee ongoing. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

4. **Events** Request received from the ‘group’ organising Open Gardens to become a Sub-Committee of the C&DCC, thereby coming under our liability insurance ‘umbrella’. Minutes to be supplied to C&DCC and one of our Members to be invited to attend (this responsibility to be delegated to AT as he is a member of the Open Gardens group. **ACTION – Discussion and Members’ agreement required**

5. **Defibrillators** Issy Elliott has agreed to do the service checking on the Fishertown Inn unit, with Fraser Thomson continuing to cover the Victoria Hall unit as well as temporarily covering the Fire Station unit. All batteries and pads in date and units ‘ready to use’. The Scottish Ambulance Service recently had need to use the Victoria Hall unit, although we have no details of the incident. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 24/03/24

APPENDIX H
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood

A Thurgood – 22/03/24

Meetings attended

None since the last meeting.

I am planning to attend the Global Energy Group drop-in public exhibition session at the Victoria Hall on 26th March, and the Port of Cromarty Firth Communities Councils meeting on 11th April.

Correspondence

Following Caroline Vawdrey's enquiry about a Dark Skies community, I did receive an email from John Allen at THC Street Lighting at the end of February, stating that he would respond to my enquiry when work on budgets had been completed. I have let Caroline know, and have sent a further email chasing the enquiry.

I wrote to Gregor MacCormick THC EHO identifying errors in the noise monitoring report, relating to the monitoring undertaken November/December. He acknowledged my points, and confirmed errors in the report. He additionally identified that vibration monitoring was due to take place 14th – 22nd March, undertaken by contractor, Vibrock. He confirmed results will be shared with relevant parties, once the report is prepared.

Noise and other nuisance from the Firth

One noise complaint identified during the month – 4th March, concerning vessel Tai An Kou, at Nigg East Quay from 28th February – five nights at the point of complaint.

Based on the attendance at the last Community Council meeting, and the views shared by our community members attending, concerning water quality, the effects of dredging, and the impact on avian and marine life, I will be looking to scope out proposals on how to progress matters over the next couple of months.

Sale of Self-Propelled Sweeper

There remains no interest in Stiga SWS 800G sweeper listed on eBay at £800. The listing has received 139 views since posting on 24th January, and has 4 'watchers'.

For discussion – should we lower the price or explore other avenues to realise a sale?

Andy Thurgood
22/03/24