



Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting held on

Monday 27th May 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:

Highland Councillor(s): Sarah Atkin (SA).

Member(s) of the public: Sheila Currie (on behalf of CCDT), Bob Latimer (Treasurer - F&RCC), Louise (Cromarty Fire Service).

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser (CF)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from Dominic Scott-Lodge (Youth Member)

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

CF, BL and AR attended online via Microsoft Teams.

2. Declarations of Interest

No changes to declarations since meeting of 26th October 2020

3. Approval of previous minutes, 29th April 2024

The minutes were approved by AT and seconded by AP.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 29th April 2024

1. (4.1 – On hold – little movement with THC on TMP and 20mph in urban areas until 2025.) **On hold.**
2. (4.2 – To speak to Wanda re. redesign of Cromarty Sign). Ongoing. **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 – 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 – To follow up the youth mentoring programme with Dom post exams). **Action – KM**
9. (4.9 – To contact Lyndsey at THC to clarify some points regarding housing qualifications for social housing poster). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
10. (4.10 – To speak to THC re. replacing equipment in Victoria Park). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
11. (4.12 – To catch up with Kari re. the email to J Nightingale about Pirates Graveyard). **Action – PS.**
12. (4.13 – PS to follow up with SA re. Cromarty sign at bus shelter (who’s responsible?). **Action – PS.**
13. (4.14 - 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**
14. (4.15 – 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**
15. (4.16 – To speak to Ingrid and John at THC re. use of weed killer in the town & maintenance of the graveyards). **Action – PS**
16. (4.17 – To discuss at a later date the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). **Action - ALL.**
17. (4.18 – Public meeting to be held re. parking byelaws around Cromarty). **Action – ALL.**
18. (4.19 – To seek a volunteer to lead dog-fouling portfolio via social media). **Action – PS.**
19. (4.20 – To see if Kari is willing to be involved in tourism portfolio). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
20. (4.21 – To go back to Sheila re. our comments on the positions of CCDC vs CCDT). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
21. (4.22 – To arrange a meeting re. Townlands Park with Ingrid @ THC). Awaiting response. **Action – PS.**
22. (4.23 – Rector of Academy to be asked to keep record of Stagecoach). **On hold.**
23. (4.26 – Awaiting a reply from Ian Moncrieffe at HTC re. Farness Road). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
24. (4.27 – To follow up with Highland School Transport contact at THC re. the continuous difficulties with timings of the Cromarty to Fortrose bus). **Action – SA.**
25. (4.29– To discuss recruitment for TVH committee). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
26. (4.30 – Potential sub-committee to be created re. Freeport etc (long-term project)). **Action - AT.**
27. (4.31 – To look into Community Payback Scheme (if still available) and utilise it for street cleaning around the town). Awaiting response. **Action – PS.**
28. (4.32 – To look into funding for Dougie to extend ferry service). **Action – ALL.**

29. (4.35 – To go back to BIP organisers with additional comments on governance on behalf of C&DCC from email sent prior to meeting). Done **DISCHARGED**.
30. (4.36 – To look into how to community calendar works (portfolio taken over from Peter R). **DISCHARGED**.
31. (4.37 – To be the communicator for the residents with CGU/Highland Broadband). On going. **Action – AT**.
32. (5.1 – To find a regular bus-taker from Fortrose Academy to keep note of delays). Ongoing. **Action – PS**.
33. (7.1 – To contact waste management re. the oil spill kit that was dropped off to TVH). Ongoing. **Action – SA**.
34. (8.1 – To share with members communication with SEPA re. noise monitoring). Response still awaited from SEPA. **Action – AT**.
35. (8.2 – To arrange a separate meeting re. noise monitoring). **Action – ALL**.
36. (8.3 – To present application to CCDT re. 100 steps funding). **Action – NS**.
37. (8.4 – To look into how C&DCC can apply for funding to enable our own contactors to do work required around the town!). **Action – SA**.
38. (8.5 – To look into why Cromarty area (& others) don't qualify to have a brown bin (even if paid for). **DISCHARGED**
39. (9.1. – To speak to Matt @ CCDT re. matters discussed in April meeting). **DISCHARGED**
40. (9.2 – To recruit litter picker volunteers ASAP). **Action – ALL**.
41. (9.3 – To draft response re. email about Environmental and Infrastructure Committee). **DISCHARGED**
42. (9.4 – To speak to other community councils and think about ideas for a celebration to be held in 2027 re. 50 years of community councils)! **Action – ALL**.

5. Youth Issues

Dom not present but not aware of any youth issues other than on-going school bus issues.

AP proposed a youth member, in addition to Dom (although Dom's last meeting will be July when he turns 18). He had the option to stay on but is going on to pursue further interests. New member will turn 16 in June so he should be attending our next meeting.

The youth café team are going to be working with him to increase his confidence which will help him with the meetings. The time will go towards his saltire award. Can be a youth member from 16-18 years old. All members agreed this proposition and that we should try and encourage him to stay on as an elected member after this!

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/questions.

- a. Not much to say, numbers speak for themselves. Wasn't a great month & still waiting for Stagecoach to reimburse us for the planning application funds!
- b. Conversation opened re. defibrillators. Can we have one closer to Townlands? Members discussed applying for another unit – AP to contact Lucky 2 be here (name came via Louise @ Cromarty Fire) re. costs etc. There is potential for the unit to be installed at the campsite. Further discussion required. **Action – AP.**

There were no further comments.

9. **Any Other Business (brought forward by Chairwoman)**

Cromarty Community Development Trust (CCDT)

Sheila spoke on behalf of CCDT:

Community Meeting

They have cancelled their Community Gathering – it will be rescheduled. Will try to speak to the bigger groups in Cromarty prior to a meeting however. Confirmed they are happy to hold the meeting in conjunction with C&DCC – probably best to wait until later in the summer.

AP explained the position with governance etc to SC and is to send information around re. webinar for someone from CCDT to attend tomorrow (Tuesday 28th). **Action – AP.**

Royal Hotel

Feasibility study continues – aware The Royal Hotel has been relisted for sale. Doesn't think this is going to be a problem. There is a community feedback questionnaire doing its round on socials (and in The Post Office) would appreciate as many people as possible filling this out.

East Church Hall

Highlife have now removed themselves from the 'management' of this building which should make things easier as can now deal directly with THC. CCDT working as fast as they can to progress this project. Community asset transfer doesn't seem to be the simplest way for now but may be an option. Common Good team are keen for it to have a use.

Unit @ Whitedykes

Are keen to do a community asset transfer for this building, ideal for CCDT given its location next to the campsite

Campsite

Minivans are still parking around the town (not much we can do about this – discussed byelaws etc). Apprentice is working really well and site is filling up for the summer.

AGM

Is on 6 June 2024 at TVH. SC asked re. their 'action point' from last years AGM re. the roles of C&DCC and CCDT. PS/AP are aware of this and confirmed their working on it (but it has taken a back seat of late). To get back to SC ASAP.

Other

Members asked SC if CCDT have any interest in The West Church (For sale for £125k). It was confirmed that this is of no interest right now.

There were no further comments and Sheila left the meeting at 20:20pm.

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:

The murals painted on the external wall of TVH are being taken down and offered to residents pictured. Maintenance to the wall is required so it needs to be done. There is a new mosaic already complete that is to go up in the summer.

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:

Received a police report again this month but has had confirmation that the police constable has just been transferred. Is unsure yet if anyone will take on the police liaison role. AR working on it.

AP asked if AR believes all crimes should be reported? AR says absolutely yes, even if nothing comes of it. Confirmed that they don't tend to come out for burglaries anymore but if you are claiming through insurance you need to atleast contact them to receive a crime number.

Nige:

Cromarty Harbour Trust

Are looking for a letter of support re. the gate installation from C&DCC. Morale is at an all time low due to various factors, including the comments online and backlash they are receiving. THC have asked them to apply for retrospective planning for the gate which they've agreed to do (despite the harbour having no need to do this due to underlying rights). Directors/members are going to step down if it continues.

Discussion opened:

We need to remember that they had no choice, but all agreed there needs to be more communication. Suggested wording as been received from CHT but all members agreed it needs reworded to just state the facts based on our conversation with The Harbour Trust a few months ago.

Bob Latimer was attending the meeting to discuss HOW they will access the harbour now gate is installed (is treasurer of F&RCC but is also a fisherman). After our discussion understands that it's not to be closed unless there is a health and safety risk. Would appreciate some notice re. the gates closure though and confirmed he'd be happy with a message via whats app or an email – any method of communication in fact would be acceptable.

AT to rewrite our 'letter of support' and send round to members for approval before sending to Colin @ CHT ahead of publishing in the newsletter. **Action – AT.**

NS to go back to CHT and suggest ideas as to how to communicate gate closure to the public. **Action – NS.**

Town Tidy Up

Suggested we apply for funding from THC and then engage our own contractors to carry out the work as the work being done at the moment is not satisfactory.

All members agreed that we must advise THC re. the areas that aren't being cleared (that they are supposed to be clearing) as they may not be aware of the workmanship they are paying to be done (or not). AP confirmed that the grass cutting at The Victoria Park has been terrible recently.

If THC confirm they can't cover the areas we need we need to do it ourselves (via funding from THC). AP to request maintenance schedule from THC and then look into funding options. BL confirmed it's the same situation in F&R. **Action – AP.**

Town Bins

In addition to the above need to go back to THC re. the emptying of the town bins as they are not being emptied weekly on a Tuesday (despite it being confirmed they would be). **Action – AP.**

We already know that:

Budget doesn't expand for the uplift of the garden waste bins for Cromarty & surrounding areas

Budget doesn't stretch to cover a food waste bin provision to Cromarty & surrounding areas

Have been provided with new grey bin and advised that if the bin is full to take excess to recycling centre (none of which is satisfactory).

Alan P:

Confirmed that Craig Fraser has agreed to continue to empty the dog waste bins on the links (as he always done). We'd need to keep an eye on them and arrange for them to be emptied in Craig's absence.

Another member has also agreed to empty the dog waste bins in the Bowling Green Carpark and on Reeds Loop path (if this one turns up).

Rota to be prepared. Call out for more volunteers required. **Action – AP.**

Andy:

Highland Broadband:

Had a recent walk around the town with Highland Broadband and CGU. Have agreed various amendments/maintenance works that are required. They are very supportive to the town and have contributed £1k to Open Gardens (split 50/50 from HB and CGU).

Nigg/Port of Cromarty Firth (PoCF)

To arrange a meeting at PoCF to go through their operations and see the site/works in progress/future plans. Should help us understand things better/see their point of view. Looks like a

Friday in early June, AT asking if anyone wants to join him? NS, AR and AP all to check their availability but would like to attend if possible. **Action – AT.**

There were no further comments on any of the portfolios.

The Highland Council:

- In The Highland Council 20-year investment program, agreed at full Council in May, Fortrose Academy is one of the top 5 projects for work/upgrades within the first 5 years. Local members are delighted because parts of the building are in a terrible state of repair.
- SA confirmed she's been lobbying hard for St Clements school because most people are unaware that 1/3 of the pupils attending the school live on the Black Isle. There are improvements to the current site happening over the summer. As part of the 20-year investment program, St Clements is also a priority project but as part of a master plan for Dingwall, which will include primary provision.
- Big shock recently when local councilor died – huge turnout at funeral
- Have a meeting this week regarding 'ward business'
- Restructuring has been undertaken at The Highland Council; this appears to be successful and should deliver financial savings
- BIPP has been submitted – governance remains an issue
- SA confirmed the three councillors are due to change their community rotation next month. They 'keep one' and 'change one'. Confirmed that Sarah will be continuing to act for C&DCC.

Correspondence Received:

Nothing to note.

9. Any Other Business (continued..)

Louise @ Cromarty Fire Service

Attended the entire meeting so PS asked if there was anything to be discussed that we'd not mentioned. Confirmed she had no comments had been eager to attend and know more about what's going on in the community.

There were no further comments or questions.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 24th June 2024 at 730pm, although it's likely this meeting will be changed due to members other commitments.

Meeting ended at 2150pm.

APPENDIX A

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** still reflects 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, £200 that is to be used on a Primary School project (ex Open Gardens donation) and £1,000 donation to Open Gardens, to be paid out to the organising group for distribution in cash to 2024 beneficiaries. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **SURPLUS/DEFICIT TO DATE** reflects the costs so far this year ahead of receiving the annual THC maintenance grant. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND** reflects public donations via the Bakery. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
5. **COMMUNITY LIVE FUND** reflects a donation towards and costs of newsletter distribution. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
6. **CROMARTY RISING FUND** reflects donations received from General Public. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
7. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** (with Notes) to the 31st March 2024 have now been audited without amendment. Audited Financial Statements will be presented to the AGM, for consideration and approval held prior to this meeting. Based on these figures please find attached an updated projection of how long the C&DCC can remain solvent. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
26/05/24

APPENDIX B

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

| Statement of Financial Position at 26th May 2024 | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ |
| Net Assets | | | Movement | at 26/04/24 |
| Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 26th May 2024 | | 12,894.76 | 60.97 | 12,833.79 |
| Paypal Balance as at 26th May 2024 | | 4.50 | 0.00 | 4.50 |
| Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance | | 150.00 | -135.00 | 285.00 |
| Amounts Payable | | -1,204.50 | 0.00 | -1,204.50 |
| Total Net Assets at 26th May 2024 | | £11,844.76 | -74.03 | £11,918.79 |
| | | | | |
| | | £ | £ | £ |
| Represented by: | | | | |
| C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2024 | | 1,596.69 | 0.00 | 1,596.69 |
| Surplus/Deficit for the year to date | | -304.30 | -174.26 | -130.04 |
| | | 1,292.39 | -174.26 | 1,466.65 |
| Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2024 | | 211.75 | 0.00 | 211.75 |
| C&DCC Amenity & Event Funds | | | | |
| | £ | | | |
| Community Amenities Fund | 1,574.69 | | 0.00 | 1,574.69 |
| Community Event Funds ex Bonfire/Gala/S&D | 5,073.84 | 6,648.53 | 0.00 | 5,073.84 |
| Community Resilience Fund | | 336.10 | 0.00 | 336.10 |
| Cromarty Live Fund | | 0.01 | -4.00 | 4.01 |
| Community Defibrillator Fund | | 1,053.71 | 38.73 | 1,014.98 |
| Net C&DCC Reserves | | 9,542.49 | -139.53 | 9,682.02 |
| Designated Community Funds | | | | |
| Open Gardens Fund | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gluren bij de Buren Fund | | 202.06 | 0.00 | 202.06 |
| Toddler Playgroup Fund (prev West Church) | | 1,426.79 | -49.50 | 1,476.29 |
| Cromarty Rising Fund | | 673.42 | 115.00 | 558.42 |
| | | £11,844.76 | -74.03 | £11,918.79 |
| | | | | |
| Alan Plampton 26th May 2024 | | | | |

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

- 1. Bookings** Quieter now the winter season has ended, but plenty of varied events still taken (and to take) place. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 2. Repairs & Maintenance** New bins are now in operation. Outside YC murals are to be replaced with a Mosaic (that was commissioned by the Cromarty Arts Trust). An unveiling is planned for July. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 3. Sheddie** No issues or updates. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 4. Youth Cafe** The monthly report is attached. **ACTION – Information only**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
26/05/24

APPENDIX D
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Rycroft

Police Liaison

I have received the latest report from Police Scotland, which I submit for information.

There have been 7 calls to Cromarty area one of which is potentially a crime.

Having finally initiated an arrangement with the police for ongoing liaison, I have just been informed that our contact, Constable Dan Zaborowski, is transferring out of Dingwall on Monday 27 May 2024, and so will no longer be able to undertake that function for us. He has been unable to inform me who, if anyone, will pick up the baton, therefore I will attempt to ascertain more information as soon as possible. This development probably makes it even more necessary for me to try to secure a meeting with a local area commander (or deputy). I will of course report on further progress with Police Scotland in due course.

Black Isle Swimming Pool

We have no further information yet, regarding the status of any funding held for this project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORM

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Command Area | North | Community Group | Dingwall CC |
| Station | Dingwall | Officer | PC N0399 Daniel Zaborowski |
| Date of Meeting | 29/04/24 | Location | Cromarty |
| Meeting Attended | No | Meeting Not Attended (Contact Made) | Yes |

Meeting Preparation

| | |
|---|---|
| Ward and Local Policing Plan Priorities. | Activities conducted over the reporting period to support those priorities. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting People 2. Reducing Antisocial Behaviour 3. Reducing Violence 4. Tackling Substance Misuse 5. Making our Roads Safer 6. Tackling Serious Organised Crime | |
| Update on Previously Agreed Actions – See previous OP 55/8 & Relevant Reference on the Area Command Action Tracking Table | |
| <p>2 X Abandoned 999 calls – accidental calls to the Police.</p> <p>3 X Assistance calls – relating to intimidating behaviour, attempted bank scam and assisting a member of a public. No criminal complaints made and suitable advice given.</p> <p>1 X Public nuisance call – relating to a complaint of speeding with suitable advice given.</p> <p>1 X Assault call – assault at an address in Cromarty to slight injuries with complainers still requiring to be seen by the Police.</p> | |
| Update on any local community safety issues / trends within the community and any assistance / information requested from the community. Review IMPACT / intelligence etc | |

28/03/24 – 28/04/24

Between the above dates, Police had reason to deal with 8 calls in the Cromarty area, with the following crimes being recorded.

VANDALISM – 0

DRUG OFFENCES: 0

DISORDER/ASSAULT: 1

DOMESTIC OFFENCES: 0

THEFT (INCLUDING SHOPLIFTING) / FRAUD: 0

ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES: 0

OTHER OFFENCES: 0

Many Thanks,
Daniel Zaborowski
Police Constable
Dingwall Police Station

Any local / Area Command / Divisional / Police Scotland updates / key messages

Meeting Outcomes

| Date Raised | Issue | Agreed / Proposed Actions | Area Command Action Tracking Table Reference | Remarks |
|-------------|-------|---------------------------|--|---------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Intelligence - SID Log References (If submitted)

| |
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| |
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Next Meeting

| Date | | Time | | Location | |
|------|--|------|--|----------|--|
| | | | | | |

Area Commander Review

| Initial | | Date | |
|---------|--|------|--|
| | | | |

Distribution:
Forward to DCU, Highland and Islands Mailbox.

APPENDIX E
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd

Planning

- [Enlargement of an existing rear doorway to form French-doors onto new paved terrace](#) 

St Ann'S Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA

Ref. No: 24/01730/LBC | Received: Tue 30 Apr 2024 | Validated: Mon 13 May 2024 | Status: Under Consideration

- [Siting of donation post box](#) 

Land 65M NW Of The Royal Hotel Marine Terrace Cromarty

Ref. No: 24/00873/LBC | Received: Thu 07 Mar 2024 | Validated: Sat 18 May 2024 | Status: Under Consideration

- [Erection of a new gate \(retrospective\)](#) 

Cromarty Harbour Trust Cromarty Harbour George Street Cromarty

Ref. No: 24/00352/LBC | Received: Mon 05 Feb 2024 | Validated: Wed 27 Mar 2024 | Status: Under Consideration

Raddery House

I was asked to take part in the Feasibility Study for Raddery House. This consisted of a half hour phone call with Calum Macleod who is part of the consultancy team to undertake the potential of a community buy out of the property. This was a good discussion with some good information being shared. They spoke with various stakeholders and are looking to compile a report going forward.

Townlands Park

I have been approached by several residents in the town regarding the state of the little park in townlands. The grass is massively overgrown and the weeds coming out of the side by the roads are unsightly and becoming ever more unruly. Both Sarah and I have contacted the HC and we are just awaiting a response.

APPENDIX F
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nige Shapcott

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

Reeds Loop

Path has been mowed in May. 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.

100 Steps

See above. Following our meeting with CCDT we have produced a 1st draft of a generic grant proposal for significant path maintenance using ChatGPT.

Highland Local Access Group Meeting

April 30th 2024 there was no opportunity to talk about the Reeds Loop or 100 Steps paths. It was a two hour meeting of the newly constituted LAG group, nothing like what I was expecting at all. It's a group which makes funding decisions about an amalgamation of rural funding £1-£1.5 million per year for local projects within the Highland Council area. It is very much a follow up from the EU LEADER funding model, I'll paste info below on how it fitted into the LEADER model in the past. They (HC Admin. very helpful. Chair Fiona Cameron) will look into how this fits in with Local Place Plans and other issues. Amongst other things we are exploring the idea of the local community benefiting from the person's time attending meetings in the future. ie income for the C&DCC to top up our paltry £450 annual budget. It does mean that we have to declare conflict of interest at meetings, i.e. if Cromarty puts in an application for an e.g. EV charging point, we would declare it, but it does not mean Cromarty cannot put an application in. There is a face to face meeting planned for 30th May I hope to progress this issue there.

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

Following discussions with THC, we were asked to apply for retrospective Listed Building Consent for the installation of the gate. That is happening now and a consultation notice is on our noticeboard. The policy for operation of the gate will be exactly how we finished the season last year, i.e. it was never closed other than in extenuating circumstances.. I only anticipate its usage when safety risk is assessed as high. There is a procedure in place with the final decision resting with the Harbourmaster in accordance with our observance to the Port Safety Marine Code.

All pontoons are now in the water.

We await decisions by two grantors re East Pier, we are optimistic.

The harbour is run by volunteers.

Discussion requested under AOB

Black Isle Swimming Pool

Alan Rycroft will be reporting on this.

Cromarty Care Project (CCP)

BEM for Jill Stoner

First Chairperson, Dr Jill Stoner B.E.M., on May 8th 1 pm - Jill received her BEM medal from the Lord Lieutenant.

Seagull Trust Canal Cruises

If you'd like a cruise on the Caledonian Canal, the "Highland Cross Seagull" is for you! CCP will provide drivers to take you to Inverness where you can embark on a fully wheelchair accessible canal

boat and enjoy the landscape and wildlife from Caley Marina to Dochgarroch and return. It's all free and you'll be home in time for lunch! To reserve a place, email info@cromartycareproject.co.uk or phone Denise on 07769 170773

Community Sharing Larder

If you would like to give to the Larder, please leave any donations in the Donations Box – we are always grateful for toiletries. Alternatively, you can donate online at www.cromartycareproject.co.uk

Table Tennis

Table Tennis is open to all, at any level. Please join us on Monday mornings, 10.30 – 12 noon at the Victoria Hall. Suggested donation is £3 per session..

The Trikes (Cycling Without Age Trishaws)

Cromarty's own transport awaits you! If you need transport to the Summer Café, Classic Cinema Club, or anywhere around Cromarty, please contact Maxine on 07875 963570

Cromarty Needs Carers

Could you be a home carer? No experience is necessary, since training is provided. Eilean Dubh Home Care are a very friendly and flexible company. Staff are well supported and issued with contracts. Pay up to £15 per hour, plus mileage and pension. Contact to have a chat on 07859 795029 or email audrey@edhomecare.co.uk

Further comments

- We have a new trustee – Jane Bentley, former primary teacher and (still current) rower.
- The Summer Café/Lunch Club at Cromarty Primary has been very successful. Funded by Bank of Scotland, it finishes on 11th June 2024.
- CCP, together with the Four Ways, are planning a Strawberry Tea for the over 60s in late summer. Details not firmed up yet.
- We hope to organize a few Seagull Trust Canal Cruises very soon.
- We are awaiting news of applications re. the Cinema Club and The Larder.
- The Trikes will be busy at the Open Gardens weekend 8/9 June 2024.
- CAB – Christine Macdonald held in-person interviews on Tuesday 21st May at TVH. Next session will be 18th June 2024.

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

1. **BICC Meeting** awaited to complete an acceptable governance proposal for the BIPP which has now been registered with the Highland Council, without a governance section. **ACTION – Information and discussion, no action required**
2. **Housing** Still awaiting Albyn Housing proposals on CM01 (even after surveyors doing soil testing had been seen on site!). New IMFDP is due to be adopted by THC in the autumn. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Events** No further Open Gardens sub-committee group meeting minutes (since 20th March) yet received. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Defibrillators** No further updates. All units 'Ready to Use'. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 26/05/24

APPENDIX H
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood

Meetings attended

I attended Open Gardens Committee Meetings on 1st and 22nd May.

I attended a Teams meeting 22nd May, with Alasdair Wright, CCO of Highland Broadband. Items discussed included support for Open Gardens (Highland Broadband and CGU are to donate £1,000 between them), workmanship issues with the installation, additional information about their offering, and community support that could enable free connection and service for community hubs (the Victoria Hall was specifically referenced).

I attended a site walking tour, 24th May, to identify and discuss snag fibre installation items with Calum Hay of CGU and Tony MacDonald of Highland Broadband; areas covered included Bank Street, High Street, Big Vennel and Nicol Terrace.

Correspondence

I picked up correspondence on the Community Facebook page regarding workmanship issues with the fibre installation. I had on-going email communications with Calum Hay (CGU) and John Walker (Highland Broadband) throughout the month on a variety of issues – advance communications, safety issues etc.

Correspondence received concerning the volume of the grey non-recyclable waste bins, and the effect reduce capacity has on the ability to dispose of garden waste. The originator asked if it possible to purchase a second grey bin? I have forwarded this query, by email, to Councillor Atkin.

Correspondence received about the state of the Towns verges, weeds, and general housekeeping ahead of Open Gardens. I informed the originator of the on-going discussion that CDCC are having on this matter.

Noise and other nuisance from the Firth

Potential dust nuisance was identified on May 20th. Email conversations between the complainant, Port of Nigg and CDCC followed. I have approached Rory Gunn about a potential site visit to Port of Nigg for CDCC members to get a better idea of the facility. It is proposed this is undertaken on a Friday in June.

Andy Thurgood
25/05/24