



Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting held on

Monday 28th October 2024, 730pm

Virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at The Victoria Hall

Present

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

Youth Member:

Highland Councillor(s): Sarah Atkin

Member(s) of the public: Liz & Eilidh – Cromarty Courthouse

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser (CF)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from Allan Munro – Youth Member and Nigel Shapcott (NS) - Member.

PS, AT, SC and AP were all present from The Victoria Hall. Liz and Eilidh also joined representing The Cromarty Courthouse.

CF 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, 30th September 2024

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by AR

9. Any Other Business (brought forward by Chairwoman)

Cromarty Courthouse

Brief overview of the Courthouse started.

Friday 8th November – community meeting at The Victoria Hall (everyone welcome to attend).

Biggest relationship for The Courthouse is with The Highland Council and C&DCC are the natural way for them to keep conversation continuous. Have already had discussions with Sarah Atkin and there is much more to be discussed.

The building is so damp that museum artefacts are being damaged and it's actually considered an unsafe work environment for the employees/volunteers. Can't keep it warm even with extra radiators and dehumidifiers. Big drain on resources!

Building owned by Highland Council who are responsible for its maintenance and upkeep but funds are not available anymore (as we all know).

Eilidh advised they've spent about 4 months at the start of this year preparing a detailed options and opportunities appraisal, identifying & understanding what their options are as a charitable trust. After a long process they've decided to pursue a 'capital redevelopment project' that will transform the building from not fit for purpose to something that fulfills its economic remit for Cromarty and provides a good tourism destination as a museum.

They plan to restore the building, expand the facilities, new museum design (including addressing the accessibility problems they face at the moment). In order to achieve this, they need to have a good working relationship with THC. Liz confirmed they recognise they don't have the funds, but if THC partner with The Courthouse they will be able to gain access to other sources of funding (which they have *very* recently agreed to do). About £2-£3 million required.

Three main phases:

- 1) Feasibility study
- 2) Development phase – tender quotes in, building warrant etc
- 3) Delivery – scaffolding, etc

3- 5 year project, long-term commitment.

Are looking for support from the community (letters of support especially to encourage funding).

Funding is likely to come via The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Currently applied for funding to cover a feasibility study (hope for that to be complete by June 2025) and the next stage would then be seeking funding for stage 2 (roughly 2026) and then have to apply for stage 3 funding (likely to not be until 2027). The Courthouse will need to be closed whilst work is carried out.

Should know more by mid-December.

Minute secretary note – Liz & Eilidh left the meeting 20:05pm.

4. **Matters Arising from previous minutes, 30th September 2024**

1. (4.1 – 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). Still ongoing! **Action – AP.**
6. (4.7 – To follow up the youth mentoring program with Dom post exams). **Action – KM**
7. (4.8 – Public information notice to be prepared re. social housing). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
8. (4.9 – To speak to THC re. replacing equipment in Victoria Park (via Sarah A)). Ongoing – meeting due with Ingrid. **Action – PS.**
9. (4.10 – To catch up with Kari re. email to J Nightingale about Pirates Graveyard). **Action – PS.**

- 10.(4.11 – Who’s responsible for Cromarty sign at bus shelter? - meeting with SA to be arranged). **Action – PS.**
- 11.(4.12 - To speak to Denis (resident) re. hedge options for the park). Ongoing. **Action – KM**
- 12.(4.13 – Stakes to go in at The Hugh Miller Monument, and posters put up to stop contractors mowing/maintaining area). **Action – KM**
- 13.(4.14 – To speak to Ingrid and John at THC re. use of weed killer in the town & maintenance of the graveyards – meeting with SA to be arranged). **Action – PS**
- 14.(4.15 – To discuss later the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). **Action - ALL.**
- 15.(4.16 – Public meeting to be held re. parking byelaws around Cromarty (include alongside Place Plan meeting)). **Action – ALL.**
- 16.(4.17 – To see if Kari is willing to be involved in tourism portfolio). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 17.(4.18 – Awaiting response from Ingrid @ THC re. meeting about Townlands Park (via SA)). **Action – PS.**
- 18.(4.19 – Rector of Academy to be asked to keep record of Stagecoach). Included in action point already with PS/AM so this one to be **DISCHARGED.**
19. (4.20 – Awaiting reply from Ian Moncrieffe at THC re. pictures of Farness Rd – meeting to be arranged via SA). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
- 20.(4.21 – To discuss recruitment for TVH committee). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
- 21.(4.22 – Potential sub-committee to be created re. Freeport etc (long-term project)). **Action - AT.**
- 22.(4.23 – To be the communicator for the residents with CGU/Highland Broadband). Update 24/10/24 - HB continue to fall behind programme. Previous contacts Alasdair Wright and Claudette Bruce have now left the organisation. New contact established with Sales Director Scott. Ongoing. **Action – AT.**
- 23.(4.24 – To contact waste management re. the oil spill kit that was dropped off to TVH). Reminded SA and to follow up with THC as to its purpose. **Action – SA.**
- 24.(4.25 – To arrange a separate meeting re. noise monitoring). **Action – ALL.**
- 25.(4.26 – To recruit litter picker volunteers ASAP). Ongoing for 2025. **Action – AP.**
- 26.(4.27 – To gather ideas to celebrate 50 years of community councils (in 2027))! **Action – ALL.**
- 27.(4.28 – Finance and location of additional defibrillator @ Townlands to be sought). Ongoing – see portfolios report. **Action – AP.**
28. (4.29 – Walk around town with THC arranged to discuss responsibilities of maintenance with them – to report back at next meeting). Meeting held but still items outstanding so ongoing. SA will pass on details of terra-tracking team as they should be able to help identify ‘who’s responsible for what’. **Action – AP/AT/SA.**
29. (4.30 – Rota being prepared for dog-bin emptying in town). Ongoing for 2025. Couple of residents agreed to cover The Links/Reeds Loop Path for now. **Action – AP.**

30. (4.31 – To follow up with THC re. grass cutting as certain areas are now so long cars can't see children round corners/has become hazardous). Being picked up as part of AT/AP meeting with THC so **DISCHARGED**.
- 31.(4.32 – To email SA re. dogs in the park and see if there's any preventative action we can take – meeting being arranged). **Action – PS**.
32. (4.33 – To speak to Louise @ Cromarty Fire Service re. public consultation and recruitment information). Louise confirmed they are still recruiting. **DISCHARGED**.
33. (5.1 – To speak to Stagecoach, SA and acting rector of Fortrose Academy re. the continuing bus lateness). **Action – PS**.
34. (5.2 – To send photos to PS re. the trees that need cut by Townlands streetlights. PS to follow up with THC). AM sent photos to AP who followed up with THC – question over ownership of the land the tree is in but will be concluded as part of conversation with THC. **DISCHARGED**.
35. (5.3 – To check date for removing trikes from Sheddy is ok with CCP). **DISCHARGED**.
36. (5.4 – To advise FT re. the grit bin location so he can contact HTC re. moving them elsewhere). No progress made but can be **DISCHARGED**.
37. (7.1 – To send report re. hall insulation quote to Nige). **DISCHARGED**.
38. (7.2 – To ask The Courthouse re. a missing item of equipment from The West Church Hall). Item found. **DISCHARGED**.
39. (7.3 – To follow up with Cromarty playgroup re. help required and report back to members). Done. **DISCHARGED**.
40. (8.1 – To ask John Whyte to continue to maintain the area agreed by members around Reeds Loop). **DISCHARGED**.
41. (8.2 – To speak to SA re. Nigg pier and see if she has any additional comments/suggestions). **Action – PS**.
42. (8.3 – To respond to residents of Farness with an update on the road repairs, once spoken to THC – URGENT). Paige to follow up with SA. **Action – PS**.
43. (8.4 – To contact planning on behalf of C&DCC re. access to Well Lane). Awaiting a response. **Action – PS**.
44. (9.1 – To find owner of Nigg pier and discuss further with CCDT at their meeting on 7th October). Owner still to be sought – PS to contact Rory Gunn @ Port of Nigg. **Action – PS**.
45. (9.2 – Contact Nigg & Shandwick CC to involve them in our discussion re. the pier (once ownership sought)). Ongoing. **Action – NS/AP**.
46. (9.3 – Make it more clear on town bins re. what can be disposed of (different to residential use)). Done – via newsletter and website articles. **DISCHARGED**.
47. (9.4 – To speak to Peter R re. this years remembrance event). Awaiting response. PS will then invite Angus Watson (Deputy Lord Lieutenant) to attend. **Action – PS**.

5. Youth Issues

AM not present but he sent a small report to PS ahead of the meeting.

School bus

Nothing reported for October but the schools were on a 2 week break

Gritters

One of the gritters has a puncture. AP to contact him and ask if there's anything he needs. **Action – AP.**

6. Treasurer's Report

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

Funds out for Reeds Loop path maintenance and extra work done to the 100 steps. Liasing with Core Paths @ THC and they are pleased with Nige's initiative to get the work done/put in the preventative measures.

3 funding applications in progress:

- 1) SSEN for emergency resilience @ TVH
- 2) Reeds Loop Funding for 2025 season – via discretionary fund
- 3) Winter resilience via THC

Other movements are all fairly self-explanatory (per AP) but welcomed questions from members.

There were no further comments.

7. Victoria Hall (VH) Report including Youth Café

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

Victoria Hall:

Hall is doing ok but we do need everyone to work together! Has sent reminders round to users as to how the hall should be left. Requests that if aware of something requiring maintenance to let hall committee know and not just presume someone is already aware!

Change to the décor (pictures in the hall), as part of a '20th anniversary' celebration.

The Youth Café:

Everything is going well, October program was a success!

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolio Reports:

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

Alan:

Black Isle Place Plan

If anyone has questions on the documents please direct them to Alan P (C&DCC) or Anne Phillips (F&RCC). AT raised one question re. terms of reference. AP will follow up and report back. **Action – AP.** All members agree that we should start discussing this with the community in the new year.

Paige:

No comments, already discussed via actions points.

Alan R:

Police Scotland

Aware that the event in Cromarty we received correspondence about resulted in the police taking a written statement from the complainant. He then said he was aware Police Scotland advised they'd pass it to THC (local authority). All members agree this seems like a bizarre way to do things!

Andy T:

Noise monitoring

Not aware of any noise complaints other than a few comments on social media. Feels like these should be accepted as part of the movement of the rig, in particular due to the costs associated with tugs. Agrees, it was noisy, but it could be due to wind direction at the time.

SA to organise noise monitoring from a resident's house (as aware it's largely empty). AT to speak to resident and report back. **Action – AT/SA.**

Road Traffic Management

Hasn't had a response from THC in 8 weeks re. the Shore Road out of Cromarty. All members agree this isn't good enough, however SA argued that there should be a better way to communicate the issues other than via email. SA to follow up with THC roads department and if this still results in no response we will put in a formal complaint! **Action -SA/AT.**

Highland Broadband

Both our contacts have now gone. AT has established communication with the sales director who is following up our comments and will come back to AT in due course.

There were no further comments on members' portfolios.

8.2 The Highland Council:

See Appendix I for report from Cllr Atkin.

8.3 Correspondence Received:

Letter received re. a dog attack in the town (for our information as it was witnessed by one of our members). We left it for the police to deal with, they seem to have taken no action.

9. Any Other Business (continued..)

Minute Secretary

With big regret it's time for me (Claire) to hang up her minute secretary hat. It's time to find someone else. Will keep doing what I am doing in the meantime. Advert to be made and published. **Action – AP.**

Snow Sweeper

All members agreed that as the sweeper was donated free, we should accept offers below our asking price of £600 (although it would be a shame for it to go for less than it's worth). Agreed to accept offers that come our way. PS and CF to go back to the people they've had discussions with and see if they're still interested - ask for offers. **Action – PS/CF.**

There were no further comments or questions.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 25th November 2024 at 730pm

Meeting ended after 10pm.

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 possibly 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 possibly towards new goalposts (ex OG donation). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
- 3. COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** reflects the latest funded cost of the Reeds Loop Path and 100 Steps maintenance. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
- 4. CROMARTY RISING FUND** reflects donations received from General Public. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
26/10/24

APPENDIX B
Agenda Item 6
Treasurer's Report

Statement of Financial Position at 26th October 2024				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 29/09/24</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 26th October 2024		13,274.63	-101.88	13,376.51
Paypal Balance as at 26th October 2024		4.50	0.00	4.50
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		150.00	0.00	150.00
Amounts Payable		-204.50	0.00	-204.50
Total Net Assets at 26th October 2024		£13,224.63	-101.88	£13,326.51
		£	£	£
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		10.04	-41.88	51.92
		1,606.73	-41.88	1,648.61
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2024		211.75	0.00	211.75
C&DCC Amenity & Event Funds	£			
Community Amenities Fund	1,328.18		-100.00	1,428.18
Community Event Funds ex Bonfire/Gala/S&D	5,073.84	6,402.02	0.00	5,073.84
Community Resilience Fund		336.10	0.00	336.10
Cromarty Live Fund		0.01	0.00	0.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,856.05	0.00	1,856.05
Net C&DCC Reserves		10,412.66	-141.88	10,554.54
Designated Community Funds				
Open Gardens Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Gluren bij de Buren Fund		125.26	0.00	125.26
Toddler Playgroup Fund		1,438.29	0.00	1,438.29
Cromarty Rising Fund		1,248.42	40.00	1,208.42
		£13,224.63	-101.88	£13,326.51
Alan Plampton 26th October 2024				

APPENDIX C
Agenda Item 7
Victoria Hall Report

1. **Newsletter** - Please find attached a draft of the VH Users Newsletter which should be circulated next week. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Bookings** - The busy winter season with regular user bookings giving us a busy diary. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Repairs & Maintenance** - Nothing new or major to report. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Sheddie** - The CCP Trikes have been moved to winter quarters. No news yet re SSEN application for renewed funding of our Community Resilience Fund. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
5. **Youth Cafe** - Latest monthly report is attached. **ACTION – Information only**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
27/10/24

VICTORIA HALL REGULAR USER NEWSLETTER November 2024

To all Victoria Hall Regular Users

BOOKING FEES/FINANCES

Please can we start off by confirming that the current review of the Hall's finances has resulted in the Booking Fees remaining at their current levels. The next review will happen post the financial year end of 31st March 2025. The Hall is solvent and continuing to operate on a break-even basis, even though we no longer receive the £500 small Hall Grant from the Highland Council, last received in 2022, but there is little held as reserves for unforeseen expenditure. Any such costs would require additional funding or an increase in revenue income. We really appreciate your continuing support.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

The main issue of concern is the problem with the flat roofs leaking. This happens when there is continuous heavy rain and is usually around the frames of the Velux window frames. This is a Highland Council responsibility but, although running repairs are done periodically (however this is limited in its effect when there is regular 'ball retrieval' which causes splitting in the roof seals), there is a need for a robust roof replacement solution for which there is no current THC funding available. The 'ball retrieval' problem has also again damaged the Hall's security lighting system, but this will soon be repaired. The PIR security lighting covering the multicourt and the oil tank is still functioning. We are also replacing the fire doors on to the Park from the kitchen. These have already had a number of repairs and the bases are rotting, so it is time to seek a replacement set. Again this is an HC responsibility and may not happen quickly but it is 'on the list' to happen. Although not strictly R&M, the Hall will also be upgrading the Hall's WiFi in the near future, so please be patient if the service is occasionally patchy. If users wish to raise maintenance issues, please contact us on yhmc.cdcc@btinternet.com and please can we emphasise that it is essential that users report breakages. Please say something. We know accidents happen and will not immediately criticise or attach blame. What is worse is if it remains unreported and unremedied. Please let us know.

STORAGE AND SAFETY

The closing of the West Church Hall obviously necessitated the Victoria Hall finding storage solutions. We think this has gone reasonably well without compromising safety or your usage of the Hall. However, to maintain those safe storage solutions, it is essential that all users leave the Hall in the state they found it. In particular, it is essential that all the tables and chairs are put away cleaned and as requested. There are guidance images, and some notices, intended to help, but if users leave things wrongly, the next user will only perpetuate the errors. If users leave fire exit access blocked, then the Hall becomes unusable by the next user until the problem is resolved. These recent photos example how storage notices are ignored and how fire exits are left compromised.



Apart from a very part-time caretaker, the Hall is run by volunteers for the Community to share. Please let us help each other.

PARKING

As we move into winter, please remember to respect the Park and not take vehicles on to the grass when it is wet. It only does damage. We have also been contacted by Stagecoach about some Hall users persistently parking in the bus stop and creating a traffic hazard in the High Street. Please do not park there. Very short-term (max 5 minutes) loading/unloading is permitted but vehicles should then be moved elsewhere. There are often spaces opposite available. If this continues, the bus operator will report both individual registrations and the Hall to the Police and/or THC Highways. Users' rental of the Hall will be reconsidered if offences continue.

HEATING

Although it sounds like we are tempting fate, the Hall boiler is being reliable, but it is a heating system that does not have a thermostat so the only way users can control the temperature is by adjusting the individual radiator valves. The system is setup, and timed, to heat the Hall with all radiators being set to full on. If users need to turn down a radiator, then please remember to turn it back up when you finish. Failure to do so will result in a cold hall for the next user, so please consider other users. In addition, the temperature of the Hall is dependent on not letting heat escape. So when leaving, please close all doors, all blinds and all curtains (including the back stage curtain). It will make a huge difference, like the benefits of the recently fitted stage front curtains.

Again, if you wish to raise any matters relating to the Hall, please contact us on vhmc.cdcc@btinternet.com and hopefully we can all work together in making it a better Community venue.

APPENDIX D
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS
ALAN RYCROFT

Police Liaison

Police Scotland having still failed to announce a replacement for the previous Community Liaison Officer for the Black Isle district, email application has now been made to the senior officers at Dingwall, requesting that, as soon as a new Officer has been appointed, he or she makes contact with me.

Regarding Cromarty specifically, I can confirm the following information, concerning the aggressive dog allegation, that was recently made to *Police Scotland*, and copied in writing to the C&DCC (amongst other recipients). Police officers obtained a written statement from the complainant, and indicated their intention to pass the evidence on to the relevant local authority office.

APPENDIX E
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS
NIGEL SHAPCOTT

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

Reeds Loop - The letter from a resident was discussed face to face and the matter resolved with a note that there is still damaged fencing near the water treatment plant which the cattle sometimes use to escape. Additional maintenance work was reported and had temporarily resolved the issues raised. Please refer to separate reports. The path seems to have survived this weekend's storm well after the maintenance work carried out by our contractor.

100 Steps - No change.

Highland Local Access Group Meeting - As reported before - there has been an announcement for grant applications on 17th June, deadline 17th July. 57 of about 100 grants were reviewed and later discussed by Team Meeting on 21st August. No Cromarty projects were funded: one was for a feasibility study for year round ferry services to allow access to work and training opportunities in Nigg; the other was for renovation work of the East Church Hall

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

No report as the harbour is in winter mode..

Black Isle Swimming Pool

Suggest that we drop this item.

Cromarty Care Project (CCP) - Alison Sellar

Lunch Club - The up and running at the Fishertown Inn.

Classic Film Club Funding - As you may have noticed in the Sept Newsletter, we have been awarded funding from the Port Authority for one year, with a view to continuation beyond.

Community Larder -

- a) no further evidence of mis-use.
- b) we've been offered further funding from Foundation Scotland. In negotiations at the moment.

Collaboration with Cromarty Primary - Intergenerational Panto - we are organising this for over-60s and the primary school - Dec 5th.

AGM - The AGM is on 22nd October at the Old Buoys Store, at the time of writing and a fuller report will follow. Jim Templeton will be retiring and Alison Sellar will be stepping down as Secretary, to be replaced by Jane Bentley. AS will continue to focus on fundraising and will take on Jim's role as reporter to OSCR. Dr Sarah Hall will be joining the Board.

Local care providers - Eilean Dubh Homecare, have told us that there is no immediate need in Cromarty. They still need carers for Rosemarkie, Fortrose and Avoch, so we'll continue to advertise on their behalf in the Newsletter.

APPENDIX F
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORT
ALAN PLAMPTON

1. **BICC** Despite illness and a resultant delay in the proposed timescale, please find attached a separate 'pack' of paperwork that is this week being sent out, by myself and Anne Phillips (F&RCC) on behalf of the BICC, to all BICCs for their discussion and hopefully agreement. **ACTION – Discussion and decision whether to approve and/or ask questions**
2. **Housing** No further updates from Albyn Housing re CM01. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Events** No further updates. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Defibrillators** The new Townlands unit is still to be installed. Still 'liaising' with Cromarty Arts over dates, as they are apparently planning to install one at the Stables. When/if agreed, our supplier Lucky2bHere will work with their Highland Council contacts over the siting and installation of the new Townlands unit, especially as it is likely to be attached to one of their properties. After installation (cost of which includes training) there will be sessions organised to provide refreshers for all interested. The unit at the Fire Station was successfully used recently. Maintenance issues were raised, including no spare pads being available. New pads have now been ordered so that all Cromarty units will have spare pads available. The Fire Station unit is currently showing as 'Not Ready To Use' but this is because we have used the Hall's spare pads, which are slightly past their recommended expiry date. We have been advised they are still usable and certainly better than having none whilst we await new replacements to arrive. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton
27/10/24

BICC and the Local Place Plan - Next Steps

- 1.** There are currently four nominees from within the Community Councils that need to be agreed by all Community Council Members.
- 2.** The list of nominees will be circulated by Alan Plampton (Cromarty & District CC) & Anne Phillips (Fortrose & Rosemarkie CC) to all Community Councils who will be asked to circulate it to their Members for approval. Any objections, comments, questions and queries can be made to Alan & Anne who will be using personal email addresses, and a new BICC email only currently available to them, so that objections can be made in confidence.
- 3.** As well as the list of nominees, a draft ToR, Directors Role Description and required skills and an outline of the process to date (as provided by Tim Phillips of Avoch and Killen Community Council will also be circulated.
- 4.** If the contents of the above prompt you to consider becoming an OBI Director, it's not too late. Please let Alan and Anne know of your interest.
- 5.** There is currently one place remaining that can be filled by a CC member. It would be good to have some representation from Muir of Ord or Conon Bridge Community Councils in order to give a good geographical spread of CC Directors.
- 6.** Job Adverts to be created for the five Community Directors and the Independent Chair. An article in the Ross-shire Journal and promotion of the registering of the Plan by THC, to be used as a way of encouraging applications.
- 7.** Applicants for Ordinary Directors and the Independent Chair to be asked to submit an expression of interest detailing their suitability for the role.
- 8.** An interviewing Panel of 1 Elected Member, 1 CC Director and 1 independent BICC member to be agreed and formed.
- 9.** If there are no objections to the BICC nominees, the four CC members will be formally agreed at the next BICC meeting (11/11/24 - Cromarty)*

*unless timescale is extended

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS
ANDY THURGOOD

Meetings attended

I attended the (virtual) Ward 9 (Black Isle) meeting (4/10/24) to discuss with Black Isle Councillors and THC Roads Team a site visit, by the Roads Team, to review road conditions and traffic calming in the vicinity of Cromarty Camping (this being in response to previous communications with the Development Trust). Iain Moncrieff from Road Operations agreed for the Community Council to be emailed in this respect, but so far, no email has been received, despite this being chased in the intervening period.

In effect, there has been no direct response from THC Road Operations since 2nd September – 8 weeks! This is wholly unacceptable.

Correspondence






I have spoken with several members of the community regarding the performance of Highland Broadband (HB). I have made repeated efforts to contact Alasdair Wright at HB, without success. On 25/10, I established contact with Sales Director Joe Scott. He reported that Alasdair Wright and Claudette Bruce have both left the organisation. I relayed our community concerns, and he has promised to pick these up, and liaise with their Operations Director. I anticipate an initial response w/c 28/10.

Noise and other nuisance from the Firth

I have no awareness of any 'official' noise complaints this month, although I am aware of some comments being posted on Community Noticeboard on Facebook on 25/10, referencing noise arising from '3 heavy duty tugs' – most probably related to a rig movement.

Andy Thurgood
28/10/24

APPENDIX H
AGENDA ITEM 8 – PORTFOLIO REPORTS
PAIGE SHEPHERD

<p><u>Planning</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="510 224 1452 324"> <p>• <u>Installation of new electric heating, loft insulation & ventilation in dwelling flat</u> </p> <div data-bbox="558 369 1452 515" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>8 Marine Terrace Cromarty IV11 8YN Ref. No: 24/04195/LBC Received: Wed 02 Oct 2024 Validated: Wed 02 Oct 2024 Status: Under Consideration</p> </div> <li data-bbox="510 548 1452 627"> <p>• <u>Installation of new electric heating, loft insulation and ventilation.</u> </p> <div data-bbox="558 660 1452 806" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>8 Marine Terrace Cromarty IV11 8YN Ref. No: 24/04198/FUL Received: Wed 02 Oct 2024 Validated: Wed 02 Oct 2024 Status: Under Consideration</p> </div> <li data-bbox="510 840 1452 918"> <p>• <u>Erection of house</u> </p> <div data-bbox="558 952 1452 1097" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Land 70M SW Of Kenavara House Cromarty Mains Cromarty Ref. No: 24/04113/FUL Received: Fri 27 Sep 2024 Validated: Thu 17 Oct 2024 Status: Under Consideration</p> </div> <li data-bbox="510 1131 1452 1209"> <p>• <u>Installation of windows, doors and ASHP</u> </p> <div data-bbox="558 1243 1452 1388" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>64 Gordons Lane Cromarty IV11 8XN Ref. No: 24/04040/LBC Received: Fri 20 Sep 2024 Validated: Fri 11 Oct 2024 Status: Under Consideration</p> </div> <li data-bbox="510 1422 1452 1500" style="background-color: #ffffcc;"> <p>• <u>Installation of windows, doors and ASHP</u> </p> <div data-bbox="558 1534 1452 1680" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <p>64 Gordons Lane Cromarty IV11 8XN Ref. No: 24/04041/FUL Received: Fri 20 Sep 2024 Validated: Wed 02 Oct 2024 Status: Under Consideration</p> </div>
<p><u>Fortrose Academy Bus</u></p>	<p>No incidents of the bus being late in October</p>
<p><u>Road Surfaces</u></p>	<p>The Road coming into Cromarty from Shore Street has massively deteriorated and requires attention. Also the Farness road is URGENTLY requiring attention and needs to be discussed further.</p>

APPENDIX I

Report from Cllr Atkin – The Highland Council

THC – update from Cllr Atkin

For community councils, what we now know as the ‘Crawford’ motion was passed. This was proposed to strengthen the ability of community councils to exercise their role as statutory consultees in the planning process. That’s my reading of it. (Unfortunately, much of the political rhetoric and campaigning is suggesting that this is about preventing development. Applications must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. It should also be noted that Cllr Crawford has yet to attend a planning meeting to grasp how the system works.) That said, the proposals will include additional training and early engagement on major energy/infrastructure projects. This engagement will be outside of the planning process to ensure impartiality is maintained. This motion comes with a considerable price tag for the Council. That was/is my main reservation. Much of what was proposed was already quietly agreed without the need for a motion **but** that’s politics for you.

Housing Summit

I attended the Highland Housing Summit on 22nd October. Of interest: Masterplan Consent Areas are expected to be utilised when appropriate (Scottish Govt. legislation comes in on 5/12/24 allowing for this.) The need to ramp up house building is urgent. There was a ‘call for sites’ to developers and others to come forward. An Integrated Housing Delivery Service is to be established to ensure the process is smoother and speedier (in other words, don’t get too far into the process with a no hoper and equally, get the ducks in a row early for developers.)

Assessing Need: I have raised the fact that we have no idea of our housing need as young people do not bother signing up because they know there’s zero hope of a house. A guy from Lochaber told me they conducted their own audit to assess need. I wondered if this was something for the Place Plan Board to replicate? Worth a thought.

Local Issues

I’ve met with Ingrid to sort out Townlands play park. There is a plan to fence both areas with one a distinctive dog space and the other a kid’s space (with some new kit included.) The paths will also be tidied up. Given the state of the grass this summer, I put a note through every door apologising.

Townlands roofs: I’ve raised this with the most senior officer in housing. Some are in a terrible state.

Ward Support system: settling down but it’s not going to be different from what we’re used to.

OTHER

‘Communities in Motion’: a Black Isle-wide community transport company launches in December to take over the Ferintosh Wee Bus (in partnership with THC.) This has great potential as the remit is now Black Isle wide.

Partnership working generally - I’ve brokered a meeting with Bruce and Becky (Ferintosh CC) with Alison Clark to advance the argument for greater partnership working (on the back of Bruce’s paper of illustrations of good practice.) I am a fan of participatory budgeting. Bruce of participation requests. The meeting will be led by them, though but has relevance for all our communities.