



Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting held on

Monday 29th April 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: Dominic Scott-Lodge (DSL)

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

CF, PF, DSL, SA and AR attended online via Microsoft Teams.

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 received so the feasibility study can now take place.

Unit @ Whitedykes:

Matt & Julie are looking into the purchase of this

NS advised he is aware that lots of people in the town have been interested in this unit so how do they express interest? PF recommended they email CDT.

East Church Hall:

Have been waiting for Highlife Highland for a while now but things are starting to progress. Still waiting for business plans from the interest parties.

Thrift Shop:

Industrial flooring has been fitted which will improve insulation.

Is very busy (has even had to turn away donations).

Cromarty Campsite:

Very busy & continuing to be busy throughout summer months!

AGM:

To be held on Thursday 6th June 2024 – all members will be notified in due course!

No more comments from Phoebe

Members then asked re. the community meeting CCDT have arranged for 16th May 2024. They became aware that's lots of community groups were looking for funding from the Freeport (as are CCDT) so they took the opportunity to arrange a meeting for everyone so could all discuss the funding they are looking for/requesting and hopefully work together.

AP confirmed the situation (from prior minutes) where CCDT confirmed C&DCC were to take the lead on arranging a community consultation once the plans for BIPP have been published. PF confirmed that they didn't arrange the meeting to upset the community council and there was nothing mentioned re. BIPP – it wasn't even thought about. However a good idea might be for C&DCC to discuss the BIPP with the community at the meeting? Members agreed this was a good suggestion! However it will need to be planned out so we know who is to discuss what.

Concluded by agreeing there's lots of miscommunication between us two as groups and we should perhaps consider attending full meetings (rather than just providing an update at the start). PF to report back to Matt (Chair).

PS has been trying to make contact with Matt for a while but due to unforeseen circumstances they've not managed to catch up yet. Will follow this up and all of the above will be discussed.
Action – PS.

Minute secretary note - PF left shortly before 8pm.

3. Approval of previous minutes, 25th March 2024

The minutes were approved by AT and seconded by AP (2nd copy of draft minutes were sent round by CF prior to the meeting as there was an error picked up by AC (6p) and an incorrect report inclusion by CF. These are the minutes that were approved.

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

1. (4.1 – On hold – little movement with THC on TMP and 20mph in urban areas until 2025.) **On hold.**
2. (4.2 – Redesign of Cromarty Sign to be arranged). Paige to follow up with Wanda. **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 – 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 look into replacing equipment in The Victoria Park). To speak to THC when meeting happens re. Townlands Park. **Action – PS.**
11. (4.11 – Website to go live – Easter weekend (29th March)). **DISCHARGED.**
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 catch up with Kari. **Action – PS.**
13. (4.13 – PS to follow up with SA re. sign at bus shelter as no response from original contact). **Action – PS.**
14. (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**
15. (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**
16. (4.17 – To speak to Ingrid and John at THC re. use of weed killer in the town & maintenance of the graveyards). **Action – PS**
17. (4.18 – To discuss at a later date the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). **Action - ALL.**
18. (4.19 – Public meeting to be held re. parking byelaws around Cromarty). **Action – ALL.**
19. (4.20 – To seek a volunteer to lead dog-fouling portfolio via social media). **Action – PS.**
20. (4.21 – To see if Kari is willing to be involved in tourism portfolio). PS to catch up with KM. **Action – PS.**
21. (4.22 – To go back to Sheila re. our comments on the positions of CCDC vs CCDT). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
22. (4.23 – To arrange a meeting re. Townlands Park). To email Ingrid @ THC. **Action – PS.**
23. (4.24 – Rector of Academy to be asked to keep record of Stagecoach). **On hold.**
24. (4.25 – To draft proposal re. BIPP to bring to BICC meeting). **DISCHARGED – superceded.**
25. (4.27 – To go back to resident re. complaints @ Farness Road and suggest resubmit to THC). **DISCHARGED.**
26. (4.28 – Awaiting a reply from Ian Moncrieffe at HTC re. Farness Road). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
27. (4.32 – To follow up with Highland School Transport contact at THC re. the continuous difficulties with timings of the Cromarty to Fortrose bus). **Action – SA.**
28. (4.33 – To continue to forward timetable of events to PS (school bus). Dom has now left school so further action for someone else to do this. **DISCHARGED.**
29. (4.34 – To discuss recruitment for TVH committee). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**

30. (4.35 – Potential sub-committee to be created re. Freeport etc (long-term project)). **Action - AT.**
31. (4.36 – To look into Community Payback Scheme (if still available) and utilise it for street cleaning around the town). **Action – PS.**
32. (4.38 – To look into funding for Dougie to extend ferry service). **Action – ALL.**
33. (8.1 – To respond to resident re. comments regarding lack of advertising from PoN about most recent meeting in town). **DISCHARGED.**
34. (8.2 – To list snow sweeper on Gumtree ASAP). **DISCHARGED.**
35. (9.1 – To go back to BIP organisers with additional comments on governance on behalf of C&DCC from email sent prior to meeting). **DISCHARGED.**
36. (9.2 – To look into how to community calendar works (portfolio taken over from Peter R). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
37. (9.3 – To email Claudette Bruce @ Lothian to arrange a catchup as promises aren't being followed through). AT has taken this on. On going. **Action – AT.**

Minute secretary note – SA joined the meeting around 8pm

5. Youth Issues

Dom not aware of any youth issues other than the school but that continues to be late (although it hasn't got any worse). Confirmed that it could impact exams if using bus to get to school as exams sometimes start at 9am.

PS to speak to a pupil who's on the bus regularly and ask them to keep a diary (DSL has now left school). **Action – PS.**

AT suggested that THC should request the telemetrics from Stagecoach but SA confirmed it's not good enough as they still won't accept any responsibility without physical evidence and complaints!

There were no further comments.

DSL left the meeting after this conversation – around 805pm

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.

Few things to note this month:

- a) £1k donation received from PoCF for Open Gardens (to be withdrawn as cash and handed over)
- b) Reeds Loop Path Maintenance has started – funding for this has been received
- c) Draft financial statements show ((to be presented at the next AGM (29th May 2024):
 - a. Victoria Hall did better than expected
 - b. £1k contingency has been kept aside for future works to the hall

- c. Community Council continues to make a loss until they can no longer continue (2028 expected); only receive £475 from THC.
- d. All other groups we hold funds for are doing ok – in particular The Youth Café!
- e. Members approved the Final Draft subject to audit for presentation to the AGM.

There were no further comments.

Minute secretary note – CF joined the meeting at 2015pm

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:

CAB meetings are proving successful – was at the hall for a full day the last time.

Asked SA re. the oil spill item that was received but no further information was known. To contact waste management about this. **Action – AP/SA.**

Youth Café:

Contracts have all been extended to 31 March 2026

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.

Andy:

Meetings:

Was in touch with resident re. email about dark skies community – advised them to attend community meeting on 16th May 2024

Noise monitoring:

Has had some correspondence with SEPA – will share with members. **Action – AT.**

Vibration monitoring results were also shared but they didn't show any issues against British Standards.

A potential noise issue was identified in the second THC noise monitoring data, at one property. However as the measurements were unmanned, readings are not admissible evidence! Data further identifies that on this occasion, another property was below the threshold level. Broader community consultation is suggested.

Perhaps we could source an empty building to use and allow for some measurements to be taken from it? The Old Fish Store?

All members (and Sarah Atkin) agreed that a separate meeting needs to be held. **Action – ALL.**

Alan R:

Police Report:

Is delighted to have received a police report and is positive this will be a monthly addition to our meetings

Nige:

1st draft of grant application for funding in relation to the 100 steps has been drafted. To present to CCDT as they are submitting the application. **Action – NS.**

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

The Highland Council:

- The corporate restructuring is going to create quite a fundamental change. Looking at saving £300k if successful.
- THC taking over Number 21 bus from Dingwall. Operations seem to be quite successful – live from 20 May 2024.
- Lothian Broadband – has managed to get them to downtool for one week due to major health and safety concerns!
- The wee bus at Ferintosh is for the whole community, not just locals

Discussion then continued:

Funding

Members asked how we can access some funds to allow for work to be done in the town using our own contractors? SA to look into. **Action – SA.**

Brown bins

Cromarty have never qualified for these and now there's a smaller grey bin for non-recyclable waste there's less space for garden waste! Why do we pay same level of council tax if we don't receive the same items? SA to follow this up with THC. **Action – SA.**

Correspondence Received:

Nothing to note.

Minute secretary note – SA left at 915pm

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

LITTER PICKING

We need to recruit volunteers (and someone to oversee the operations) ASAP. **Action – ALL.**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Email was received prior to the meeting – NS suggested a response at the meeting. All members agree – it's not a business plan with community in mind. NS to draft response and circulate to members. Needs to be in quickly so to do ASAP. **Action – NS.**

7th JULY 2027

Will be 50th anniversary of community councils. To speak to others and think about ideas for some kind of celebration! **Action – ALL.** |

NEW YOUTH MEMBER

To be appointed at next meeting (turns 16 in June).

There were no further comments or questions.

10. **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting – Monday 27th May 2024 at 7pm (AGM) followed by normal monthly meeting at 730pm.

Meeting ended at 2125pm.

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 and £135 Publications Income (banked but not yet cleared). **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 a £1,000 donation to Open Gardens (requested not to be posted to the previous fund but to be transferred to a OG personal account to be paid out in cash to 2024 beneficiaries). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **SURPLUS/DEFICIT TO DATE** reflects the annual C&DCC Insurance policy premium paid, the usual auditor gratuity less some Publications Income. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** reflects cost of the initial RLP maintenance (funded by THC BI Ward). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
5. **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND** is the new title for the amalgamated Emergency Resilience and Gritting Funds. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
6. **CROMARTY RISING FUND** reflects donations received from General Public. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
7. **DRAFT FINAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** (with Notes) to the 31st March 2024, are attached, and currently with the auditor. Audited Financial Statements will be presented to the AGM, on 27th May, for consideration and approval. **FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL BY MEMBERS**

Alan Plampton
26/04/24

APPENDIX B

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 31/03/24</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 26th April 2024		12,833.79	886.56	11,947.23
Paypal Balance as at 26th April 2024		4.50	0.00	4.50
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		285.00	113.40	171.60
Amounts Payable		-1,204.50	-1,000.00	-204.50
Total Net Assets at 26th April 2024		£11,918.79	-0.04	£11,918.83
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2024**		1,596.69	-496.59	2,093.28
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		-130.04	366.55	-496.59
		1,466.65	-130.04	1,596.69
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2024**		211.75	0.00	211.75
C&DCC Amenity & Event Funds	<u>£</u>			
Community Amenities Fund	1,574.69		-35.00	1,609.69
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	6,648.53	0.00	126.00
Community Resilience Fund		336.10	0.00	336.10
Cromarty Live Fund		4.01	0.00	4.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,014.98	0.00	1,014.98
Net C&DCC Reserves		9,682.02	-165.04	9,847.06
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)		1,476.29	0.00	1,476.29
Cromarty Rising Fund		558.42	165.00	393.42
		£11,918.79	-0.04	£11,918.83
**Subject to Audit				
Alan Plampton 26th April 2024				

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** As the Draft Financial Performance shows, last year saw a 25% increase in bookings turnover. As a result the review of booking fees has shown no need to make any changes. The next review is scheduled for 1st October 2024. New bookings also include monthly CAB sessions at the Hall, supported by CCP funding. After a full risk assessment over security for the CAB booking, AP has agreed to be their support person, in cases of threat or vulnerability, if experienced by the CAB outreach worker. The Hall's website is changing its Diary from Google to Spanglefish. Bookings Officer is receiving training next week. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance** Servicing of the Heating Boiler, Fire Alarms and Fire Extinguishers all happened, with no issues. Oil Spill Tray has not been fitted at the boiler service. Awaiting guidance from THC regarding use. Although the feasibility study over the Hall's sustainability has not yet been completed, due to the healthier position of the Financial Position, a contingency spend of £1k has been put aside. Refuse and recycling changes have been complicated by a missing bin, but THC have agreed to a temporary solution, until the new bin arrives. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Sheddie** Trikes now in summer residence. No other issues or updates. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Youth Cafe** The monthly report is attached. The reported Awards for All/National Lottery funding has now been received. The £20k funding for 2 years, yet again extends 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
26/04/24

APPENDIX D
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Rycroft

Police Liaison

I have finally received a formal monthly report from Police Scotland, and the document file is attached hereto for everyone's information. Going forward, I hope to be able to provide such a report in time for each regular meeting of the C&DCC.

I have thus far been unable to make contact with an area senior officer, but I will persevere. I also hope to be able to secure a face-to-face meeting with the officer responsible for community liaison, Constable Dan Zaborowski, when possible. Thus far, our contact has been limited to 'phone and email, but he agrees that it would be helpful for us to meet, in person, at least once.

Black Isle Swimming Pool

Nige and I are still seeking information, concerning the current status of this historical, and ageing, project. Sarah has made some suggestions to guide us, and we will report again on any progress made in due course.

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>3 X Abandoned 999 calls – accidental calls to the Police.</p> <p>2 X Domestic – communication related no crime incidents.</p> <p>1 X Neighbour dispute – no crime reports made, and suitable advice given.</p>	
Update on any local community safety issues / trends within the community and any assistance / information requested from the community. Review IMPACT / intelligence etc	
<p>28/03/24 – 28/04/24</p> <p>Between the above dates, Police had reason to deal with 8 calls in the Cromarty area, with the following crimes being recorded.</p> <p>VANDALISM – 0</p> <p>DRUG OFFENCES: 0</p> <p>DISORDER/ASSAULT: 0</p>	

DOMESTIC OFFENCES: 0

THEFT (INCLUDING SHOPLIFTING) / FRAUD: 0

ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES: 0

OTHER OFFENCES: 0

Many Thanks,

Daniel Zaborowski
Police Constable

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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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

- Alan has covered all aspects of the BICC meetings which have taken a tremendous amount of time to get through. A massive thank you must go to Nigel for his work on the BICC proposal.
- I have put a call out on social media regarding the Dog Poo rota - will eagerly await responses. Have tried but failed to recruit via word of mouth.
- Have emailed the community payback team regarding maintenance in the town. Again, awaiting a response
- Awaiting reply from Highland Council regarding the Townlands Park.
- Snow sweeper listed on Gumtree – Do we put a call out for somewhere to store it for now?

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 April. 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. There is a meeting hosted by Philip Waite below HC, which I will be attending to discuss further repairs and funding.

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

I will be reporting on this meeting.

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

As part of the annual boat crane-in the pontoon life was successful on 29th April BUT two have been placed on the grass for new floats. Order for the floats has been delayed, we anticipate 3-4 weeks and then they will be deployed.

The new website seems to be encouraging visitor traffic although capacity is likely to be used by regular users during July/August. However it has been well received and just elevates our standing. Still waiting on HES about what funding package they will offer us for the East Pier following the enhanced requirements report from an Conservation Architect (condition of grant). One funder for £40k has served notice that if not resolved by the month end their offer will lapse. Great shame as we are in a position to match to around £150k.

Friends of Cromarty Harbour (FoCH) continues to pull in matched funds via the whisky offer although there is still some headroom to fill.

Draft accounts of both CHT and FoCH have been done and both look fine.

Black Isle Swimming Pool

Alan Rycroft will be reporting on this.

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

CCP Bids Fond Farewell to Jill

CCP held a special lunch at the Royal Hotel to honour our founder and first Chairperson, Dr Jill Stoner B.E.M., who will be leaving Cromarty. The event was attended by present and past trustees and volunteers. Our Chair, Denise McIntosh, expressed heartfelt thanks to Jill for her vision and dedication to the Care Project and to the people of Cromarty.

Lunch Club Summer Café

The Summer Café will continue in Cromarty Primary School during May. The pupils of P6 and P7 have been planning, costing and preparing delicious light lunches of soup, sandwiches and home-baking. Everyone who is "over-60" can attend for the small charge of £3 and the Summer Café is already proving very popular! The Café usually takes place on a Tuesday, but dates in May are: Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 15th, Tuesday 21st, Tuesday 28th. For further information, or if you are unable to attend, contact Alison on 07470 583641, no later than the day before. This project has been made possible with support from the Bank of Scotland Foundation.

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

Thanks to Tris Chapman, who waterproofed the new shed for us! 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 will continue throughout May. 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.

Community Playgroup

The Playgroup continues during school term time. Parents and carers with their babies and toddlers are very welcome to join us at the Victoria Hall, 10 – 11.30 on Tuesdays Charge: £1.50 per session.

Classic Cinema Club

The Cinema Club will meet this month at 2.30pm. on Wednesday 8th . Note, this is the only meeting this month. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment! If you would like to join the Cinema Club (entirely free!), or for further information, please contact Helen Charley on 07889 181529 or email helen.charley@doctors.org.uk.(Support from Albert Hunt Trust & Bank of Scotland Foundation).

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

Citizens Advice in Cromarty – 21st May

Christine Macdonald, from Ross & Cromarty Citizens Advice Bureau, will be offering face-to-face appointments in the Victoria Hall on the third Tuesday of the month, 21 st May. CAB can give advice on a whole range of issues including benefits, debt and money, energy, work issues, relationships and housing, and we can help you to fill out benefit forms. To book an appointment with Christine, telephone 01349 883333 or email adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk.

Below is this month's information from CAB:

CAB Focus on . . . Checking what benefits you can get

If you are struggling with the cost of living, you should check if you can claim benefits or increase your current benefits. Lots of people miss out on benefits that they are entitled to- so it is worth checking what you can get.

There is help available – and it is not just for those out of work. There is support for those earning but still struggling, plus there may be additional help if you have children, caring responsibilities, or a long-term health condition. You might be able to claim certain benefits even if you work, have savings or own a home. Claiming benefits may also mean you can get access to other financial help like cost of living payments and discounts on energy and transport.

To check what benefits you can get, you can use an online benefits calculator.

A benefits calculator can tell you what benefits you may be eligible to apply for, and how much money you could receive. To get the most accurate results, you will need information about your savings, income, pension, childcare payments and any existing benefits for you and your partner, if you have one. None of the benefit calculators can give you an accurate answer if you are a student, on strike, living outside the UK, living permanently in residential care or a nursing home, or in prison. This is because it is more complex to work out the benefit entitlement for these situations. You can use the 'Entitled to' benefits calculator for a detailed overview of what you might get. 'Entitled to's' calculator is particularly useful if you are already claiming benefits, you are sick or disabled, or you

are over State Pension age. If you want a quick overview of what help you might get, you can use the Turn2us Benefits Calculator.

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

- 1. BICC** Series of meetings held and, although Ferintosh CC have decided to endorse the BIP governance proposal, the rest of the BICCs have agreed on a basis for a democratic governance proposal. This will require the BICC becoming some form of constituted group. Meetings with the various stakeholders to the Plan are now proposed, including the consultants who created the draft Plan and Rory Mair, who the BICC feel is an important person in creating any democratic solution to the governance question. **ACTION – Information and discussion, no action required**
- 2. Housing** Still awaiting Albyn Housing proposals on CM01 (although surveyors doing soil testing have been seen on site!). No further update re IMFDP. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 3. Resilience** New amalgamated Community Resilience Fund created, bringing together all aspects of Cromarty’s Resilience plans. The required sub-committee to be formed over the summer. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 4. Events** Open Gardens sub-committee group meeting minutes (20th March) received and attached. Latest minutes to follow. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 5. Defibrillators** No further updates. All units ‘Ready to Use. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 26/04/24

APPENDIX H
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood

Meetings attended

I met with Gregor MacCormick and Nick Thornton (THC EH) via Teams on 11th April to discuss results from the second round of noise monitoring, include assessment methodology. Some findings do indicate the presence of low frequency noise, however these readings are unmanned, and consequently would not be admissible from an enforcement perspective. It does build a larger picture of the situation, and monitoring continues.

I attended the Port of Cromarty Firth Community Councils Liaison Meeting on 11th April. (My notes from this meeting have been distributed separately.)

The Open Gardens Committee Meeting that I was due to attend on 17th April has been postponed, and rescheduled for 1st May.

Correspondence

A copy of the contracted vibration monitoring has now been forward to The Highland Council Environmental Health Team, by Vibrock, and has been shared with me. The document does not identify an issue with vibration arising from Port of Nigg activities.

Noise and other nuisance from the Firth

Ten days of nuisance relating to vessels Wind Orca and Annette was reported to THC EH by a Cromarty resident.

Andy Thurgood
28/04/24