



## Cromarty and District Community Council

Draft minutes of meeting held on

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 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:** Phoebe Fox - on behalf of CCDT (PF), Claudette Bruce (CB) – on behalf of Lothian/Highland Broadband

**Minute Secretary:** Claire Fraser (CF)

#### 1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from Dominic Scott-Lodge

CB, PS, AT, AR, NS and AP were all present from The Victoria Hall.

CF and PF attended online via Microsoft Teams.

#### 9. Any Other Business

##### **Highland/Lothian Broadband (brought forward by chair)**

AT took chair of the meeting due to PS's conflict of interest.

Discussion opened re. the aims and objectives of Lothian Broadband and the works that they are going to be undertaking in the Highlands in a matter of weeks.

*To summarise:*

To be live by July 2024

Build happening from April – June 2024

Infrastructure will be there for everyone even if not taking out contracts

THC are aware

Drop in sessions are to be arranged

Welcome packs to be delivered to all households within the week

Copper being replaced by fibre everywhere

£35 per month roughly, cheaper packages are available

Left documents with us to distribute and email address is held for any further questions. **Action**  
– C&DCC

CB left the meeting at 1950pm.

PS took back the role of chair of the meeting.

##### **Cromarty Community Development Trust (brought forward by the chair)**

### The Royal Hotel

Contractors are being invited to tender to carry out a feasibility study – deadline 9 February 24  
This will be carried out between February and May 2024.

### The East Church Hall

A group of people met with Ian Goode from HLH.

Volunteer group having a look around 12 February 2024, open day to be held 24 February 2024  
Will know more after that!

Fiona Deakin (director) is leading the volunteer group. C & DCC welcomed to be apart of this.

### Gairloch & Loch Ewe Development Trust

Some of the board took a trip to Gairloch and Loch Ewe

Idea was they would find out/oversee the development trust there and what they have to offer/how they do things.

Positive feedback has been given, PF advised she wasn't there but will find out more at their next meeting.

### C&DCC

We are aware we need to get back to Sheila re. contents for the newsletter.

Waiting to discuss Black Isle Place Plan at BICC meeting next month and then we can focus on creating a community action plan, that all members agree C&DCC should lead.

Phoebe was thanked for her report & she left the meeting at 1959pm.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

No changes to declarations since meeting of 26th October 2020

## 3. Approval of previous minutes, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

The minutes were approved by NS and seconded by AP, on the basis that adjustments identified by AT were made.

## 4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

1. (4.1 – On hold – little movement with THC on TMP and 20mph in urban areas until 2025.) **On hold.**
2. (4.2 – Paige to attend youth café and speak to Wanda re. redesign of the Welcome to Cromarty Sign). Going to Youth Café very soon! **Action – PS.**
3. (4.3 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC (more recent reports)). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
4. (4.5 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
5. (4.6 – AP to confirm when funding from Stagecoach has been received). Still outstanding. **Action – AP.**

6. (4.7 – Mgmt. of the HMI has been transferred to Library Services (still waiting reports re. major maintenance issue)). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
7. (4.8 – Funding needed so emergency refresher resilience training can go ahead to ensure can keep TVH as an emergency resilience centre). Funding requested from SSE. **Action – AP.**
8. (4.9 – KM to follow up the youth mentoring programme with Dom post exams). **Action – KM**
9. (4.10 – Paige to contact Lyndsey at THC to clarify some points regarding housing qualification for social housing poster). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
10. (4.11 – Community Regeneration Funding to be applied for in relation to replacing gym equipment in The Victoria Park). PS taking this on now under townlands park. **Action – PS.**
11. (4.12 – Final discussions re. the website taking place with Alan and Andy). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**
12. (4.13 – PS to ask Kari re. the email to John Nightingale about the hole at Pirates Graveyard (was to be sent to PS to approve)). **Action – PS.**
13. (4.14 – PS to chase a response from new ward manager re. who is responsible for the sign at the bus shelter). **Action – PS.**
14. (4.15 – To link repairs re. The Ladies Walk in with the works at The Reeds Loop as both are core Highland Council paths). Discharged as Reeds Loop back open. **Discharged.**
15. (4.16 – Email Dougie @ Highland Ferries to have him attend our next meeting). Dougie to attend our next meeting (February). **Action – PS.**
16. (4.17 - 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**
17. (4.18 – 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**
18. (4.19 – To continue to discuss with all three councilors re. The use of weed killer in the town, plus the 'maintenance' of the graveyards). Ongoing. **Action – PS**
19. (4.20 – PS & AP to take 'shared subscription' package to next BICC meeting). Further action point so discharged here. **Discharged.**
20. (4.21 – To discuss at a later date the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). **Action - ALL.**
21. (4.23 – New bench via Cromarty Care Project to be made in replacement of bench at Braehead). Bench is going somewhere else now. **Discharged.**
22. (4.24 – EVCH brought up with CCDT – waiting for them to report back as CDCC will take this on if not). CCDT still exploring options – to be discharged. **Discharged.**
23. (4.25 – Public meeting to be held re. parking byelaws around Cromarty). **Action – ALL.**
24. (4.27 – Dog fouling portfolio needs actioned). **Action – ALL.**
25. (4.28 – To see if Kari is willing to be involved in the tourism portfolio). **Action – PS.**

26. (4.31 – Arrange a community collection of seaweed along Shore Street. In addition to this KM has offered sandbag training for flood prevention). **Discharged.**
27. (5.1 – To ask Dom to keep a diary of events re. Stagecoach/schoolbus as evidence). Done – **Discharged.**
28. (5.2 – To speak to Wanda re. arranging intergenerational events via Dom). Grouped with earlier action point. **Discharged.**
29. (8.1 – Someone to attend CC meeting at PCF – 14<sup>th</sup> December). **Discharged.**
30. (8.2 – To resubmit comments re. NPAC showing chartership). **Discharged.**
31. (8.3 – To bring up issues re. BIPP and BICC meeting in February 2024). On going. **Action – AP.**
32. (8.4 – Contact THC re. Reeds Loop repairs and ask for timeline for events/maintenance now that we can't use alternate route via Allotments). Reeds Loop can now be accessed again. **Discharged.**
33. (8.5 – To go back to GLG with an update on our position re. ECH). **Discharged.**
34. (8.6 – To go back to Sheila re. our comments on the positions of CCDC vs CCDT). Ongoing. **Action - ALL.**
35. (8.7 – Sarah to send round slides from meeting attended in November). **Discharged.**
36. (8.8 – To meet with Ingrid in the New Year and discuss plans for Townlands Park). To be booked! **Action – PS/SA**
37. (9.1 – Look into selling the sweeper and how we'd go about auctioning this to the public). Live on eBay! **Discharged.**

*Sarah Atkin joined the meeting at 2005pm.*

## 5. Youth Issues

Dom provided a report to PS prior to the meeting.

School bus service continues to be irregular. PS asked Dom to keep a daily diary as evidence for Stagecoach. To ask Jacquie Ross to do so too (rector of Fortrose Academy). **Action – PS.**

## 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.

Shared subscription for Teams (for all community councils) has been purchased but it's not yet functioning for use, working on it. **Action – AP/PS.**

Newsletter is looking for more donors – have enough credits to last until May. If it will continue to be edited and distributed after this point is unknown however as may need new editors.

There were no further comments or questions.

## 7. **Victoria Hall (VH) Report including Youth Café**

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

PS handed over to AP for comments/discussion.

### The Victoria Hall

#### **Highlights**

NHS immunisations are to continue at TVH plus there might be an additional drop in commencing for Cromarty Care Project (citizens advice bureau).

#### **Kishorn Insulations**

Looking at using local architect for repairs needed to hall. Will go to tender once aware of everything required, still not clear where the funding will come from!

#### **Pricing structure**

Will renew in the summer. It's going well as it is just now and heat and light costs were lower than expected. We should also consider charging more for commercial businesses.

### Youth Café

#### **Port of Cromarty Firth**

£5k donation received

Will be used to support staff costs to April 2025.

Suspect that this donation will become a regular thing!

There were no further comments or questions.

## 8. **Members' Reports**

### Portfolios

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

#### **Andy:**

Has a call with Gregor McCormack (THC) scheduled for Wednesday at 3pm to discuss noise monitoring results.

Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> (POCF) – AT requested meeting time of 530pm and SA confirmed that she can also attend.

All members aware that another public consultation has been booked in (TVH).

NS asked re. light pollution with regards to POCF (correspondence from resident re. this). AT will bring it up with GM on Wednesday. AP will send a holding email to resident in the meantime. **Action – AT/AP.**

**Nige:**

Reeds Loop Path – expressed thanks to Councillor Sarah Atkin for work she put into getting Reeds Loop and The Ladies Walk functioning again.

**Alan:**

Black Isle Place Plan - All members agree that we must stop anymore involvement with Black Isle Partnership and Gordon Adam as there's a conflict of interest.

NS suggests C&DCC take lead and write a draft proposal to bring along to BICC meeting. C&DCC and F&RCC need to work together.

SA to send government structure idea to AP/members and then above can be actioned. **Action – SA/AP.**

Emergency Resilience – SA expressed thanks to AP for his quick action during recent storms. All members were updated on events that occurred with residents at shoremills and all members agree that flood prevention needs to be part of the community action plan.

Attending HiTrans meeting tomorrow re. flooding events. Will ensure it's included in C&DCC action plan going forward. **Action – AP.**

There were no further comments by the members.

*The Highland Council*

- Budget Consultation – in constant talks daily with THC about the crisis that is ongoing and the plans for the future.
- SA to find out further information on school dinners at Cromarty Primary School after discussion with parents re. standards in Avoch from their Parent Council. **Action – SA.**

There were no further comments and SA was thanked for everything.

*Correspondence Received*

Resident sent pictures re. Farness Road and the repairs required (potholes, worn away road etc) SA recommended pictures are resubmitted. PS to go back to resident. Also to send them on to Ian Moncrieffe at THC. **Action – PS.**

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

**Police report**

NS suggested this is added to ARs portfolio as he is an ex-policeman. PS to pass details to AR so he can make contact and request a regular report for C&DCC going forward. **Action – PS/AR.**

**Swimming Pool**

NS would like this to be actioned again as there are funds sitting unused somewhere. Thinks the freeport may also be interested in helping us. All members in support. **Action – NS/AR and SA.**

There were no further comments or questions.

10. **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 730pm  
Meeting ended at 2130pm.

## APPENDIX A

### Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** reflects Internet costs paid in advance plus the £150 planning fee STILL to be repaid by Stagecoach. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **AMOUNTS PAYABLE** reflects £4.50 p&p costs to be repaid from our Paypal account for a publications sales overpayment, by an overseas customer, and £200 that is to be used on a Primary School project (ex Open Gardens donation). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** reflects HC advance funding for 2024 Reeds Loop Maintenance, Resilience costs (to be SSE funded) and public donations. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **TODDLERS PLAYGROUP FUND** reflects Playgroup Hall Hire. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
5. **CROMARTY RISING FUND** reflects donations received from General Public. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton  
28/01/24



APPENDIX B

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

<b>Statement of Financial Position at 28th January 2024</b>				
		£	£	£
<b>Net Assets</b>			Movement	at 30/11/23
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 28th January 2024		12,496.63	263.89	12,232.74
Paypal Balance as at 28th January 2024		4.50	0.00	4.50
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		193.20	0.00	193.20
Amounts Payable		-204.50	0.00	-204.50
<b>Total Net Assets at 28th January 2024</b>		<b>£12,489.83</b>	263.89	<b>£12,225.94</b>
		£	£	£
<b>Represented by:</b>				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2023		2,093.28	0.00	2,093.28
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		-297.09	-47.52	-249.57
		1,796.19	-47.52	1,843.71
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2023		211.75	0.00	211.75
<b>C&amp;DCC Amenity &amp; Event Funds</b>		£		
Community Amenities Fund	1,504.46		285.40	1,219.06
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	6,578.30	0.00	126.00
Community Gritting Fund		561.33	-12.99	574.32
Cromarty Live Fund		4.01	-42.00	46.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,014.98	0.00	1,014.98
<b>Net C&amp;DCC Reserves</b>		<b>10,166.56</b>	182.89	9,983.67
<b>Designated Community Funds</b>				
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)		1,357.79	-99.00	1,456.79
Cromarty Rising Fund		763.42	180.00	583.42
		<b>£12,489.83</b>	263.89	<b>£12,225.94</b>
Alan Plampton 28th January 2024				

## APPENDIX C

### Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** No problems as we continue with a fairly busy diary. The NHS Baby Immunisation Clinics have now continued in 2024 and we hope soon to be hosting monthly Citizen Advice Bureau sessions in the near future (sponsored by the CCP). The fees review results will now be completed for action from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance** Kishorn Insulations Ltd completed their survey and a report with quotation is now being finalised. This is the second part of completing our feasibility study of the Hall's energy performance and sustainability. The final part is a repairs schedule of work to be completed as soon as possible with volunteer help from a local professional. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Sheddie Trikes** have now gone to winter quarters and the winter resilience (gritting) team is now in action with improved washing facilities, under its new management. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Youth Cafe** The monthly report is attached. New THC pay grade scales have now been confirmed and implemented with backdating to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Our staff contracts have been revised and agreed with the staff. Further sponsorship has been received from PoCF to help fund our future budget needs. We have now guaranteed Youth Worker employment until at least 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. We continue to supply Cost of Living help to Cromarty families in need with financial support, energy vouchers and well-being bags. Funding and donations from a number of sources has exceeded £5k in 2024 already. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton - VHMC  
28/01/24

**APPENDIX D**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood**

**Meetings attended**

8<sup>th</sup> January – I attended the Black Isle Ward Management Meeting and presented to Sarah Atkin, Morven-May MacCullum and Lyndsey Johnston on the subject of Low Frequency Noise.

**Nigg – Cable Plant Application 23/04662/FUL**

I wrote to the Northern Planning Applications Committee (NPAC) councillors and their substitutes on two occasions, prior to their planning meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

The first correspondence, 11<sup>th</sup> January, was to comment on submissions made by other parties since our original submission. Two of these, including one from Chris Ratter, THC EHO, stated that there had not been any previous complaints for noise related to a cabling vessels berthed at Nigg; I provided evidence to the contrary. I reiterated CDCCs broad support for economic development in the Firth, under controlled conditions, allowing residents a period for sleep undisturbed by nuisance. The second correspondence was on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January and was specifically on educating NPAC on low frequency noise.

BBC Scotland Radio Highlands an Islands made an approach to CDCC for comment on the planning. Representing CDCC, I was interviewed 15<sup>th</sup> January. To my knowledge, the recording wasn't used.

**Noise nuisance from the Firth**

No specific noise related incidents appear to have been identified since my last report.

I have been in email correspondence with Gregor MacCormick THC Environmental Health, following up the promise of the results of the noise monitoring that was undertaken last November/December. Their report needs finalising and will be discussed with Port of Nigg and the Complainants, prior to the information being shared with CDCC. I have a provisional 'Teams' meeting set for Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Sale of Self-Propelled Sweeper**

I have listed the Stiga SWS 800G donated by Simon and Jenny Gunn on eBay.

Andy Thurgood  
24/01/24

**APPENDIX E**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nigel Shapcott**

**CCP Notes for C&DCC Meeting Jan 24**

- Monday Lunch Club, Table Tennis, Playgroup and Cinema Club have all re-convened after the Christmas break.
- Winter fuel payments of £50 per household were made to 61 households in the second week of January. This was made with £1500 award from the Open Gardens Committee plus a donation of £100 from a Cromarty resident who specified the Winter Fuel Payments. The remainder came from our unrestricted funds. This is the largest number of grants we have given out to date. We decided at our last Trustees' Meeting that, going forward, we will be asking everyone to apply from scratch, to make sure that grants go where they are most needed and to avoid grants going to households where circumstances may have improved.
- We finally have Highland Council's permission to site a bench at the sheltered housing in Townlands and the bench has now arrived (Yay!) Hi-Co have stipulated that the bench must be fixed to a concrete/slab base and Colin Keith has volunteered to provide this. It's hoped that he and Jon Cox will be assembling the bench in the next few days.
- Nicola Campbell from Citizens Advice has been in touch about holding sessions in Cromarty and CCP have offered to sponsor these sessions at the Victoria Hall. I liaised with Alan to allow Nicola to make a 'recky'. He replied (16th Jan) but I've heard nothing back from Nicola since (plan to chase her up Monday).
- The new shed for the Larder is on order, but Fettes have pushed delivery back to mid-March.
- Gordon Adam (former Hi-Co Councillor) has been in touch about the George Craigie Urquhart Trust. This is a local trust specifically established to assist the needy in Cromarty. (CCP have received funds from them in the past as has the CC, I think?) They are in need of new trustees and Jill has proposed myself, Lindy Coutts and Rhona Garrett. The fund is very small - capital no more than £40,000 and grants made only from the interest. However, it has been managed by Highland Council and now that Gordon Adam is retiring that leaves only Terrence Burns as remaining trustee. We are all in agreement - and hope that CC agree -that the Craigie Urquhart Trust should be held closer to home. (Sorry this last one is so convoluted but wanted to be as transparent as possible!)

**APPENDIX F**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton**

- 1. BICC Meeting** scheduled for mid February. Knockbain CC hosting. Urgent discussion re Final BI Place Plan Draft and in particular its governance proposals. **ACTION – Information and discussion**
- 2. East Church Hall** As agreed at last meeting, C&DCC to step back again and allow Development Trust facilitate action. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 3. Housing** Still awaiting Albyn Housing proposals on CM01. IMFDP now received from Reporter for THC to adopt. CM01 confirmed to encourage DT and Albyn to agree access solution between the Barn and the Hall. After neighbour and Development Trust opposition, CM03 has been changed from Housing Use to Mixed Use. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 4. Community Groups & Events** Shoremill Flood Risk Group contacted over recent incident during Christmas period offering support and potential assistance from our Cromarty & District Emergency Action Plan. No reply yet received. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 5. Defibrillators** All Defibrillators now up to date and ready to use. Izzy Elliott has agreed to take over checking the Fishertown Inn unit. Fraser Thomson is the Victoria Hall contact and also covering the Fire Station temporarily. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 28/01/24