



Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting held on

Monday 27th January 2025, 730pm

Virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at The Victoria Hall

Present

Community Councillors: Alan Plampton (AP) – Treasurer, Alan Rycroft (AR), Nigel Shapcott (NS) and Andy Thurgood (AT) – Vice Chair.

Youth Member: Allan Munro (AM)

Highland Councillor(s): Sarah Atkin (SA)

Member(s) of the public: Matt Grist on behalf of CCDT (MG)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

Here we go, the first minutes of 2025!

Andy stood as Chairperson for this evening and he welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting was recorded so the minutes can be prepared.

Apologies received from Paige Shepherd (PS)

AT, AM and AP were the only ones present from The Victoria Hall.

AR, NS and Cllr SA attended online via Microsoft Teams.

2. Declarations of Interest

No changes to declarations of interest since last meeting

3. Approval of previous minutes, 25th November 2024

The minutes were proposed by AP and seconded by AR

9. Any Other Business (brought forward by Chair)

Cromarty Community Development Trust

Update given by Matt Grist:

Open board meeting – next one on 10th February 2025. Encouraging members to attend as it's a really useful way to keep up to date on CCDT matters. NS asked if it could be available online via teams. MG to report back.

East Church Hall

Seem to have come to an agreement with The Highland Council now so *almost* at the stage where they can start requesting business plans from interested parties/users etc. Will probably have more of an update at their open meeting but can't confirm either way!

AP suggested they use the maintenance team to do some tidying up of the ECH so the grounds etc are more presentable when the parties come to view the premises. Date to be set – but likely to arrange the work to be done around the middle of March. MG to report back if CCDT can't commit to this date.

SA offered her support with ECH should communication slow down again with THC (or other sources).

Unit 2 Whitedykes

No longer pursuing this – with Julie leaving they are prioritising things and trying to maximise the resources they have/not take on too much.

Recruitment

Thanks to Julie for all she's done for the trust to date. Reminder to everyone about their current job AD – applicants have been received and interviews to be carried out in due course.

Torridon Development Trust

Plan to open community campsite so were visiting Cromarty Campsite and looking for feedback/plans etc. Visit went well and was good to see the interest.

Minute secretary note – Matt left the meeting about 745pm.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 25th November 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. (4.6 – To follow up the youth mentoring program with Dom post exams). **Action – KM**
7. (4.7 – Public information notice to be prepared re. social housing). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
8. (4.8 – Meeting due with Ingrid at THC re. replacing equipment in Victoria Park). **Action – PS.**
9. (4.9 – To catch up with Kari re. email to J Nightingale about Pirates Graveyard). **Action – PS.**
10. (4.10 – Who's responsible for Cromarty sign at bus shelter? - meeting with SA to be arranged). **Action – PS.**
11. (4.11 - To speak to Denis (resident) re. hedge options for the park). Ongoing. **Action – KM**
12. (4.12 – 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 discuss later the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). **Action - ALL.**

14.(4.15 – Public meeting to be held re. parking byelaws around Cromarty (include alongside Place Plan meeting)). **Action – ALL.**

15.(4.16 – To see if Kari is willing to be involved in tourism portfolio). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**

16.(4.17 – Meeting re. Townlands Park to happen with SA/Ingrid). **Action – PS.**

17. (4.19 – To follow up with Ian Moncrieffe at THC re. state of Farness Rd). Ongoing. **Action – SA.**

18.(4.20 – To discuss recruitment for TVH committee). Ongoing. **Action – CF.**

19.(4.21 – Potential sub-committee to be created re. Freeport etc (long-term project)). **Action - AT.**

20.(4.22 – Continue communication with CGU/Highland Broadband via sales director Joe Scott). Waiting response from JS (to follow up as no email received) but residents are now starting to receive their 'go live' dates. Continue to be voice of the community. **Action – AT.**

21.(4.23 – To contact waste management re. the oil spill kit that was dropped off to TVH). **Action – SA.**

22.(4.24 – To arrange a separate meeting re. noise monitoring). **Action – ALL.**

23.(4.25 – To recruit litter picker volunteers for 2025 season). **Action – AP.**

24.(4.26 – To gather ideas to celebrate 50 years of community councils (in 2027))! **Action – ALL.**

25. (4.28 – To follow up on items still outstanding with THC after meeting regarding town maintenance). **Action – AP/AT.**

26.(4.28 – To pass on details re. terra tracking to help identify responsibilities). **Action – SA.**

27. (4.29 – Rota being prepared for dog-bin emptying for 2025 season. Enough volunteers for the rest of 2024). **Action – AP.**

28.(4.31 – SA to check if there's any preventative action we can take re. dogs in the park). **Action – PS.**

29. (4.33 – To speak to Stagecoach, SA and acting rector of Fortrose Academy re. the continuing bus lateness). **Action – PS.**

30. (4.44 – To contact Rory @ Port of Nigg re. the owner of Nigg Pier). Rory unsure but spoke to Cromarty resident and have been given a name. PS to ask if resident has contact details for this person incase we need to make contact. **Action – PS.**

31. (4.45 – Contact Nigg & Shandwick CC to involve them in our discussion re. the pier). Ongoing. **Action – NS/AP.**

5. Youth Issues

School bus

Allan reports that the bus has been quite good lately so has nothing to report on this matter this time.

Gritters

One of the bins by TVH keeps being missed from the refill. AM to report to Fraser Thompson who has someone he can contact. **Action – AM.**

AM also advised that the one at the one at the harbour keeps filling with water. NS suggests that holes are drilled in the bottom for continuous drainage and we can then action how much grit is in it and move it if we need to. NS to ask resident to drill the holes. **Action – NS.**

(NS reported back before the end of this discussion that the holes would be drilled tomorrow).

Since they've come back from the maintenance team they are very difficult to maneuver round corners. AP to follow this up with the team to see if this can be resolved. **Action – AP.**

AP mentioned he has had a request from the 'Chatterbox' magazine to run an article on Allan, AM agreed he'd be happy to speak to them about this.

AT concluded by mentioning that Associated British Ports (Tim Morris) requested if AM was happy to speak to them again about their plans for the future and how they can incorporate the youth aspirations into them. AP also confirmed that he has put Tim in touch with The Youth Café also.

SA expressed a huge thanks to Allan for all his dedication to the cause and says each town needs an Allan in their lives! AT followed this up with words of encouragement and all agreed that everything he is doing is going to be **hugely** beneficial to his future career.

No further comments and AM left the meeting just after 8pm.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

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

It has been quiet even though it includes two months' worth of data. The only movement to note really is the maintenance of the gritters.

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.

AP confirmed there's not much to report this month and there were no further comments that won't already be read in 'Cromarty News'.

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:

BICC Governance Body Formation:

Discussion started, but there was nothing else discussed that's not already in AP's report. To circulate candidate CVs for review after meeting. **Action – AP.**

Albyn Housing

Sending another chaser email to Albyn re. the housing in Cromarty. Needs to be moved on. A sub-committee is to be created to liaise with Albyn and represent local housing needs.

Community Councils 50th anniversary

There are three volunteers recruited to organise an event to mark this occasion. More information will follow when available.

Defibrillators

Cromarty Arts Trust don't have the funds to purchase a defibrillator in full so AP to look into alternative funds once he's aware of the price. NS suggested we ask Cromarty Care Project. **Action – AP.**

Nige:

Cromarty Harbour Trust:

No further update as of yet regarding replacing the current chair.

Reeds Loop Path:

£100 to be applied for to enable further maintenance.

SA confirms there are leftover funds in the ward discretionary fund so to apply now before the year is out. AP confirmed he's in the process of applying just now! **Action – AP.**

Alan R:

Police Scotland

No comments in addition to his report.

Paige:

Nothing further to report.

Andy T:

Port Authority Meeting

Three positive outcomes are detailed in report

AT to follow up with Rory Gunn @ Port of Cromarty Firth re. shore power as the feasibility study on that was to be concluded by the end of 2024. **Action – AT.**

Highland Broadband

Still in communication with them re. remedial works etc.

Rats

Still in talks with residents (and Clifford Smith at THC) about the issues surrounding this.

'One Cromarty' Project

Has started work on this. C&DCC are looking to encourage all community groups to work together, combining skills, funds etc into one 'pool'. AT has prepared slides (should take 60-90 minute to pitch)

detailing how we propose this is going to happen (or what we hope will happen). To be followed by a Q & A session and then AT also plans to hold a one-day workshop for the groups interested with regards resilience, business improvements etc. To start arranging these community meetings from March.

Cromarty Community Development Trust

Has been approached to become a co-opted director. Looking for opinions of C&DCC members. Some members were concerned that it could create a conflict of interest but *all* members **agreed** that it will be a good way to bring the community groups together.

There were no further comments on members' portfolios.

8.2 The Highland Council:

Report prepared by SA (**Appendix I**) was circulated after the meeting regarding the discussion that occurred.

SA looking for a response from John Nightingale re. permission to purchase a shed for Townlands Park but has struggled to receive a response. All members confirm they have the same difficulties. SA to follow this up with his estate team and see the best way to communicate with him. **Action – SA.**

SA left the meeting at 930pm.

8.3 Correspondence Received:

Correspondence from residence re. speeding on the shore road, and the danger it caused to children and pets in particular. **All** agreed we cannot get involved in a police matter.

Further correspondence from a resident re. Well Lane and a contact with regards to Land Registry. NS declared a conflict of interest but other members agreed asking his advice does no harm. We should see what he's got to say. AP to make contact (ask resident for contact details). **Action – AP.**

9. Any Other Business (continued..)

Association of British Ports

As previously mentioned, AM has agreed to speak to Tim about the ways the youth can be involved in their future plans so AT to put them in touch with The Youth Café to take this on. **All** members agreed. **Action – AP.**

There were no further comments or questions.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 24th February 2025 at 730pm

Meeting ended at 945pm.

**APPENDIX A
AGENDA ITEM 6
TREASURER'S REPORT NOTES**

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** still reflects the £150 planning fee to be repaid by Stagecoach. Should be cleared before year end. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **AMOUNTS PAYABLE** still reflects £200 that is to be used on a Primary School project possibly towards new goalposts (ex OG donation). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND** reflects cost of gritter repairs. See VH Report for more details. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **CROMARTY LIVE FUND** reflects the last donation towards the Newsletter for distribution costs. The Cromarty News will not need such funding following its new partnership with the Cromarty Court-house. Thanks must go to Jon Palmer for his amazing stint as Editor, and Plexus Media for all its help and support over the years, without which there would not have been a Newsletter. We can now continue to use this Fund for Cromarty Live website use only, as we wish good luck to Fran Sadler, as the new Editor of the newly named Cromarty News. A revamped independent editorial team will be unveiled in the next issue, due out next week. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
5. **CROMARTY RISING AND TODDLER FUNDS** reflect donations and net takings received respectively. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
27/01/25

**APPENDIX B
AGENDA ITEM 6
TREASURER'S REPORT**

Statement of Financial Position at 27th January 2025				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 23/11/24</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 27th January 2025		13,885.38	263.25	13,622.13
Paypal Balance as at 27th January 2025		0.00	-4.50	4.50
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		150.00	0.00	150.00
Amounts Payable		-200.00	4.50	-204.50
Total Net Assets at 27th January 2025		£13,835.38	263.25	£13,572.13
		£	£	£
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		-87.51	-47.55	-39.96
		1,509.18	-47.55	1,556.73
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		0.00	1,328.18
Community Event Funds ex Bonfire/Gala/S&D	5,073.84	6,402.02	0.00	5,073.84
Community Resilience Fund		630.90	-205.20	836.10
Cromarty Live Fund		35.01	35.00	0.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,736.05	0.00	1,736.05
Net C&DCC Reserves		10,524.91	-217.75	10,742.66
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		1,856.79	401.00	1,455.79
Cromarty Rising Fund		1,328.42	80.00	1,248.42
		£13,835.38	263.25	£13,572.13
Alan Plampton 27th January 2025				

**APPENDIX C
AGENDA ITEM 7
VICTORIA HALL REPORT**

1. **Bookings** The busy winter season with regular user bookings continuing to give us a busy diary. Income is higher than the previous YTD. Projection for year could be 10-15% higher. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance** Nothing new or major to report. HC Boiler service booked for this week. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Sheddie** - Gritters have had to all be repaired after structural failures. Now all back in action with big thanks to Vitek and John W, for their speedy help, plus Allan M's patience. One of the donated gritters had to be temporarily borrowed back, so thanks to John and Rory at the campsite. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
4. **Youth Cafe** Latest report is attached. Please also see the Cromarty News report that will also appear on Cromarty Live. **ACTION – Information only**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
27/01/25

APPENDIX D
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS
ALAN RYCROFT

Police Liaison

Our formal point of contact with *Police Scotland* will be Constable Robin Brown, who is based at Dingwall Police Station. Owing to the festive season, Constable Brown's extensive holiday and recent pressure of work, he has not been able to conduct any appropriate liaison thus far. However, we have provisionally arranged to meet in Cromarty on Monday 10 February 2025 (time to be arranged).

A police-related issue is also, I believe, worthy of sharing: Members will recall previous discussion, following a written complaint, concerning a dog attack on Mr Stephen Jones, which was brought to the attention of the C&DCC by the complainant. At the time, Police Scotland obtained a written statement, which they passed to the Highland Council's Dog Warden, who, following inquiries, apparently assured the complainant that a direct apology would be forthcoming, and that the dog would in future be kept on a lead in public. The complainant has now informed me that, far from an apology, the dog's owner has approached him aggressively on the Links, using loud, abusive language, and telling him that he needed to get out of Cromarty. The complainant felt intimidated, and made a further report to *Police Scotland*, alleging abusive language and behaviour in public. Police Scotland have apparently agreed to investigate further. Members will recall that I was a witness to the original incident of the dog attack.

APPENDIX E
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS
NIGEL SHAPCOTT

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

Reeds Loop Path (shore part) I have received reports from two Cromarty residents. The recent storms have repeated the drainage problems and there has been further erosion in the damaged area and the fencing is now at risk. Suggest that I am authorised to ask John Whyte to repeat previous work or we will lose the path, the water severely weakens the path. Please see photos at the end of this report.

100 Steps No change.

Highland Local Access Group Meeting - Two meetings are being set up and I really hope that the dates suggested are kept too, as last minute changes have meant I've not been able to attend.

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)

No report as the harbour standard activities as it is in winter mode. As a reminder Colin has provided us with notice that he will be resigning in March 2026 and informs us that C&DCC have an important role in filling that position according to the "rules". Storm Eowyn did not cause as much of a problem as was anticipated, by report.

Cromarty Care Project (CCP)

1) Winter Warmth Payments – 55 applicants this year, each will receive £60 to go out in February. Total cost of £3,300 of £1,500 will come from Open Gardens Committee donation. Communication about winter warmth payments is being reviewed as not everyone had the information needed.

2) Larder cupboard – meeting with Black Isle Men's Shed resulted in plans being prepared for new larder, slightly larger, better shelf arrangement, frames for notices on the front. Awaiting quote from them to be met from our Bank of Scotland second year funding for core costs.

3) Parent and Toddler Playgroup – group delighted to have funding from CCP for sessional workers and new equipment/toys. Funding now to be given as lump sum of £1000 to spend as appropriate sessional activities become available. Awaiting list of equipment/toys needed. This will be funded from our Bank of Scotland second year funding for core costs.

4) Monday Lunch Club – Christmas lunch provided by Fishertown Inn was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all as you may have seen in Cromarty newsletter. Lunch club now re-convened at Fishertown after Christmas break with two new attendees, making 20 attendees on our list in total but usually around 14/15 going each Monday.

5) Classic Film Club – now re-convened and showing 2 films per month.

6) Intergenerational Panto was very successful and enjoyed by all.

7) Lion Dance extravaganza planned for Chinese New Year with Cromarty Primary school

8) Global Energy have just given donation to fund school trips, including residential, for Cromarty Primary School

9) CCP 10th Anniversary – CCP will celebrate 10th anniversary later this year – starting to plan!

Photos of Reeds Loop Path:



APPENDIX F
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORT
ALAN PLAMPTON

1. BICC

Following C&DCC Members' decision for the BICC to represent the C&DCC in consultation discussions with the Highland Council, over the Scheme of Establishment Review and the need for sustainable financing of Community Councils, the BICC have now received a response from a leading HC manager involved in the review who is keen to explore the BICC's involvement, and specific interests needed, in the review. After a short delay while final BICC nominations, for Community Council Directors, were confirmed, the BICC can confirm their following accepted nominations – Helen Barton, John Bruce, Rebecca Richmond, Paige Shepherd and Theo Stratton.

C&DCC Members are asked to endorse these nominations. In addition, please find attached a draft timeline for the creation of the BILPP Governing body. At this stage this is still being known as the OBI. Please note that this is a draft, not yet agreed by the BICC, so please do not share its contents, out with this C&DCC meeting. **ACTION – Discussion and decision whether to endorse and/or ask questions**

- 2. Housing** We have now obtained contact details for the relevant staff at Albyn Housing responsible for CM01. A chasing email was sent immediately after Christmas, requesting an urgent update, but sadly no response has been received, and a further chasing email will be sent. In anticipation of a response, a C&DCC sub-committee is to be formed to deal with the technical nature of this affordable housing need. Representing the community, Cromarty is lucky to have three individuals with the extensive social housing experience. Additional resources will also be added to represent Cromarty's specific needs. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 3. Events** A small sub-committee is also being formed to prepare for the 50th Anniversary events in 2027. So far, after the request for help, there are two volunteers to join myself. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 4. Defibrillators** Cromarty Arts Trust has, due to funding the chair lift, had to delay a decision to install a defibrillator unit at the Stables, but because of the added value benefit of a double installation and training package, a final decision on the Townlands unit installation, is waiting for our supplier's technical input. This is due next week. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 27/01/25

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8 - PORTFOLIO REPORTS
ANDY THURGOOD

Meetings attended

I attended the Port of Cromarty Firth Community Councils liaisons meeting 12/12/24. Key items arising were:

- An acknowledgement of Community Benefit from commercial activity in the Firth. It is intended to pursue funds from contractors undertaking capital works, to enable this.
- There is an application in place for bench-marking ECO ports.
- Noise management guidance is being developed with the Highland Council (THC).

I provided CDCC updates at the December and January CCDT meetings.

I met with THC EHO, Clifford Smith, to undertake a walkaround survey of the reported rat issue. Feedback to the community has been posted on Facebook, and the CDCC website.

Correspondence

On-going communications with Joe Scott at Highland Broadbands to resolve outstanding remedial works in the community.

Various correspondence with the community on rats.

Associated British Ports' Tim Morris made contact, with regards to opportunities for young persons in the Firth. The email has been circulated for discussion under Any Other Business at the next CDCC meeting.




Noise and other nuisance from the Firth

I have no awareness of any 'official' noise complaints since my last report.

Projects

I have commenced work on project 'One Cromarty' (a working title), looking at the ways our community organisations can collaborate to optimise community resource and talent, to shape our future, and align with the Black Isle Local Place Plan (BILPP). I have circulated a draft for discussion.

Andy Thurgood
24/01/25

<p><u>Planning</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Erection of shed (in retrospect)</u>  <p>Cromarty Harbour Trust Cromarty Harbour George Street Cromarty</p> <p>Ref. No: 24/05204/FUL Received: Fri 13 Dec 2024 Validated: Wed 22 Jan 2025 Status: Under Consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Installation of 2no. replacement windows, 2no. replacement doors, 2no. new windows. Renovation of 2no. dormer windows. Removal of flue.</u>  <p>49 Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA</p> <p>Ref. No: 24/05058/LBC Received: Wed 04 Dec 2024 Validated: Wed 11 Dec 2024 Status: Under Consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Internal Alterations (retrospective)</u>  <p>2 Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA</p> <p>Ref. No: 24/04958/LBC Received: Wed 27 Nov 2024 Validated: Wed 27 Nov 2024 Status: Under Consideration</p>
<p><u>Road Surfaces</u></p>	<p>Due to the cold weather the Bayview Crescent Road coming in from the shore road has deteriorated greatly and becoming a hazard. Will report to Highland Council with a view to repairs.</p>
<p><u>Speeding</u></p>	<p>There has been an increased number of reports regarding speeding round the village. Residents are reminded to report excessive speeding to the police and are reminded that with the ever-changing road conditions to adhere to speed. Cromarty has a large population of kids and animals, and we would not want any near misses or accidents happening.</p>
<p><u>Fortrose Academy Bus</u></p>	<p>No reports of issues with the bus</p>

**APPENDIX I
AGENDA ITEM 8 – HIGHLAND COUNCIL
CLLR SARAH ATKIN**

**Cromarty CC meeting – 27 January 2025
HIGHLAND COUNCIL (from Cllr Sarah Atkin)**

Issues raised:

1. **C/F From November '24 meeting.** Meeting with Officers (inc. senior officer Alison Clark), Ferintosh CC and local members to discuss better partnership working between THC (Highland Council) and Community Councils/communities. For FCC this was more positive than expected. The feeling was that a couple of projects from across the Black Isle would be identified to trial the partnership approach. Follow up meeting in February. (N.B. Becky Richmond did feel this strategy is perhaps best developed when the Black Isle Place Plan governance is in place.)

2.

A

REA COMMITTEE

Roads budget. Marine Terrace / Bayview Crescent is in the programme for inlay (new road.) The worst section of Farness Road is included for this year (inlay). It's a start. The Black Isle & Easter Ross Area Committee geography has additional strategic fund money this year (£1.39m). Hopefully more can be added to the list.

Police Report: Area Commander, Calum Smith attended. A revised system of regular liaison/communication with community councils is being developed consistent with what resources will allow. This will represent a big – and hopefully – sustainable system. From February 2025 every Ward will receive a police report. Quarterly meetings will take place between Inspectors and Community Council Chairs (initially via TEAMS.) I read this as strategic involvement on how crime is targeted and direct access, so Inspectors are accountable. (The more 'ground' level/informal liaison wasn't referenced.)

Garage Rents: to achieve parity of garage rentals across the BIER area, it was agreed that Black Isle garage rents rise at a lower rate and Wards 6 and 7 at 8%.

3. **Council rents:** paper coming to Housing & Property on Wednesday with a recommended 8% rise.
4. **Cromarty – Townlands (update).** There have been some improvements to the park. Cllr Atkin is chasing John Nightingale for permission for residents to have a communal shed in the park (for tools and litter pickers etc.) A list of other issues needs to be put together and costed so funding can be found. Money for the shed will need to be applied for via CDCC or Cromarty Community Trust.
5. **Ward Discretionary:** Cllr Atkin reminded CDCC that there was still money in the fund to spend before year-end.