



CROMARTY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED
AT MEETING ON
28TH JANUARY 2013

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 10th December 2012 in the Hugh Miller Institute

Community Councillors Ronald Young (Chair), Julie Penwright, Anne Short, Gabriele Pearson, Andrew Hulse

Highland Councillors: Craig Fraser

Community Council Minute Secretary: Jeremy Price

Youth Representatives: Paige Shepherd

Police Representative: Sgt Shonnie Campbell

Two members of the public were also present

| Item | Details | Action |
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| 1 | <p><u>Chairman's Welcome</u></p> <p>Ronald welcomed everyone present to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Bill Wall, Vivienne Plampton, David Alston and PC Darren Williams</p> | |
| 2 | <p><u>Approval of previous minutes</u></p> <p>These were agreed as accurate.</p> <p>Proposed: Julie Penwright Seconded: Anne Short</p> | |
| 3 | <p><u>Youth issues</u></p> <p>3.1 November has been a busy month indeed. Wanda took 4 young people from across the Black Isle to Highland Youth Voice Conference where they took part in many consultations and activities over 3 days and nights. Positive feedback had been received from their HQ particularly highlighting 2 individuals and Wanda's work. It was a very positive activity.</p> <p>3.2 Following on from this was Ross & Cromarty Youth Forum which Paige said had been very successful and the 'One Fair Wage' campaign was kicked off to try and get parity on wages for different age groups and a living wage across the board.</p> | |

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| <p>3.3</p> | <p>In school many projects had been on the go including 'Getting to Know your Techno!' During the past four weeks 3rd year pupils from Fortrose Academy Asdan class have been educating older folks from the Black Isle . To date, they have helped to set up an eBay account, a gmail e-mail address, demonstrated the use of iPads, E-readers, laptops, set up Webcam for members in the group, made slideshows of holiday photos, and shown the participants how to get the best out of their mobile phones and the internet. This included looking at many old photos on the Cromarty Live website which resulted in really interesting stories where older folks share their memories and provided an unexpected outcome for the young people involved.</p> | |
| <p>3.4</p> | <p>Paige said that all this was only possible with the cooperation of the library staff and the drive and motivation of Wanda Mackay (Youth Development Officer). There had been brilliant feedback from the participants.</p> | |
| <p>3.5</p> | <p>Liver Lifestyle Dance Project with a targeted group of young lads on Misuse of Alcohol is running weekly and the boys are loving creating new dances and learning to breakdance .</p> | |
| <p>3.6</p> | <p>Paige reported on the very busy first few weeks of Fraser's role as Assistant Youth worker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She said he has come in very enthusiastic and energetic and so far in his first month Fraser has created, delivered and did a survey finding out what young people want to be doing in the Youth Café. From this, a planned programme of exciting activities and events is emerging. • Fraser works every week in Cromarty Primary school offering 1-1 mentoring with some pupils and doing a range of lunchtime activities. He has supported Cycling Proficiency with P4-P6 in Cromarty Primary School and is supporting both citizenship and eco groups in Cromarty Primary each week and working with the gardening group. He is also working on Xmas theme just now with some pupils in time for the Xmas Fair. • She said that Fraser supports and attends Jnr and Snr Youth Café, shinty class and chanter classes each week, where his positive and hard work approach is being really appreciated by all. He has helped plan and host Come Dine With Us for the seniors which saw a group from Alness enjoy a 5 course dinner and all the fineries. • In his first month he has done Training in Child Protection, Fundraising, and Arts and Crafts and also attended a seminar in Promoting Healthy Relationships with Young People. He also supports and attends meetings of the Sports and Tennis Club, Townlands Tenants Association, Heritage and Homes Project. | |
| <p>3.7</p> | <p>Shinty sessions have been enjoyed weekly and chanter class continues and the 8 are going strong . They even had the shuttle pipes make an appearance at the opening of the Cromarty Arts event where all people enjoyed listening to the group. Youth Café Jnr and Snr will be taking part in a new Homes and Heritage local project.</p> | |

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| <p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p> <p>3.12</p> | <p>'Welcome to the Window on the World' - this is the community exhibition being hosted throughout December in the tiny window of Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage. Cromarty Youth Café have put a window in the display at Hugh Miller's for Dec 17th and the chanter class has its window display on the 18th December for all to see.</p> <p>Fusion events are happening once a month in Fortrose at the Leisure Centre and Paige reported on the many activities taking place in the fitness suite.</p> <p>Paige reported that 13 young people are taking part in Saltire Awards and so far have passed various training courses</p> <p>She also had a list of 17 staff and volunteers training in 2012 'Skilling up our Community' and the courses they are attending.</p> <p>Paige also mentioned Bada on 17th December and said that the next sitting of the Scottish Youth Parliament is 1st-2nd March 2013.</p> | |
| <p>4</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.5</p> | <p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>Ronald welcomed Sgt Shonnie Campbell from Dingwall.</p> <p>Sgt Campbell introduced himself and gave a summary of a total of 35 calls in the previous month, only 6 or 7 of which were of any significance. He said this reflected a low number of issued occurring in the community.</p> <p>He referred to speeding complaints in Denny Road and Bayview Crescent. Rhona Garrett and Rebecca Shrieber who had attended the meeting voiced their concerns about the speeding down Denny Road, including the 20mph zone and there was a discussion about traffic calming measures. Rhona said she was concerned it would take a serious accident before action was eventually taken and referred to children walking to school and the extra residents there would be when the new houses opened along Denny Road. Julie also referred to a number of emails she had received from other residents voicing the same concerns. Sgt Campbell said that speed checks had been carried out at different times over a period of two weeks and no detections made. He said that further periodic checks would be carried out and times would vary. He would also try and get the Safety Camera Partnership involved and make contact with the road safety officer.</p> <p>Craig said he and David both agreed there were probably enough issues to get the Roads Department involved to a greater extend and they would make contact. Craig also agreed that the 'smiley face' passive speed indicator could be an advantage if one could be obtained. Craig said he would try and arrange a meeting in Cromarty with TEC Services – Hugh Logan.</p> <p>Sgt Campbell also said that he was aware of the local feeling about the lack of a police presence in the town and Ronald gave a history of promises that had been made to the meeting over a number of years which had been unfulfilled. He agreed that the closure of the police office would have led to this and shared with the meeting how abstractions from the front line had increased significantly over the past years, leading to further reductions in visible policing. There was also a difficulty in re-rostering rest days that had been cancelled because of various events, again causing reductions in numbers.</p> | <p>CF/DA</p> |

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| 4.6 | Ronald asked what would cause a change in this and Sgt Campbell said he felt nothing would. He said that this was the current situation and with the changes to the structure of the Scotland police force it was highly unlikely that there would be capacity for the visible policing of the past – the issues that would be created under a single force had yet to be identified. He said that he would try and give Cromarty as much attention as possible depending on the resource availability | |
| 4.7 | Gabriele said that she had forwarded two complaints about cars without vehicle excise licenses displayed and Sgt Campbell said he would follow those up. | |
| 5 | <u>Matters arising from previous minutes</u> | |
| 5.1 | (6.2 – lack of visible policing) This was covered in item 4 above. | |
| 5.2 | (6.3 – lights on multi-court) As yet, Paige has not reported back on canvassing local residents before moving this issue further on. | PS |
| 5.3 | (6.4 – catch on gate on Links) Ronald has fitted the catch but he still needs to adjust the torsion spring. | RY |
| 5.4 | (6.6 – Damage to football pitch by tractor) Ronald said this would form part of the meeting and walkabout in the spring next year. | |
| 5.5 | (6.9 – Old Rope Works bushes) Ronald had circulated a paper with details of the report outlining the works to be undertaken to cut back hedges, overgrown shrubs and other general maintenance. This work will start in the new year. | |
| 5.6 | (6.10 – Bobby’s tractor) Ronald reported that the insurance issue had finally been resolved and it was now insured, taxed and ready to use again. | |
| 5.7 | (6.12 – TEC Service ‘out of office’ emails) This issue had been taken up and will now be included in the staff training schedule. | |
| 5.8 | (11.2 – ‘fly tipping’ Shore Road) This was apparently soil deposited temporarily by Highland Council. It was removed but a lot more has recently appeared. Craig to follow up. | CF |
| 5.9 | (13.6 – gates to walled garden) Anne said that the gates appeared to be permanently open now and David was still looking into the planning issue. | DA |
| 5.10 | (13.7 – Links boats) Anne said the boat and trailer were still there. The owner was known and she wondered if it was being pursued to have it removed. Ronald said he would speak with the owner. | RY |
| 5.11 | (13.8 – railing in Bayview Road/Townlands Park) Ronald said he’d not had a reply from HC about repairing it and will chase up again. Julie said the fence around Victoria Park and the football field was damaged in many places and she would email Ian Goode at HC to get some repairs effected. | JP |
| 5.12 | (13.10 – white lines at Learnie Red Rock) The highways department could not paint the lines back at this time of year and it would be done in the spring. | |
| 6 | <u>Gaelic Chapel</u> | |
| 6.1 | Craig and David will be arranging a meeting in the New Year with Jane Chisholm at THS Burns to progress the Gaelic Chapel Trust. At this stage he has not sent the original e-mail he proposed at the last Community Council meeting. | CF |

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| 7 | <u>Review and update of community councillors' portfolios</u> | |
| 7.1 | Gabriele reported that she had provisionally arranged a meeting of Black Isle Community Councils on 15 th January 2013 to see if they were interested in setting up a regular group to discuss any topics which may have a mutual interest. She needs to look for an alternative venue as the library will be closed for work. | |
| 7.2 | Gabriele also said she'd ensured she was the direct contact with the planning authorities for 'statutory consultee status' emails to come direct to her. | |
| 7.3 | Andy said he had been making enquiries about alternative methods to prevent dog fouling. Keep Britain tidy curiously did not cover Scotland but Keep Scotland Beautiful did and he was hoping to get some leaflets to circulate about the dangers of dog fouling. Julie said she'd got some posters about this already. The Green Dog Walkers Scheme was still an option to pursue where individual volunteers handed other dog walkers poo-bags and pledged to clear up their own dogs' waste. | |
| 7.4 | Julie said it was down to a few individuals who just wouldn't collect their dogs' mess but she hoped the problem could be reduced by encouraging people to report dog fouling to the dog warden. | |
| 7.5 | There was a discussion about the merits of putting up notices which might suggest Cromarty had a problem, or may show responsibility amongst residents. | |
| 7.6 | Julie said that the dog warden was visiting the school after Christmas with the SSPCA. She suggested a new poster competition to coincide with this. Julie and Andy to work on this. | JP/AH |
| 7.7 | Andy said he'd taken the bus a number of times recently and was pleased to report there were no incidents of speeding or late running. | |
| 7.8 | Andy also said that he was looking at the business links element of his portfolio and would make sure he linked in with Cromarty Live website as this developed. | |
| 7.9 | Anne said the list of potholes around the town had been sent to Ian Hay who had said the priority at the moment was the weather conditions but he will deal with them as soon as he can. | |
| 7.10 | Julie said that a number of the dog bins had been removed at times over the years. Gordon Penwrighty had now located some metal clips which were much more secure than the plastic ties. Ronald said he'd take care of securing the bins properly with these. | RY |
| 7.11 | Julie raised the issue of the Links management agreements. Ronald said there seem to have been 3 in existence over the years. Di Agnew was chasing these up to see who had responsibility for the drainage problems. Di was in liaison with TEC Services and the legal department. | |
| 7.12 | Julie reported that the last pieces of equipment were now installed in Victoria Park and she was compiling some thank-you letters to the Post Office and the North Star. | |
| 8 | <u>Victoria Hall report</u> | |
| 8.1 | Vivienne had circulated her report prior to the meeting (Appendix A) together with the new Youth Café report summarising the work of the recently appointed Youth Café Assistant Youth Worker, Fraser Thomson (Appendix B). | |

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| <p>9</p> <p>9.1</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p> <p>9.4</p> | <p><u>Treasurer's report</u></p> <p>Vivienne had circulated the treasurer's report (appendix C).</p> <p>Vivienne has asked that the following be discussed:</p> <p>1. Since the last meeting the Highland Council decided that, for legal reasons of ownership, they were unable to take out the necessary insurance for their use of our snow plough. However they have confirmed that they are still committed to paying this cost. As a result the C&DCC has had to take out its own insurance, the cost of which will be reimbursed by the Highland Council (although as yet not received). This decision caused a problem as, without insurance, the vehicle could not be taxed and would have then required a SORN thereby making it unusable. The Chair found that attempting to insure such a vehicle through conventional means was impossible and, as a matter of urgency, it was necessary to put the matter in the hands of a specialist insurance broker, Royle Insurance Consultants. This decision proved successful and the crisis was averted. However the members should minute that I need to disclose a personal interest in this matter as one of the partners of Royle Insurance Consultants is my son, Steven Royle. I consulted with the Chairman over this matter and he decided to take Chair's Action and approved the premium payment. The meeting approved this action.</p> <p>2. This professional work undertaken for the lights on the Christmas tree and park trees was undertaken by Highland Council staff. It has been agreed that the cost of this work will be funded by the HC. However it was necessary for the Chairman to take Chair's Action and authorise the purchase of three extra sets of lights totalling £455.40. Obviously this has taken the Lonna's Lights Fund in to nearly £300 deficit. It is proposed that this deficit should be met by deciding to allocate the remaining £261.29 of the Dr Forth Bequest Fund to the Lonna's Lights Fund with the remaining £37.51 being covered by future donations from the collection tins. The meeting approved this action and agreed the proposal to fund the resultant deficit.</p> <p>Vivienne had also asked members to note that a new Homes & Heritage Project Fund has been opened with the successful receipt of the £4,900 HLF Grant. The Project committee is currently advertising to appoint a consultant.</p> <p>David had reported via Anne that the Cromarty Benevolent Fund cheque had been received from Highland Council which this year was only £28. This was the lowest ever. It was historically used to distribute presents at Christmas for those in need or alone. It has been sent to Archie McTaggard as treasurer of the fund.</p> | |
| <p>10</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p> | <p><u>Highland Councillors' reports</u></p> <p>Craig said that as a matter of interest, the planning appeals committee had recently turned down an appeal for wind turbines on the grounds of visual impact. He said that this was becoming more of a consideration for the committee which was also concerned about wind farms 'by stealth' – ie application made for one or two and then a creeping increase in numbers in the future. The committee was taking the views of community councils more into consideration.</p> <p>Craig said a number of gullies had been emptied in the town but there was ongoing investigation into the one by Little Vennel and the Paye as it appears to be blocked or not operating at all.</p> <p>He said he was hoping to run a litter campaign in the new year and a letter was in the current edition of Chatterbox hoping to involve as many residents as possible.</p> | |

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| 11 | <u>Correspondence</u> | |
| 11.1 | Jeremy read an email from Bill Wall tendering his resignation from the Community Council because of increasing personal commitments. | |
| 11.2 | There was a discussion over how to proceed and it was agreed to follow the same procedure as last time to fill the vacancy, inviting written applications or personal attendance at the next meeting. Julie said she would undertake the necessary steps. | JP |
| 11.3 | Julie produced some correspondence from a former Cromarty resident about a project in Stonehaven to enhance a concreted area with the use of mosaic and wood which had turned a drab area similar to the one opposite Little Vennel into an attractive site. It had been suggested a competition along similar lines might be run locally to brighten up the area. | |
| 11.4 | To be raised at the next meeting. | JCNP |
| 12 | <u>Any other business</u> | |
| 12.1 | Julie said she noticed that nothing seems to have been heard about Nigg yard lately. Gabriele said that there was to be a meeting soon in Nigg for residents as there were problems with traffic and a smell from the yard. It was decided to ask Alastair Kennedy from Global Energy to come to the next meeting to update members. Jeremy to arrange. <i>[Sec's note: the invitation has been sent and he has accepted the invitation to attend]</i> | JCNP |
| 12.2 | Julie said she had a call from Wanda McKay with concerns about what might be reported about the youth in Cromarty. Wanda felt it might have got a little out of hand with reports somewhat sensationalising small issues that had occurred and that the behaviour was certainly no worse than anywhere else. She was in contact with the police over anything that needed their involvement and it was a very tiny element. | |
| 12.3 | Ronald said that if councillors received complaints about young people they had to follow them up, especially if members of the public that had voiced them were at the meetings and it was vital members were seen to be actioning the issues reported to them. | |
| 12.4 | Wanda is currently dealing with the idea of starting a local group of Cubs or Scouts or some kind of cadet group. This would be progressed via the Middleton Trust and it was agreed this could be extremely beneficial. | |
| 12.5 | Anne referred to the temporary closure of the library and arrangements that were in hand to cover the period in January. There was a slight issue for the use of the meeting room that would be unavailable during the closure period. | |
| 13 | <u>Date of next meeting</u> | |
| | The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 28 th January 2013 at 7.30pm. The venue to be arranged. <i>[Sec's note: to be held at the Emporium]</i> | |

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| <p>14</p> | <p><u>Planning</u></p> <p><i>Please note: the Highland Councillor did not participate in any planning related discussions and left the meeting for this agenda item.</i></p> <p><i>Jeremy also disclosed an interest in this item as one of the applications referred to was his. He offered to leave at the appropriate time if necessary.</i></p> | |
| <p>14.1</p> | <p>Gabriele said the applications received this month had been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifications to the outside windows and doors of Clunes Cottage • The erection of a sign outside the cheese shop in Church Street <p>There were no comments voiced.</p> | |
| <p>14.2</p> | <p>Gabriele reported that the application to build 2 houses in Davidston had been granted and that the application to build a house in Denny Road had been withdrawn. She said there had been four public comments on the application to build 4 houses and a workshop in the walled garden and she was following up a comment about a shed being erected in the front garden of a house in Braehead.</p> | |
| <p>14.3</p> | <p>Gabriele also said that she'd written to Erica McArthur about the signs on the sheds at Nigg which Ronald had pointed out. He said that the old signs may have faded and these could be replacements.</p> | |
| | <p>The meeting concluded at 21.15 hrs. Ronald thanked everyone for their attendance.</p> | |

Cromarty & District Community Council Committee Meeting 10th December 2012 Agenda Item – Victoria Hall Report

1. Victoria Hall finances remain stable and bookings for the winter period look healthy. There is currently something regular happening in the Hall on every weekday and most weekends have at least one booking. We also have the weekdays booked until Easter in 2013. In addition the Cromarty Homestart Toddlers Group is also transferring to the Victoria Hall in 2013. The only disappointment is that the Cromarty Sports and Tennis Club has made a decision not to use facilities at the Victoria Hall once any court is completed in the Victoria Park. However the Youth Café will attempt to support Cromarty young people in participating in both tennis and badminton coaching.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

2. The new Youth Café Assistant Youth Worker has successfully completed the first month of his three month probationary period. A brief report is attached explaining Fraser's first month.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

3. The Youth Café will have completed the term with its Christmas Party this afternoon. Following the Middleton Trust funding, the Youth Café has now expanded its activities by over 60% and is now hosting activities on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during term time.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

Vivienne Plampton

CROMARTY YOUTH CAFE

Assistant Youth Worker Report

10th December 2012

A big warm Welcome to Fraser in his new post as Assistant Youth Worker.

Fraser has come in very enthusiastic and energetic.

So far in his first month –

- Fraser has created and delivered a survey finding out what young people want to be doing in the Youth Café. From the results he has planned a programme of exciting activities and events.
- Fraser works every week in the Cromarty Primary School offering 1to1 mentoring with some pupils and assisting in a range of lunchtime activities. He is supporting the P4s to P6s in their Cycling Proficiency. He is also supporting the Citizenship and Eco groups each week. He is currently working on the Christmas theme with some pupils in preparation for the Christmas Fair.
- He supports and attends both the Senior and Junior Youth Café, Shinty Class and Chanter each week, where his positive and hard work approach is really well appreciated by all.
- He helped plan and host a Come Dine with Us for the Seniors as they welcomed a Youth Group from Alness to enjoy a 5 course dinner with all the fineries!
- All of his activities have been enjoyed in both Senior and Junior Youth Cafés.
- He has already attended training in Child Protection, Fundraising and Arts & Crafts as well as a seminar in Promoting Healthy Relationships with Young People.
- Fraser supports and attends a number Community monthly meetings including the Cromarty Sports and Tennis Club, Townlands Together and the Heritage and Homes Project.

Finance Report – Cromarty & District Community Council

Agenda Item No 10 - Treasurer’s Report

Period: 30th October 2012 to 10th December 2012

General Income

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| Highland Council - Snow Plough Insurance Refund | £382.00 |
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Less:

General Expenditure

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| Secretarial Services - December meeting | £50.00 |
| Printing Postage Stationery | £31.42 |
| Christmas Tree | 110.00 |
| Internet Expenses - Cromarty Live Domain Fee | £18.00 |
| Snow Plough Insurance Premium | £382.00 |

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| Increase/(Decrease) in Accumulated Fund | £(209.42) |
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Fund Income

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| Homes & Heritage Project Fund - HLF Grant | £4,900.00 |
| Bonfire Fund - Bonfire Night Proceeds | £156.00 |
| Bonfire Fund - Quiz night proceeds | £60.00 |
| Gala Day Fund - Donation | £20.00 |

Less:

Fund Expenditure

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| Bonfire Fund - Fireworks | £1,389.66 |
| Cromarty Arms Inn - October/November lunches | £377.00 |
| Lonna's Lights Fund - Tree Lights | £455.40 |

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| Increase/(Decrease) in Other Funds | £2,913.94 |
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Net Assets

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| Accounts Receivable @ 10.12.2012 | £382.00 | Re HC Insurance |
| Accounts Payable @ 10.12.2012 | £ - | Refund |

Bank & Cash in hand balances as @ 10.12.2012 £18,967.46

Total Net Assets at 10th December 2012 **£19,349.46**

Comprising:

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| Community Council Accumulated Fund | £ 1,946.36 |
| Provision for Guide Book reprinting | £425.00 * |
| Seaplane Plinth Fund | £820.13 |
| Bonfire Night Fund | £468.84 |
| Cromarty 2007 Fund | £306.87 |
| Dr Forth's Bequest Fund | £261.29 |
| Monday Club Fund | £1,048.80 |
| Play Equipment Fund | £9,170.57 |
| Lonna's Lights Fund | Debit£298.80 |
| Gala Day Fund | £300.40 |
| Homes & Heritage Project Fund | £4,900.00 |
| | £19,349.46 |

*170 sold at £2.50 cost = £425

Vivienne Plampton 10.12.2012