



# CROMARTY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES**  
**APPROVED**  
**29<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

## Minutes of meeting held on Monday 24th June 2013 in the Hugh Miller Institute

**Community Councillors** Ronald Young, Anne Short, Gabriele Pearson, Diane Brawn, Andrew Hulse

**Highland Councillors:** David Alston

**Youth Representative:** Paige Shepherd

**Community Council Minute Secretary:** Jeremy Price

One member of the public was also present

Item	Details	Action
1	<p><b><u>Chairman's Welcome</u></b></p> <p>Ronald welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> were received from Vivienne Plampton and Craig Shepherd</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Approval of previous minutes</u></b></p> <p>2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were approved subject to two minor amendments.  Proposed: Anne Short    Seconded: Diane Brawn</p>	
3	<p><b><u>Youth issues</u></b></p> <p>3.1 Young people from Cromarty dance class took part in the Dance Festival where they showcased their routines and moves. They put on a fantastic display.</p> <p>3.2 Young Saltire volunteers Emily Kelly and Estere Vitola with Wanda went to an Awards ceremony in Edinburgh with the Rt Hon Alex Salmond to celebrate the Queens Jubilee of Volunteering and Saltire Awards. ( Emily and Estere have now been offered the opportunity to be Saltire Ambassadors for the Highland Area.</p> <p>3.3 Fairburn Challenge saw 8 young people win a variety of team challenges and games last weekend.</p> <p>3.4 This week young people from Cromarty are attending Highland Youth Voice Conference for 3 days and other young people from Cromarty are attending Youth Participation Project for 3 days.</p> <p>3.5 Young people continue to serve on many committees and attend monthly meetings as well as supporting Cromarty Homes and Heritage Project.</p>	

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p>	<p>The junior and senior youth cafes have completed and finished all work on the Celtic mosaics and are now keen to have them put up on the shelter shed. Paige asked for members' approval to go ahead and fix it to the shelter. This was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The sailing project is taking place every week and six young people will take part in this great opportunity with Simon Sims.</p> <p>Work on the Tennis Courts has begun and young people look forward to being on the court and taking part in coaching.</p> <p>Gabriele said that she had recently walked through the youth café and was rather surprised to see the large amounts of unhealthy sweets and snacks when there was a drive towards healthy eating. This prompted a short discussion and Paige said that there was a great deal of encouragement at school towards this and the youth café might be seen as a chance to have something else. She said the smoothie maker was available and there were baking nights, too. One of the issues was that the café was only open two nights a week and to supply fresh fruit would mean a good deal would rot in between times as it was not a popular choice! She said she would pass on the comments to Wanda.</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>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p> <p>4.8</p> <p>4.9</p>	<p><b><u>Police Report</u></b></p> <p>There was no police representative present but Gabriele said she had received a written report together with the Ward Priority Plan:</p> <p>There are no significant issues to feedback on.</p> <p>Since the 24/5 to 23/6/13 there have been 36 incidents recorded in the Cromarty Beat area. These are mainly of a routine manner. A can break some down further for you;</p> <p>Speed checks carried out at the Dell - 3 persons warned Crimes - miscellaneous - 1 person reported to Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>Internet Fraud - enquiries ongoing - reminder for people to be vigilant in relation to passing any information and keep PC's etc. secure.</p> <p>Missing person - 1 Juvenile who was traced shortly after report and found to be safe and well.</p> <p>Court procedure - 3 incidents</p> <p>Licensing Regulation enquiries - 3 incidents</p> <p>A copy of the Black Isle Multi Member Ward Plan was referred to following consultation and shows where Police Scotland will focus their attention through Patrol Plans. [Sec's note: a link to this document can be found through the web page <a href="http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/highland-and-islands/ross-and-cromarty/black-isle/">http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/highland-and-islands/ross-and-cromarty/black-isle/</a> ]</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p><b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b></p> <p>Mr Ewan Marsh from Highland Council had been expected at the meeting but was not present. No apologies had been received.</p>	

<b>6</b>	<b><u>Matters arising from previous minutes</u></b>	
6.1	(5.2 – catch on gates on Links) Ronald had still to complete the work.	RY
6.2	(7.8 – damage to football field) Ronald said he had taken photographs of the field following two machines being used in one week to cut the grass. One was a ride on mower and one was a tractor which had left indentations in the surface, proving his previous comments about damage to the field.	
6.3	(10.8 – letter of thanks) Jeremy said he had discharged this.	
<b>7</b>	<b><u>Gaelic Chapel</u></b>	
7.1	David reported that John Nightingale had asked to pursue an SCIO – a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – status for the trust. After receiving advice from Ross-shire Voluntary Association this type of structure may not be suitable because of the implications if the trust folded. David would therefore be communicating this to John Nightingale and pursuing the original option of a trust for the future.	
<b>8</b>	<b><u>Review and update on Councillors’ portfolios</u></b>	
8.1	Gabriele reported that the Black Isle Community Councils Forum does not seem to have taken off and there does not appear to be the will from some councils to get together and do anything. Attempts had been made by Kate Lackie from Avoch but Cromarty is the only other council responding.	
8.2	Gabriele said we had made some useful contacts as a result of the exercise and which may be of benefit in the future with single-issue items.	
8.3	Andrew said that there had been complaints of dog fouling outside the front of Bellevue House in Church Street.	
8.4	Anne said that she had followed up the apparently abandoned boats on Shore Street, particularly in view of the grass not being able to be cut. The owner has finally been contacted and has said it is a ‘work in progress’ as regards having them moved.	
8.5	Anne said the state of the graveyards is still appalling and the contrast with the military graves is significant.	
8.6	Anne said that there were a number of other issues she was following up through Highland Council. These included the haphazard grass cutting along Shore Street and Allan Square, the abandoned caravan in the car park and the weed killing which does not seem to have taken place around the town this year.	
8.7	Anne also said that some vehicle numbers had been taken of cars without Vehicle Excise Licences that would be passed to the police.	
8.8	In terms of the caravan, David said that the bye-law sign needed to be replaced so the enforcement could take place and the caravan be removed. He said it could be re-laminated and put back up. <i>[Sec’s note: David has now reinstated the sign]</i>	
<b>9</b>	<b><u>Victoria Hall report</u></b>	
9.1	Vivienne had circulated her report and there were no issues raised (Appendix A).	

<b>10</b>	<b><u>Treasurer's report</u></b>	
<b>10.1</b>	Vivienne had circulated her report and there were no questions raised about it. (Appendix B)	
<b>11</b>	<b><u>Highland Councillors' reports</u></b>	
<b>11.1</b>	Jeremy read Craig's report:	
<b>11.2</b>	E-mail received from John Nightingale advising that it was up to us to deal with the owner of the sheep. Jeremy reported that some of the fencing had been repaired but they were still escaping from a gap in the bowls club car park.	
<b>11.3</b>	Spoke to Sam MacNaughton and he will see what the current position is on the speed survey.	
<b>11.4</b>	Fairy Glen money is being found to start dealing with some of the drainage issues, but TECS waiting for further report from consultants.	
<b>11.5</b>	Damaged benches along the harbour wall are an issue. TECS are aware and David will also look at them. (one for Ewan Marsh to pick up)	
<b>11.6</b>	Dangerous tree opposite the bungalows in Townlands Park is to be removed later in the year when there are no birds nesting in it (one for Ewan Marsh).	
<b>11.7</b>	Offlets on Shore Road – spoke to Ian Hay but he does not have resources to take any action.	
<b>11.8</b>	1. Boats at water treatment works at the Links and 2. Trees blocking view at South Souter car park. I have spoken to Gail Pocock who advised that 1. John Nightingale will be writing to the boat owners giving them a timescale to have them removed and 2. The trees obscuring the views to the Cromarty Firth will be pruned. In respect of the boats John Nightingale will need to enforce this request, I understand that he has written to boat owners before.	
<b>11.9</b>	Anne asked David about the school extension as she understood there had been a problem with purchasing some of the land required. David gave an update on the 2m strip of land and said that negotiations were continuing and a resolution was expected quite soon. He said that as planning permissions could be granted by officers after the end of June this year, he thought a November start date on the work was quite feasible.	
<b>11.10</b>	Anne brought up the issue of child care at this point and said that 5 had signed up at this stage and 7 were needed but they could go ahead with 5. Council support was needed for this.	
<b>12</b>	<b><u>Seaplane Memorial Plinth</u></b>	
<b>12.1</b>	David offered a suggestion to the meeting. He said the anniversary is in August which was a little too soon to finish anything. As next year is the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War 1 he said something more general might be appropriate to include the seaplane memorial.	

<p>12.2</p> <p>12.3</p> <p>12.4</p>	<p>He said that he had seen a telescope on Ben Bhraggie which was robust was a good option to set somewhere in Cromarty, probably by the boat club on the higher ground with views into and out of the firth. If the monies set aside for the seaplane project was combined with a bid against the Highland Culture Fund he thought it was be possible to purchase a similar telescope (having showed Members a copy of the model he was referring to).</p> <p>All Members present thought this was an excellent idea and David offered to do the work on moving it forward.</p> <p>Anne asked if the Council should arrange something like refreshments on 22<sup>nd</sup> August when the display by the flying boat was to be seen over the firth. To be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>13</p> <p>13.1</p>	<p><b><u>Offlets in Shore Road</u></b></p> <p>This was covered in Craig's report in 11.7 above.</p>	
<p>14</p> <p>14.1</p> <p>14.2</p> <p>14.3</p> <p>14.4</p> <p>14.5</p> <p>14.6</p> <p>14.7</p> <p>14.8</p>	<p><b><u>Noise from Nigg</u></b></p> <p>David said that he and Craig had received many reports of noise from Nigg, initially over a weekend with 24hr noise coming from the rig being serviced, then from the oil terminal and also from the rig being tested in the mouth of the firth.</p> <p>He had emailed Alastair Kennedy and said that people were generally understanding of the need for work at the depot but on these occasions they were not being oversensitive and agreed it was out of control. The Environmental Health officers were called to investigate but the noise stopped prior to their attendance.</p> <p>The port authority was contacted by several people about the use of the Tannoy system on the rig as late as 23.30hrs and they agreed it should not be used after 21.00hrs and before 07.00hrs.</p> <p>The issues were that there should be clearer points of contact at Nigg, including a 24/7 contact number and that there should be advanced notice of works and an indication of how long it would last. Communication is vital with local communities. Alastair had suggested that a group from Cromarty and Cromarty Council should go to Nigg to see the yard and also discuss their concerns. Alternatively, representatives from the right level in the company could come to Cromarty. The council has made representation to HC regarding the planning application at Nigg for HC and Global to consider the noise implication for the residents of Cromarty".</p> <p>The meeting agreed that the council would be happy to be involved and to host such a meeting if it was held here.</p> <p>Ronald gave an example of how the noise had affected one family who lived nowhere near Shore Street and confirmed in his view the complaints were genuine and justified. He said the deck generators had been fired up too early.</p> <p>Jeremy said he had been contacted by the port authority apologising for the use of the Tannoy system at night and confirming it should not have been used that late.</p> <p>David said that there was a new harbourmaster and chief executive of the authority due to start and it would be important to build a good relationship with them early in their appointments.</p>	

<b>15</b>	<b><u>Sheep on Reeds Park loop</u></b>	
<b>15.1</b>	This was covered in Craig's report above. David confirmed the responsibility lies with the keeper of the animals.	
<b>16</b>	<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	
<b>16.1</b>	Ronald had several items of correspondence.	
<b>16.2</b>	He had a formal letter about the decision to turn down the application for a wind farm at Davidston.	
<b>16.3</b>	He also had details of a surgery to be held by Mary Scanlon, MSP on 1 <sup>st</sup> July.	
<b>16.4</b>	Gabriele had details of Climate Challenge grants for community councils to reduce the carbon footprint locally.	
<b>16.5</b>	Gabriele also had a request for Mary MacDonald from the One Million Miles project to come and talk to the next meeting. This was agreed. Gabriele to organise.	<b>GP</b>
<b>16.6</b>	David had received a lengthy email from two local residents in Shore Street complaining about the unkempt nature of some of the town. The specific items mentioned were: grass cutting has become haphazard, the boats parked on Shore Street grass area, other old vehicles abandoned in the town or parked in such a way that mowers cannot do the job properly, the abandoned caravan, broken and abandoned boat on the Links, three rusting trailers abandoned on the Links. They were complaining about the whole overall effect on the town.	
<b>16.7</b>	David said many of the items had been covered in the meeting already and many of the points could be put to the Highland Council representative when he attended a future meeting.	
<b>17</b>	<b><u>Any other business</u></b>	
<b>17.1</b>	Andrew said he'd had complaints about the bins overflowing on the Links and seagulls being attracted by the overflowing mess. David will follow this up with HC but thought that the bins could be emptied twice a week at present instead of just once, or a second bin provided.	
<b>17.2</b>	Anne said the Emigration Stone had been defaced by graffiti. Caroline Hewat was going to see it. Some can be wiped off and most has now gone.	
<b>17.3</b>	One resident had asked whether the camper vans and campers on the Links should be charged – there were often many of them especially at weekends. David said that John Nightingales view was that there was technically no parking allowed on the Links. If they were allowed, then it would be necessary to provide facilities for them which would be expensive. David said that it did, however, attract a lot of visitors to the town and this boosted the local economy. It would mean putting up bollards and did we want the effect of not welcoming visitors. The vans often stopped the 'boy racers' from using the Links.	
<b>17.4</b>	Anne said that some of the doors at Sandilands barn had been kicked down and it was looking a mess now.	
<b>17.5</b>	Ronald said he'd like to mention the school playground gritting for the winter months. David said he would talk to Ewan Marsh and see if Bobby could do this.	

18	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b></p> <p>This was agreed as Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013.</p>	
19	<p><b><u>Planning</u></b></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><b>19.1</b> Gabriele had previously circulated a list of updates on planning applications which is shown here:</p> <p><b>19.2</b> 13/01253/FUL   Erection of house and integral garage (Amended house type - Planning Permission 07/01103/FULRC)   6 Sutor Court Cromarty Mains Cromarty IV11 8WW Status: Permission Granted</p> <p><b>19.3</b> Davidston Wind turbines- Appeal dismissed</p>	
	<p>The meeting concluded at 21.26 hrs. Ronald thanked everyone for their attendance.</p>	

## **Cromarty & District Community Council**

### **Committee Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

#### **Agenda Item – Victoria Hall Report**

1. Victoria Hall finances remain stable. Annual accounts have been audited to 31<sup>st</sup> March and a detailed account at that date is available under the Treasurer's Report.  
**ACTION – Information only, no action required.**
2. The Youth Cafe continues to thrive with continuous activities on three week days.  
**ACTION – Information only, no action required.**
3. Repairs to the exterior artwork panels still need replacing due to an error in printing. A proposal to install effective but aesthetic acoustic improvements has now been confirmed and the work will commence on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July. The work will involve the installation of 28 ceiling and 4 wall panels. The cost to the Victoria Hall will be just over £3k and will be funded from their Refurbishment Reserve. Further work including surround curtaining and an electric screen may also be proposed in the future depending on the success of the panels. This additional work would be funded entirely from external sources. With these acoustic panels it is expected that the Hall's acoustics will be improved enormously and thereby attract more bookings to hold musical, theatrical and film related events.  
**ACTION – Information only, no action required.**

Vivienne Plampton



## **Finance Report – Cromarty & District Community Council**

### **Agenda Item No 10 - Treasurer’s Report**

**Period: 26th May to 21st June 2013**

#### **General Income**

Guide Book Sales - Courthouse £42.00

Less:

#### **General Expenditure**

Secretarial Services - June meeting £50.00

Cromarty Live Editor Gratuity £25.00

Data Protection Registration Fee £35.00

**Increase/(Decrease) in Accumulated Fund £(68.00)**

#### **Fund Income**

Less:

#### **Fund Expenditure**

Homes & Heritage Project Costs - Hall Hire £20.00

Cromarty Arms Inn - May Lunches £123.50

Splash & Dash Fund - Photos and Trophy Engraving £29.87

**Increase/(Decrease) in Other Funds £(173.37)**

#### **Net Assets**

Accounts Receivable @21.06.2013 £42.00

Accounts Payable @ 21.06.2013 £-

Bank & Cash in hand balances as @ 21.06.2013 £9,337.64

**Total Net Assets at 21st June 2013 £9,379.64**

#### ***Comprising:***

Community Council Accumulated Fund £1,586.46

Provision for Guide Book reprinting £450.00

Seaplane Plinth Fund £820.13

Bonfire Night Fund £468.84

Splash & Dash (formerly Cromarty 2007) Fund £1,312.55

Monday Club Fund £223.30

Lonna's Lights Fund £28.19

Gala Day Fund £370.40

Homes & Heritage Project Fund £4,119.77

**£9,379.64**

Vivienne Plampton 21.06.2013