



CROMARTY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
APPROVED
28th OCTOBER 2013

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 30th September 2013 in the Hugh Miller Institute

Community Councillors: Ronald Young, Vivienne Plampton, Anne Short, Gabriele Pearson, Andrew Hulse

Highland Councillor: David Alston

Community Council Minute Secretary: Jeremy Price

Item	Details	Action
1	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome</u></p> <p>Ronald welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Diane Brawn and Craig Fraser</p>	
2	<p><u>Approval of previous minutes</u></p> <p>2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 24th June 2013 were approved subject to the insertion of the word 'community' before 'council' in line 3 of item 15.1.</p> <p>Proposed: Anne Short Seconded: Gabriele Pearson</p> <p>2.2 A letter had been received from Rosemarie Hogg on behalf of the Tennis Club Committee relating to item 15.1 wishing to clarify that the tennis court was not funded by the [Highland] Council and funding came from Dr Forth's bequest, Sport Scotland and the club's own fundraising. She also wanted to clarify that the [Highland] Council has no connection to the court and will not pay for any upkeep or maintenance of it – this is down to the club itself. She stated that a noticeboard would be set up in due course with information for visitors as to how to use the court.</p> <p>2.3 Vivienne said that the Tennis Club had done a fantastic job getting the excellent court installed and she had raised the matter in order that the Community Council was not criticised by visitors to Cromarty if they could not find information about the court's use. Vivienne also wanted to clarify that the money from Dr Forth's Bequest had been administered by the Cromarty and District Community Council as the legal beneficiary of Dr Forth's Estate with instructions that it be spent to the benefit of the community of Cromarty. After community consultation, some of this bequest was channeled to the Tennis Club to provide a community tennis court.</p>	
3	<p><u>Youth issues</u></p> <p>3.1 There was no youth representative present and no report had been received.</p>	

<p>4</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>There was no police representative present. Gabriele said that she had received a written report from Sgt Macneil, copied below:</p> <p>In the period since the last meeting on the 29/07/13 to 29/09/13 there have been a total of 44 Incidents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30/07/13 to 29/08/13 there have been a total of 26 Incidents 30/07/13 to 29/08/13 there have been a total of 18 Incidents</p> <p>These were of a routine nature with no significant matters of note.</p> <p>Ward and Local Policing Plan Priorities. Activities conducted over the reporting period to support those priorities.</p> <p>1. Road Safety - There continues to be a National focus in this area with a particular emphasis on enforcement at School 20mph zones. This also focuses on Road/travelling crime with dedicated anti-crime patrols being carried out to combat this and collate intelligence on moving criminals.</p> <p>2. Alcohol Abuse - No issues of note in the Cromarty area</p> <p>3. Anti-social behaviour - Following a report of theft of bunting 1 male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal, Dingwall</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p> <p>5.6</p>	<p><u>Matters arising from previous minutes</u></p> <p>(8.1 – boats on Shore Street) Anne said she had spoken to the owner again and he had indicated that he would be moving at least one of them in the next few days.</p> <p>(11.1 – drainage by Salmon Bothy) There was no further update from John Nightingale about this and whether anything would be done at all.</p> <p>(13.3 – information about trees) Vivienne said she had made the poster and it was on display on the council noticeboard. Under this item Gabriele said that she was awaiting guidelines from the HC. The forestry officer was informing us of trees being felled in the area, so the system appeared to be working.</p> <p>(15.6 – playground equipment) Andrew said that he'd spoken to Carsten who did not want to commit to leading on this and in any case was looking for Resolis benefitting from some equipment. David said that it was unlikely that Cromarty would get any money for the next three years for playground equipment as it was allocated on a rotational basis.</p> <p>(15.11 – car parking) Ronald said that the car had now gone.</p> <p>(15.12 – Sandilands House) There was no further information for this meeting. Anne said she would speak to Lynne Sproull to see if she had any further information and Jeremy was asked to contact the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust to see if a copy of the conditions of sale could be obtained to refer to in the future.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>JP</p>
<p>6</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><u>Gaelic Chapel</u></p> <p>Craig had given a written report which stated that there was still correspondence between himself, John Nightingale and the Ross-shire Voluntary Action group. He also reported that he was continuing further work and hoped that the trust could be set up by the end of the year.</p>	

<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p> <p>7.5</p> <p>7.6</p> <p>7.7</p> <p>7.8</p>	<p><u>Review and update on Councillors' portfolios</u></p> <p>Vivienne said she'd increased the provision for guidebook reprinting to £667. She needed to do an assessment of requirement for reprinting which would probably have to be done next year.</p> <p>Vivienne also said that the yellow Cromarty information leaflet needed reprinting but there was no source of funding for it. This would amount to approximately £400. It was suggested that an application could be made to the Common Good Fund next year.</p> <p>Gabriele said there had been an application to fell a sycamore tree and lift the crown of a chestnut and elm on Braehead. No comments were made about this.</p> <p>Diane had asked for the spreadsheet of referrals for matters needing attention by Highland Council to be updated. Gabriele did this on her behalf. Vivienne will chase Alan Shaw about renewing the dog bin on Burnside.</p> <p>Andrew said he would be circulating the new dog bin emptying rota for next year.</p> <p>Anne raised the subject of the grass cutting and street cleaning which were both in a poor state at the moment and she had received a lot of complaints about both. Bobby had been seen around the Black Isle but his time in Cromarty is limited and this is reflected in the sorry state of the roads.</p> <p>Anne also said that the burial ground was still in a very poor state and Highland Council was not responding to complaints. Anne said she would get hold of copies of correspondence from complainants and build up a file.</p> <p>The feeling of the community council was that the state of this sensitive and important area is appalling. People in the town are comparing other graveyards and saying that this is the worst one they have seen. It was important that people continue complaining about it and Craig was also following up complaints he had received.</p>	<p>VP</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p>	<p><u>Victoria Hall report</u></p> <p>Vivienne had circulated her report and also the report from Fraser about the youth café. There were no issues raised (Appendix A).</p> <p>Vivienne did emphasise that the new acoustic panels in the hall were working fantastically well and were a great success.</p>	
<p>9</p> <p>9.1</p>	<p><u>Treasurer's report</u></p> <p>Vivienne had circulated her report and there were no questions raised about it. (Appendix B)</p>	

10	<u>Highland Councillors' reports</u>	
10.1	David, following on from the previous item, said that he was exploring the subject of community fuel-buying co-operatives which had helped make savings in some areas. He asked that this be put on the next agenda.	JP
10.2	David said that he had been in contact with John Nightingale over the issue of motorhomes using the links. His stance had always been that they were not supposed to be there but his thinking has changed in that he feels if a small charge was levied for each vehicle, this could be put back into the local community. He is willing to get involved in a discussion about this in the future.	
10.3	There was an exchange of thoughts between members about whether there were any practical means of administering this, such as an honesty box, the monies being paid to a local shop or someone locally paid to collect the fee. Some members felt a levy, however small, might put off people who would otherwise come and support the local economy.	
10.4	Members' views were that this could be worth exploring, especially if it was for the benefit of the local community.	
10.5	David reported that he and Ronald had met and formally wound up the Benevolent Association as previously discussed. The monies in the account, some £11.5k, would be transferred to the Craigie Urquhart Trust.	
10.6	He gave a brief overview of the original purpose of the Benevolent Association and then said that the intention was to wind up the poor funds and transfer those assets to the Craigie Urquhart Trust as well.	
10.7	David reported that he was looking for sources of funding to replace the benches that had been removed at the harbour. He said the cost of such benches would be around £350 ready to install and metal benches were about twice the price. The cost of installation was about £120 per bench. Craig has photographs of the bench to show the state that they were in prior to removal.	
10.8.	Ronald said that he would be delighted to pay for a memorial bench for a family member and Vivienne suggested that an invitation be extended to any members of the community who may wish to have a memorial to a loved one.	
10.9	ACTION: Jeremy to arrange for an invitation to be placed on the Cromarty Live website and Vivienne to make a poster. Closing date would be 31 st March next year.	
10.10	Craig was unable to attend and he submitted a written report that can be found at Appendix C.	

11	<u>Correspondence</u>	
11.1	Ronald reported he'd received details about the Stay Safe Older People's Project that was passed to Anne.	
11.2	Ronald had also received a hard copy of the Community Council Evaluation Scheme that had previously been circulated.	
11.3	Ronald said he'd received a letter from Charles Kennedy that had been sent to all community council leaders. He read it to the meeting.	
11.4	Jeremy said he'd received details of the next ward forum on 3 rd October. The subject was the police and fire service objectives. Anne and Ronald said that they would attend. On this matter, David said that it seemed likely that the fire and rescue control centre was likely to relocate from Inverness to Aberdeen under the centralization plans.	
11.5	Jeremy said he'd circulated details about 'Local People Local Paths' scheme where funding was available to communities to improve paths and encourage use of them and local volunteering opportunities. A short discussion ensued about erosion locally and David reported he'd been in discussions with TEC Services to work up a business case about protecting the path at the back of Clunes House.	
11.6	It was agreed that this scheme would not be pursued unless something arose on a path locally that called for such funding.	
11.7	Gabriele reported that she'd received details about the Highland Road Safety Seminar on 22 nd November.	
11.8	Gabriele also said that she'd received details via the previous Secretary about a footpath issue that is currently live in Jemimaville and that a meeting would be held on the subject. The details and minutes are on the Highland Council's website.	

<p>12</p> <p>12.1</p>	<p><u>Global Highland/Nigg meeting</u></p> <p>There was a discussion about the open meeting held the week before in relation to the noise from the yard in Nigg. A report had been compiled by a local person who was a professional related matters (attached at Appendix C).</p> <p>Several strong views were expressed about the responses to questions asked by local residents and Ronald said he felt no guarantees were offered that there would not be excessive noise from the pile driving when the new area was constructed. He felt that there was a lack of confidence in those that represented Global Highland from local people and the views were very clearly expressed in the report.</p> <p>Anne said that members should look very closely about who represents the community and community council on the forum that will be set up.</p> <p>Gabriele made the point that some people at the meeting confused the noise from Nigg with the noise from the rigs moored in the firth for testing and that this was the responsibility of the Port Authority.</p> <p>A number of members spoke about the difference between the 1970s and 1980s when many of the community were employed at Nigg and now as only two or three are people from Cromarty are employed at Nigg and the community has a different profile. People have different expectations about living standards now and this has become a popular town. Whilst most felt people were entitled to certain standards of peace, it was accepted that there would be some element of commercial activity that impacted on the town. However, it was reasonable that this was kept to a minimum.</p> <p>Many felt that it was important to register with Global Highland that the community was not confident with their management of the project and also wider issues such as the impact on marine life.</p> <p>David felt that as a consequence of the meeting, there were some positives in that a better system of communication will be set up. He said it was important to establish how fast the liaison group will be set up and who will represent Cromarty – preferably a member of the council and a ‘consultant’, a local person with experience in these fields. He said that Global Energy had offered to host another meeting at Nigg and he felt this offer should be followed up.</p> <p>Gabriele said that any complaints about Nigg should be recorded by someone, possibly on a website or form in the Post Office so that we we have an idea of the level of complaints being made about Nigg. Vivienne said she would action this.</p> <p>This issue will be kept as a standing item on the agenda.</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>JP</p>
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13	<u>Any other business</u>	
13.1	Andrew said that Scottish Water was working by his house replacing some old lead piping and testing levels of lead in the water. He wanted to advise everyone that Scottish Water will come to houses at the owner's request and test water if there is cause for concern. All people had to do was contact them and ask for the tests.	
13.2	Anne said that she'd received a complaint about the state of the shrubs around the Links car park looking very scruffy and overgrown. It was also encroaching onto Braehead. She did not know who had responsibility for this. David said he thought it was Highland Council. Anne will contact Sam Lowe about this.	AS
13.3	Anne said that several Townlands residents had asked if the council knew anything about a house being turned into flats and whether permission was needed. It was confirmed that one property was being split into 2 self-contained flats by Highland Council and permission was not needed.	
13.4	Anne had also had concerned residents asking about the new bollard inset into the road on Shore Street and asked if it could be made more visible as in some light it was difficult for motorists to see. Ronald said he would try and obtain some tape until people were used to it.	RY
13.5	Anne also raised a complaint made to her about the ferry and two passengers who had problems on board being confined to one small area and one of them having his pensioner's pass being closely examined. They were also informed that the last ferry was sailing at 4pm and decided that it was not worth them staying in Nigg as they may miss it. They felt the experience was bad and did not know to whom to complain to.	
13.6	It was suggested that comments could be made on Trip Advisor but members thought it a shame and hoped that disappointed customers did not think it was a council-run enterprise.	
13.7	Anne said that she wanted to publicly record her thanks for the wonderful opera 'Noye's Fludde' that was produced and performed recently. Ronald said he'd had two wonderful nights watching it and it was the best live performance he'd ever seen! No-one had heard anything negative about it and it was excellent for the town. All those involved deserved the greatest credit for their efforts.	
13.8	Ronald said he'd been repeatedly asked if the charges for the Victoria Hall could be waived for 'community events', for example, the Gala dance and New Year's Eve event.	
13.9	Vivienne said that the management committee had considered this before but it would set a precedent. There were heavy costs involved in putting on any event in the hall – heating, lighting, caretaking, etc. If money was not coming in, the hall	
13.10	cannot be run as it is. She suggested that if it was a community event then the organisers could apply to the Common Good Fund for the costs associated with it, including the hall.	
13.11	She said that the management committee would take it under review but if the community council decided that a number of events would be designated for no charge, then that was within its power to do so. She said others complained that events had to stop at midnight, but the Public Entertainment Licence stated that was the time they had to stop, so that was out of the power of the committee or council to waive.	
13.12	Ronald asked if a designated disabled space in Townlands could be removed as the user had now moved. David will follow this up.	RY

14	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>This was agreed as Monday 28th October 2013.</p>	
15	<p><u>Planning</u></p> <p><i>Please note: the Highland Councillors did not participate in any planning related discussions and left the meeting for this agenda item</i></p> <p>15.1 Gabriel reported on the following:</p> <p>New application:</p> <p>Erection of replacement extension to house - Jalidor Bayview Crescent Cromarty IV11 8YP</p> <p>Update on Planning Applications</p> <p>Installation of domestic 8kw air source heat pump Lum Hat House Shoremill Cromarty IV11 8XU- Permission granted</p> <p>Erection of conservatory extension to house (Planning Permission) Sydney House 12 High Street Cromarty IV11 8U- Application Refused</p> <p>Erection of conservatory extension to house (Listed Building Consent) Sydney House 12 High Street Cromarty IV11 8UZ- Application Refused</p> <p>Erection of house (Resubmission of application 12/02386 PIP) Land 21M NW Of Hadley Denny Road Cromarty- Application Refused</p> <p>Out of area planning application</p> <p>Erection of up to seven 800KW wind turbines - Max 55m to Hub with 80m max tip height Land South Of Wester Rarichie Farm Fearn Tain-Scoping Application Decision Issued</p>	
	<p>The meeting concluded at 21.20 hrs. Ronald thanked everyone for their attendance.</p>	

**Cromarty & District Community Council
Committee Meeting 30th September 2013
Agenda Item 9 – Victoria Hall Report**

1. Victoria Hall finances remain stable. After various very successful bookings throughout the summer we have now started the regular user winter programme. The mid week diary is very full as well as a number of weekend bookings including a Hogmanay Dinner Dance Ceilidh on New Year's Eve.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

2. Repairs to the exterior artwork panels still need replacing due to an error in printing – John McNaught is chasing the printer. The new acoustic panels are proving to be very popular with a number of recent bookings and it is expected that a number of new bookings will occur as a result of the superb investment. 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. Extensive electrical work has been undertaken in accordance with the Hall's application to renew its Public Entertainment Licence. The Oil boiler has also been serviced recently.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

3. A new Health & Safety audit has been completed in preparation for the Hall's renewal of its Public Entertainment Licence. There were no major concerns but as a result of recommendations all the First Aid kits have been renewed and the chairs restacked in a safer fashion. New notices will be displayed and users will be required to follow new guidelines on using and storing the Hall's furniture.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

4. Youth Cafe Report – Please find attached Fraser's recent report to the Middleton Trust's last Trustees' Meeting.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

Vivienne Plampton

Report for the Middleton Trust Meeting held on 13th August 2013

Youth Café Report from May 2013 – July 2013

- Cromarty Junior Youth Café.

At the Junior Youth Café there are 30 members that come along regularly and we have done a range of activities.

We have had Youth Highland come in and do a mini Olympic Circle, the evening was finished off with a mini BBQ. We provide a range of sports, Football, Badminton, Rugby and Tennis. Each week there is a range of Arts and Crafts and circle Games. We have now finished the Mosaic for the Celtic Tree Alphabet, now and it looks fantastic. The Jnrs often make Pancakes, Banana Muffins or Chocolate Crispies. We often have the Smoothie Bike available for the young people to use. We have Volunteers helping me at the Jnrs. They are doing this so they can gain hours for their Saltire Awards. To help me make session plans for the following term I ask the young people what activities they would like to happen in the Youth Café.

- Cromarty Senior Youth Café

The Snr Youth Café has about 15 members each week.

At the Snr youth café there is a range of opportunities available for the young people to take part in such as, Football, dodge ball, rugby, Badminton, Rounders, Mini Highland Game, Cooking and Baking. The Snrs have also completed their Mosaic for the Celtic Trail Alphabet.

We had John and Emmy come into the youth café and ask the young people about doing a play for young people in Cromarty and if it was to happen what they would like to see in the play.

- Dancing Class.

The Dancing Class regularly had 10 members each week. The young people worked on a routine which they showcased at the Black Isle Dance Festival

- Chanter class

The chanter class continues to be really busy with 10 members and everyone is getting on brilliantly. Most of the players are at the stage where they can play the pipes. They are doing really well.

- Tuesday Job Club.

Job Club is there for young people to come and in and get information about different jobs and helping young people to apply for jobs. I helped one of the young boys apply for a job at Macrae and Dick Toyota.

The young person who had applied for the Army has now got into the Army and is just waiting on his selection date. I received a phone call from the young person's mum who was very thankful for all the help I have given him over the past few months.

- Sailing Project

The Sailing project with Simon Simms is going really well, the young people love the opportunity to take part in Sailing.

Young people are able to learn how to steer and how to navigate the Sailing boat. They are also learning how to drive the RIB and they absolutely love burning around on the RIB. Simon also took the Ringo out for the young people to have a shot at and they said it was fantastic. Throughout the summer holidays the young people have had more opportunities to go sailing. So far there has been about 30 young people been on the boats.

Young people will hopefully be able to work towards a Sailing qualification and take up sailing in their free time.

- Cromarty Primary School.

Every Friday I work in the Primary School doing Football at lunchtime for 30mins and then going into the Class room to work with the ECO group I have worked with the garden group in the past 3 months we have been doing a lot of work in the garden getting it ready for planting flowers and Vegetables. I also give one to one support to young people with additional support needs.

- Saltire Awards

Over the past 3 months we have had 8 young people come and help in the Youth Café each week. The young people that come offer a range of different skills that they offer to the young people.

Two of the young people from Cromarty were down at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Saltire Awards with Alec Salmond, the girls were absolutely delighted with their invite and really enjoyed the evening. Wanda went with them.

One of the young girls in Cromarty has now been selected to become a Saltire Ambassador for Highland. This is the first of its kind in The Highlands.

- Summer Opportunities For young people

Throughout the summer holidays there has been a range of different activities provided for the young people.

- Sailing With Simon Simms
- Netball with Jermaine
- Dodgeball with the Active School Coordinators and their Volunteers
- Potted sports with the Active School Coordinators and their Volunteers
- Rugby with a Scottish Professional Coach
- Mountain Biking - led by Transition Black Isle

- Tennis

As we now have the tennis court on a Monday night, Wanda and myself take the young people up there from 6-8pm as that is our allocated space for the Youth Café. The young people are really enjoying playing tennis.

Cromarty Homes and Heritage

Each Session there is for the Homes and Heritage Meeting, young people attended the sessions, they help by taking notes, doing the Teas and Coffees, or passing on stories that they have been told by people in their families.

Community Involvement

As the Cromarty Youth Café Assistant Youth Worker, I attend the following different Committees -

- Townlands Together – I did a consultation with the young people in the primary school to work out what they would like to see in the park in Townlands.
- Cromarty Tennis and Sports Club – We now have the tennis courts built and ready for use by the public, we love having the tennis courts open. On a Sunday afternoon Nora and I take bookings for the court.
- The Gala Day Committee – I am helping organising different activities for the young people at the Gala Day. So far we have organised different races, the Bouncy Castle and Face Painting

My Own Personal Development

I have attended.

- Child Protection Training course along with 7 of our Volunteers.
- Role and Responsibilities of a Committee Member.
- College - I am doing really well, the feedback from my lecturer is that I have so far completed 3 out of the 5 units.

I would like to thank you for reading this report and would also like to thank you for helping fund the Youth Café and my Position as Part Time Youth Worker.

*Fraser Thomson, Assistant Youth Worker
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Notes following community meeting with Global Highland on Nigg noise levels.

Calum's predictions of activity levels mean that noise and light pollution are going to have really significant long term environmental impacts on the Cromarty residents. Suitable and sufficient controls will need to be in place which allows Global Highland to progress with delivery of their business plans in harmony with the Cromarty community.

The Global Highland business plan will have distinct phases commencing with construction of facilities / infrastructure creation and project delivery phases in the longer term.

Environmental Management Plans should be developed which specifically address each of these phases. A proper contractor management strategy for contractors appointed by Global Highland to build the new jetties and facilities etc. will be significant to environmental impacts and community relations.

Global Highland gave a poor impression of their ability to manage contractors in several important aspects. They came across as a work client who would allow noise pollution, frequency and durations etc. to be dictated by their contractors. They seemed to be an organisation which is ready to shift noise impact blame to contractors. I was alarmed at the absence of environmental management controls and I am sure many others also specifically noticed this with regard to:

- Noise pollution – control of sound power levels
- Light pollution – stray light emission
- Noise generation work activities, duration & patterns
- Sound power level sources in terms of peak noise and average noise levels
- Sound power modelling and impact at Cromarty from Nigg yard activities.
- Global Highland side-stepped marine noise levels stemming from vessel owner activities. While this is an accurate situation, these noises emissions are nevertheless directly associated with Global Highland activities.

Global Highland need to implement responsible proactive environmental management measures to take control of these issues. Key aspects should include:

- Develop a Nigg base sound power level model as part of the Global Highland Environmental Plan.
- Engage a noise reduction services contractor, preferably Highlands based, to survey the current yard. Identify all noise generating equipment and activities and build a sound power level map.
- Make recommendations for equipment design, modification and replacement to reduce overall sound power levels during base operations.
- Develop sound power level monitoring during identified peak noise and maximum average noise events.
- Develop a contractor environmental management plan for all contractor services provided to work at the yard for Global Highland
- Include the requirement for an Environmental Management Plan in all market engagement and contractor invitation to tender events.
- Include the requirement to submit for EU compliant data of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM's) sound power levels for all contractors who proposed equipment in contractor bids.

- Set requirements for contractors to submit total sound power level assessments for equipment and identify peak noise levels and maximum sound power levels for all activities in the contract work scope.
- Include total sound power level evaluation in Global Highland assessment of contractor capability as a screening and bid acceptance tool.
- Develop a small sound power impact monitoring program on-site in Cromarty. The program will be based on the EIA addressing predicted peak noise events and periods of predicted maximum average sound power levels.
- Have the sound power monitoring assessments performed by a qualified independent assessment contractor and advise Highland Authority Environmental Health of the appointed contractor.
- Engage a light pollution reduction services contractor, preferably Highlands based, to survey the current yard. Identify all lighting equipment and build a contour map.
- Make recommendations for equipment design, modification and replacement to reduce fugitive light emissions, these are mainly practical measures such as substitute large high lights for multiple low focused area lights. Look at fixed light orientation and shrouding. Look at each individual light power and select the type and size as per functional requirement.
- Develop a weekly inspection check-list
- Investigate portable lighting such as towers (siting and size) and crane boom lights to identify reduction measures.
- Investigate strobe light reduction.

Most sound power sources and light emission sources occur near to ground level, certainly most vehicle engines and exhausts are less than 3 meters above ground level. Investigate portable noise deflectors such as used in key areas of airport perimeters. Portable noise screens are available for individual work sites.

An experienced noise abatement service company will examine cost effective solutions by focussing at elimination at source and examination of noise transmission paths. Reducing light pollution also reduces energy requirements in most cases. Include noise and light pollution management consultants in all new infrastructure design phases.

Community engagement measures available to Global Highland for these issues are as follows:

- Establish a Community Engagement Forum (CEF) with a website.
- Have a link to the CEF website available from the Cromarty Live website.
- Establish a register of community complaints. Link each complaint to corrective actions, target dates and verified closure.
- Develop community relations Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and publish performance data.
- Review the community complaints register as an agenda item in community forum meetings.
- Provide personal feedback to the person or persons who made the original complaint.
- Have the complaints register visible on the CEF website.
- Include Port Authority representation in the CEF.
- Include Highland Council Environmental Health representation in the CEF.

- Provide a Duty Manager contact number, available 24/7 to all members of the Cromarty Community Council for urgent cases of complaint.

Client engagement management:

- Make the Global Highland Environmental Impact Assessment available to Cromarty residents.
- Consider on-loan noise sensitive technology such as blue-tooth and personal heads sets for critical role communication.
- Investigate a Global Highland purchased portable public address system which is available to visiting vessels. It should be installed with targeted speaker systems and avoid wasted noise emission.
- Request a client project plan which includes a temporary environmental management plan which specifically targets noise and light pollution with identified mitigation measures.
- Include Community Relations KPI in weekly client engagement sessions.

Environmental management – special circumstances:

- Make a written management statement of commitment to protect local marine mammal species. Have the statement of commitment signed by the most senior Global Highland Director.
- Obtain historic data on local marine mammal activities, specifically dolphins that rely on audible communication and are most threatened by vibrations and under-water sound power levels.
- Make assessment of the impact of peak noise and maximum average noise forecasts on marine mammals.
- Engage a locally based monitoring organisation which is independent and suitably qualified to record marine mammal activities, numbers and recognise activity related changes.
- Stop when it is wrong - show commitment by setting transparent Global Highland Director controlled criteria, with overall responsibility to say stop.

Invergordon Port Authority.

- Engage the authority as mentioned in the meeting. Many noise related complaints during the meeting were identified as being outside Global Highland control but the pollution does occur as a spin-off of yard activity.

Finance Report – Cromarty & District Community Council

Agenda Item No 9 - Treasurer’s Report

Period: 26th July to 29th September 2013

General Income

Guide Book and Leaflet Sales - Emporium	£173.00
HC Annual Admin Grant	£1,101.87

Less:

General Expenditure

Secretarial Services - July meeting	£50.00
Annual Insurance	£344.05
Postage	£1.20
Website Costs (for 3 years)	£48.60

Increase/(Decrease) in Accumulated Fund **£831.02**

Fund Income

Lonna' Lights Fund - Public Donations	£16.70
Bonfire Night Fund - Donations	£800.00
Gala Day Fund - Proceeds	£2,182.16

Less:

Fund Expenditure

Homes & Heritage Project Fund - Venue Costs	£280.00
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Increase/(Decrease) in Other Funds **£2,718.86**

Net Assets

Accounts Receivable @29.09.2013	£-
Accounts Payable @ 29.09.2013	£-
Bank & Cash in hand balances as @ 29.09.2013	£11,932.47

Total Net Assets at 29th September 2013 **£11,932.47**

Comprising:

Community Council Accumulated Fund	£2,168.73
Provision for Guide Book reprinting	£667.50
Seaplane Plinth Fund	£820.13
Bonfire Night Fund	£1,268.84
Splash & Dash (formerly Cromarty 2007) Fund	£1,312.55
Monday Club Fund	£223.30
Lonna's Lights Fund	£73.49
Gala Day Fund	£2,552.56
Homes & Heritage Project Fund	£2,845.37

£11,932.47

Vivienne Plampton 29.09.2013

MY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Wester Burial Ground - Jeremy has been copied into my complaint about the recent very poor standard of maintenance including the burial grounds the Cromarty Community deserve better. I have offered to do a litter pick every now and again if the community council are happy for me to do this, I do have the time and I can communicate issues directly to Ian Hay.

Benches at harbour - I had the damaged benches that were located against the British Legion wall removed after concerns were raised on health and safety grounds (picture supplied to Jeremy) by a local resident. I understand that the benches were used by past old folk of Cromarty. An idea has been put forward to see if we can get 3 wooden benches similar to the ones in Rosemarkie play park to replace these damaged benches. This could be a really good small project to get the benches back for the benefit of the community and visitors alike. The benches could also be inscribed with local information to respect those members of the past Cromarty Community etc.

Environmental Walk round 12th July 2013 – Many items still outstanding and I had a bit of a tantrum over the state of the burial grounds. This was after we (David, me and Anne) were advised things would improve.

Jet Skis at harbour – I had numerous complaints about jet-ski users being inconsiderate when using them in and around the harbour. The police advised that this is a matter for the harbour trust.

This is a copy of my email to thank HC for removing the holly tree at the burial ground:

Would you be able to pass on my thanks to the guys that have removed the holly tree that was interfering with the graves at the Wester Burial Ground in Cromarty. I know from speaking to one of the people that look after one of the grave stones that was being impacted by the holly tree, they are very grateful and also wish to express a heartfelt thank you to the guys for getting the work done with minimum of fuss or disruption.

This is my report to the Highland Council following a meeting and a walk around town in July:

Cromarty Issues Meeting 12th July 2013-07-15

In attendance

Cllr Craig Fraser

Cllr David Alston

Ricky McNab – Performance and inspection co-ordinator (Highland Council)

Ewan Marsh – Contract supervisor TECS (Highland Council)

Anne Short – Cromarty Community Council

This meeting was arranged to address issues raised on grass cutting, burial ground maintenance and other environmental concerns in Cromarty.

Historic problems at Highland Council are being addressed but will take time to rectify some of the issues are as follows – Weed killing, lack of data, data capture, no mapping, looking to local agreements for the remainder of 2013. There are more issues that can be managed in the short term; however, Improvements will be sought over the next 18 months to 2 years. Small local issues are being tackled now. (The majority of people know that the Highland Council is operating under very tight budget constraints. Therefore this needs to be communicated to the community councils on the Black Isle to set reasonable expectations on time scales. This could well reduce the amount of complaints that the service receive. CF's thought)

ADDITIONAL POINTS RAISED.

- Getting area services onto one contract i.e. 3 years + 2
- Quality of grass cutting very patchy – bits done, bits missed, too short a cut or too long. Missed areas and quality issues raised direct with Contractor. These will be rectified at the next scheduled cut.
- Grass cutting at Victoria Park inappropriate machinery used
- Burial grounds – different approach needed
- Street cleaning – very disappointing now that Cromarty hardly sees the village officer
- Estate management plans – site specific management plans – trial for a season – Pilot project for Cromarty and if successful rolled out to other communities
- Trees – Highland Council has a framework agreement – this needs to be rewritten and simplified. Contract being tendered now. Work instruction issued to remove dangerous tree at Townlands Park. This should be completed within 4 weeks.
- Memorials – Ewan Marsh is point of contact, website memorial online web address needed. Highland Council is ahead of the rest of Scotland for funding of memorials.

WALK ROUND.

- Bin outside Hugh Miller Institute missing
- Weed killing not completed
- War Graves Burial ground very tidy and within spec as one would expect.
- Gaelic Chapel burial ground out of spec
- Gaelic Chapel – Health and safety issues
- Cromarty Wester Burial ground – Holly Tree – headstones not cleaned after grass Strimmed – grass cutting not within spec
- War Memorial at the top of the Denny – no disabled access, needs maintenance
- Victoria Park – boundary fence, grass cutting out of spec
- Allen Square island inappropriate flower planters and vehicles parked
- Links – grass cutting out of spec, area of cut to be widened as previously agreed using “flail mower” this would aid better access to the beach by wheel chair users and prams etc.

I think that is pretty much it – before I give this to the community council I would be grateful if you wish to make any amendments for accuracy.

I also made a formal complaint about the state of the burial ground and this is the response I received and the reply I made:

From: Craig Fraser - Member **Sent:** 11 September 2013 16:10 **To:** Richard Guest

Hi Richard.

Thank you for your reply is this the full response as indicated by Ian Hay in his reply to my formal complaint? Again today walking past the burial ground, clumps of grass left after cutting, gates not closed to the burial grounds. The holly tree is still there, when will this be addressed? The Cromarty Community expect better than this standard of work.

Best regards

Craig

From: Richard Guest **Sent:** 11 September 2013 14:56 **To:** Craig Fraser - Member
Subject: formal complaint, burial ground grasscutting

Councillor Fraser

I refer to your formal complaint to Ricky McNab and note you have already had a reply direct from Ian Hay. From the contract monitoring perspective I have to acknowledge that there have been times when the standard of work has fallen below what is expected. The operational staff are well aware of this and are doing their best to effect improvements. With regard to the latest incident, grass cutting completion was delayed from the usual week-and-a half frequency both by mechanical breakdown and the need to prioritise actual burials over grasscutting work, from a very small squad of available operatives. This had the effect that strimming could not be completed the same day and not all strimmings were removed from gravestones timeously. The staff involved have been reminded of their obligations to meet the specifications and in particular to avoid damage to floral tributes.

Richard Guest
Head of Roads and Community Works
TEC services

Fly-Tipping – If residents know of fly-tipping going on it can be reported to **CRIMESTOPPERS** on 0800 555 111 or **HIGHLAND COUNCIL** on 01349 886 606