



# CROMARTY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES**  
**APPROVED**  
**28<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

## Minutes of meeting held on Monday 31st March 2014 in the Hugh Miller Institute

**Community Councillors:** Ronald Young (Chair), Vivienne Plampton, Anne Short, Gabriele Pearson, Diane Brawn

**Highland Councillor:** Craig Fraser

**Community Council Minute Secretary:** Jeremy Price

One member of the public (Sandy Thompson) was also present and Jon Palmer joined the meeting later.

Item	Details	Action
1	<b><u>Chairman's Welcome and apologies</u></b>  Ronald welcomed everyone to the meeting.  <b>Apologies</b> were received from Andrew Hulse, David Alston and Sgt MacNeil, Police Scotland	
2	<b><u>Approval of previous minutes</u></b>	
2.1	The minutes of the meeting on 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2014 were approved.  Proposed: Diane Brawn    Seconded: Anne Short	
3	<b><u>Representing Communities Research Project</u></b>	
3.1	As an additional item to the agenda, Sandy Thompson spoke to the meeting about an impending research project being undertaken by the University of Highlands and Islands called "Representing Communities". He had been contacted by Dr Issie MacPhail about the project, which will run for two and half years and essentially is about working with local people and organisations to understand their own different and personal thoughts on what life in Cromarty today is like. The project aims to draw on people's own ideas and memories alongside old maps, photos, archive finds, music, novels and poems of relevance to the place. The aim is to explore ways in which we can use these kinds of things to get a better idea of what sort of things about life in Cromarty help people to have a good sense of well-being and which sorts of aspects contribute to ill health.	

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>A brief discussion followed with some members commenting that it seemed to be a lot like the Homes and Heritage Project. There were also questions about the benefit of such a project to the community and to the council if it was to become involved.</p> <p>There had been a request from Dr MacPhail to hold a community meeting about the project in May.</p> <p>After the discussion it was decided that, rather than convene a meeting or open session for residents, the council would invite Dr MacPhail to our next meeting in April and find out more information. ACTION: Jeremy to invite Dr MacPhail [<i>note: this was done on 1<sup>st</sup> April</i>]</p>	<p>JP</p>
<p>4</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p><b><u>Youth Report</u></b></p> <p>There is currently no youth representative but the Youth Café report is appended at C.</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p><b><u>Police Report</u></b></p> <p>There was no police representative present. Gabriele said that she had received a written report from Sgt MacNeil. This is attached as Appendix D</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p>	<p><b><u>Gaelic Chapel and Highland Councillor's Report</u></b></p> <p>In terms of the Gaelic Chapel, Craig reported that the papers were with the Highland Council Housing and Property Department and would be discussed at the monthly ward business meeting to decide on the level of involvement of Highland Council prior to the Trust being set up.</p> <p>Craig reported that he was still working on a number of points raised at a meeting convened to discuss issues of importance to Cromarty back in July 2013. He said the issues still current were (those specifically commented on are emboldened):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting area services onto one contract i.e. 3 years + 2</li> <li>• <b>Quality of grass cutting, particularly on the Links, was very patchy – bits done, bits missed, too short a cut or too long. Use of flail mower would be helpful</b></li> <li>• Grass cutting at Victoria Park inappropriate machinery used</li> <li>• <b>Burial grounds – different approach needed</b></li> <li>• Street cleaning – very disappointing now that Cromarty hardly sees the village officer</li> <li>• Estate management plans – site specific management plans – trial for a season – Pilot project for Cromarty and if successful rolled out to other communities</li> <li>• Trees – Highland Council has a framework agreement – this needs to be rewritten and simplified</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Bin outside Hugh Miller Institute missing</li> <li>• Weed killing not completed</li> <li>• War Graves Burial ground very tidy and within spec as one would expect.</li> <li>• Gaelic Chapel burial ground out of spec</li> <li>• Gaelic Chapel – Health and safety issues</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cromarty Wester Burial ground – Holly Tree – headstones not cleaned after grass Strimmed – grass cutting not within spec</li> <li>• <b>War Memorial at the top of the Denny – no disabled access, needs maintenance</b></li> <li>• Victoria Park – boundary fence, grass cutting out of spec</li> <li>• Allen Square island inappropriate flower planters and vehicles parked</li> <li>• Links – rear of the car park had a particularly scruffy area which needed sorting</li> <li>• Temporary toilets on Links – does not look viable at present</li> </ul> <p>6.3 Craig said that there was an agreement with Cameron Kemp to have a village officer back for 2-3hrs per day on Mondays-Fridays and the road sweeping machine would come every 2 months.</p> <p>6.4 Under this heading, Ronald asked if Di Agnew knew about the probable need for an interim election for Cromarty in the coming months.</p> <p>6.5 Gabriele was able to report that David had been in contact with Di and it seemed that a notice would be published on 13<sup>th</sup> May for an interim election on 26<sup>th</sup> June. This would fit in with the Annual General Meeting and the first meeting of a new council would be held at the end of June. Gabriele agreed to liaise with Di about the election.</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><b><u>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</u></b></p> <p>(6.2 – Leaflets) – This was considered under Treasurer’s Report below.</p> <p>(9.5 – notify Gala Committee of decision) Jeremy said this had been done</p> <p>(11.2 – quote for bus stop repair) Ongoing</p> <p>(11.4 – ‘Smiley’ speed notification sign) Ongoing</p> <p>(11.7 – Library temperature) Gabriele said someone had apparently been and looked at the heating. She will ensure the temperature is monitored, although this might become academic as warmer weather approaches.</p> <p>(11.10 – Online fault reporting system) Ongoing</p> <p>(12.3 – Fuel-buying co-ops and bus incidents) Gabriele has done the piece for the website</p> <p>(13.4 – Scottish Water event) Jeremy had ensured a piece was placed on the website</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>

<b>8</b>	<b><u>Update from Jon Palmer</u></b>	
8.1	Jon thanked members for hearing him and said he wished to update them on three items that he was currently involved in.	
8.2	The Middleton Trust had contacted him and asked if he could run a project for the more mature young people in Cromarty. He has therefore been working on a project called 'Three Corners of Cromarty' which is to be performed on Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April in the evening. He described the piece and handed out some leaflets. He said it would be widely advertised.	
8.3	Jon said that he had been talking with a number of local people and liaising with other groups such as the Inner Moray Firth Partnership about setting up a water taxi. It could potentially provide a service from Cromarty around both the Cromarty Firth to Invergordon and also the Moray Firth to Dornoch, Tain, Elgin, Nairn.	
8.4	He said that all the feedback had been positive. There were funding streams such as the Horizon 2020 Blue Growth Fund which could be available over the next 6 years. He was to meet with a number of interested parties over the coming weeks to look at how a feasibility study (which would include community consultation) could be funded and which would kickstart the whole process.	
8.5	There was a brief discussion about how Jon envisaged the service and members were extremely supportive of Jon's vision. Ronald thought there would be a good deal of community support as well and he wished him all success with the venture. Jon said he would keep members informed of progress.	
8.6	The third matter was to do with the Ice House, currently privately owned. Jon said he'd approached the owner to see if there was any likelihood of it being put on the market at any time in the future as he saw it as a potentially viable community resource.	
8.7	There was a discussion about similar community ventures such as the beach café in Rosemarkie, the Ice House in Spey Bay and how, with proper preservation, it could be transformed and potentially managed by the community.	
8.8	Ronald said it was good that someone was showing an interest in a building that had potential to be transformed into something useful for the community. He thanked Jon for coming and briefing members and wished him well.	
<b>9</b>	<b><u>Review and update on Councillors' portfolios</u></b>	
9.1	There were no matters to discuss.	
<b>10</b>	<b><u>Victoria Hall report</u></b>	
10.1	Vivienne had circulated her report (Appendix A) and also Fraser's report (Appendix C).	

<b>11</b>	<b><u>Treasurer's report</u></b>	
<b>11.1</b>	Vivienne had circulated her report and there were no questions raised about it. (Appendix B).	
<b>11.2</b>	Vivienne raised the subject of the 'yellow leaflets' and said that whilst she had done some work on progressing the matter, in her view the leaflet was primarily to advertise the businesses in the town. There was a discussion about whether the council should be paying for this when, for a very small amount, local businesses could buy space and self-fund it.	
<b>11.3</b>	Jon Palmer had offered to take the matter on and she suggested this was a good idea. Members agreed and Vivienne said she would pass on the CC recommendations to him that he run with the new leaflet.	
<b>12</b>	<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	
<b>12.1</b>	Gabriele read out details from the correspondence she had seen (covered in Item 3 above).	

<p><b>13</b></p> <p>13.1</p> <p>13.2</p> <p>13.3</p> <p>13.4</p> <p>13.5</p> <p>13.6</p> <p>13.7</p> <p>13.8</p> <p>13.9</p>	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>Diane said that she had attended the last meeting relating to the Nigg development. She said that she was hugely impressed by the list of questions that Duncan Bowers had raised and how much of his previous comments had been taken on board in the revision of the plans.</p> <p>Vivienne said that Duncan had been incredibly helpful to the community in reading the mass of papers relating to the development and commenting and posing questions about a number of key issues. She proposed that the council should get him something to reflect his generosity with his time on the matter and his great assistance. This was agreed by Members.</p> <p>Vivienne also asked for a similar token for Jacquie Ross for auditing the books. This was also agreed.</p> <p>Gabriele referred to the Community Wind Farm Project proposed by Transition Black Isle (TBI) and the Black Isle Partnership.</p> <p>She summarised the idea which had been floated that 3 community-owned turbines be placed on land near Mount Eagle and the potential financial benefits to each Black Isle community.</p> <p>She said there would have to be a ballot with a 50% turnout and over 50% had to be in favour.</p> <p>Whilst the outline existed, it was still rather vague and Members asked if someone could come to a future meeting and discuss it in more depth. Gabriele agreed to arrange the necessary invitation.</p> <p>Gabriele asked Ronald to reiterate his concerns about what seemed to be a degradation of the fire service on the Black Isle. Ronald explained that because of working constraints, Fortrose cannot get a local service during the day and Cromarty was restricted in what it could deliver – basically car crashes and bush fires. He, like others, was concerned about the journey time to Cromarty, considering the nature of some of the old buildings in the town.</p> <p>Members asked if David and Craig would take the matter seriously in any discussions within Highland Council.</p>	<p><b>GP</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b></p> <p>This was agreed as Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014</p>	
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>15.1</p>	<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>Gabriele reported on the following, and there were no comments from Members:</p> <p><b>New Screening Application-</b> 14/00854/SCRE   Proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) farm development.   Land 315M SW Of Braehead Davidston Cromarty</p> <p><b>Update on Planning Applications</b> None at present</p>	

	The meeting concluded at 21.15hrs. Ronald thanked everyone for their attendance.	
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## Summary of Action Points from meeting

Reference	To whom allocated	Notes
6.4	Jeremy	Invite Dr Issie MacPhail to the next meeting
6.5	Gabriele	Liaise with Di Agnew re possible election
7.3	Vivienne	Arrange quotation for repairs to bus stop
7.4	David	Progress 'Smiley' speed indicator board for Cromarty
7.6	David	To look at the road fault reporting system at Highland Council
12.7	Gabriele	To invite TBI to discuss Community Wind Turbine project
Ongoing	All	Increased communication with community



**Cromarty & District Community Council  
Committee Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014  
Agenda Item 8 – Victoria Hall Report**

1. Victoria Hall finances are stable. Bookings remain strong. Annual accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 will be completed as part of the C&DCC accounts that will be prepared for audit. Final drafts of these will be available for the next meeting ahead of their audit for the AGM in May.

**ACTION – Information only, no action required.**

2. Minor repairs have been carried out to the under stage cupboards and fire doors, but any major refurbishment of the flooring will now await the summer recess of the regular users. Work to the shower areas may also be undertaken as the Cromarty FC is not playing this summer.

**ACTION – Information only, no action required.**

3. A meeting of interested parties is being arranged to discuss the refurbishment and re-hanging of the artwork panels. This still outstanding but will hopefully be arranged soon.

**ACTION – Information only, BUT URGENT ACTION required.**

4. Youth Café Report – Attached.

**ACTION – Information only, no action required.**

Vivienne Plampton

**Finance Report – Cromarty & District Community Council****Agenda Item No 9 - Treasurer’s Report****Period: 24th February to 30th March 2014****General Income**

Publications Sales £45.00

**Less:****General Expenditure**

Secretarial Services - February meeting £50.00

Internet Costs - Annual website fee £24.95

Stationery Costs - Minute secretary £4.99

Storage Costs - Garage rent £65.00

**Increase/(Decrease) in Accumulated Fund****£(99.94)****Fund Income**

Gala Day Fund - Community Market Proceeds £172.33

Monday Club Fund - Benevolent Fund Transfer £21.00

**Less:****Fund Expenditure**

Monday Club Fund - Feb Lunches £133.25

**Increase/(Decrease) in Other Funds****£39.08****Net Assets**

Accounts Receivable @ 30.03.14 £10.00

Accounts Payable @ 30.03.14 £-

Bank &amp; Cash in hand balances as @ 30.03.14 £8,408.99

**Total Net Assets at 30th March 2014****£8,418.99*****Comprising:***

Community Council Accumulated Fund £1,588.45

Provision for Guide Book reprinting £667.50

Seaplane Plinth Fund £820.13

Bonfire Night Fund £742.84

Splash &amp; Dash (formerly Cromarty 2007) Fund £945.74

Monday Club Fund £695.30

Lonna's Lights Fund £154.14

Gala Day Fund £2,804.89

Homes &amp; Heritage Project Fund £-

**£8,418.99**

Vivienne Plampton 30.03.14

## Cromarty & District Community Council Report 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

### Cromarty Youth Café – January to March 2014

- **Cromarty Junior Youth Café.**

Cromarty Junior Youth Café is very successful with around 15 members each week taking part in a range of activities, Arts and crafts for different occasions, Mother's Day, Chinese new year, Easter Planning and creating Valentines cards, making decoupage hearts, a range of baking, Plant Pot decorating, Football, Badminton, Dodgeball, jewellery making, and team challenges, lots fun games, man overboard, duck, duck goose.

All of the young people that attend the Youth Café have the opportunity to say what they would like to do in the Youth Café so when I am putting together a programme of events I am planning what the young people want to do. Each week there are up to 5 volunteers that help to run the session with their own skills.

- **Wanda's Diamond Divas**

Around fifteen young girls attend weekly. 3 of the young girls have created their own individual dances and have been instructing the class, then each week adding more to the routine, check out Facebook . They have also created valentines crafts enjoyed baking and sweetie making as well as nail decorating. This was from January until Feb as after Feb they are working with Jon Palmer on the 3 corners of Cromarty Project.

- **Hockey Sessions**

The hockey sessions are going really well each week. There are between 6-10 young people that turn up each week and they are all learning new skills and how to play the games properly. The girls are doing really well, and all of the young people are responsive to the girls.

- **Badminton Sessions**

Each week there are between 6-10 young people at the badminton. All of the young people that are attending are coming on really well with their skills and some of the young people couldn't hit the shuttle over the net and now they are able to play proper games. They all really enjoy the badminton with James.

- **Chanter Class**

The class is going really well and we are amazed with the progress that the young people are making with them all at the stage of playing the pipes.

- **Fujitsu & Reboot Computer Project**

This project went really well, 10 young people turned up to both the days and learned about computers, how they are built on the inside, they got to take the computers apart to see what the different parts of the computers do. They also learned how to install different processers onto the computer. At the end of the project they got to take the computer home.

- **Three Corners of Cromarty**

The first meeting was on the 18<sup>th</sup> of Feb for young people to discuss what they wanted the project to be about and what they wanted out of the project, the 3 corners that were discussed and are going to be part of the project are: The Harbour, Bus Shelter and The Gaelic Chapel.

Jon meets with the Divas group on a Monday evening and they are taking part in different part of the project, each week there is a different topic for the performance, and a different area of Cromarty getting looked at. They looked into trust and how to trust each other. The group are also given ideas from the workers and then they work with the ideas and give their own input. The performance is going to be on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April with 3 days of rehearsals before.

- **Cromarty Primary School**

Each week I go to the primary on a Thursday afternoon I work with P1-P7 taking football at lunch time and then football for golden time in each session there can be up to 14 young people at the sessions, I also work doing 1-1 with young people with additional support needs by playing different board games and working on problems that could arise and prevent them.

- **Saltire Awards**

In each of the sessions of the Junior Youth Café there are 5 young people who help run the sessions and input their own skills. 2 of the young people that attend and help run the Youth Café have been selected to become Saltire Ambassadors for Ross-Shire.

- **Volunteers**

All of the volunteers that attend the Youth Café have had a range of different training

- Child Protection
- First Aid
- Sexual Health

- **My Own Personal Development**

I have attended different training courses.

- Risk Management and understanding risk assessment
- Monitoring & Evaluation training
- My college course is almost complete

Fraser Thomson  
Assistant Youth Worker  
Cromarty Youth Café  
Victoria Hall  
Cromarty IV118YR  
01381600542/07710165611

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORM**

Command Area	Ross & Cromarty	Community Group	Cromarty Community Council
Station	Dingwall	Officer Attending	
Date of Meeting	31/03/2014	Location	Hugh Miller Institute, Cromarty

**Meeting Preparation**

Ward and Local Policing Plan Priorities.	Activities conducted over the reporting period to support those priorities.
1. Road Safety	This has been identified as a Police Scotland priority and will continue to be a National focus. A number of Police operations have been run, including Operation Route (Speed checks) which continue to have a high priority.
2. Alcohol Abuse	No issues of note in the Cromarty area.
3. Anti-social behaviour	2 Person reported to the Childrens' Reporter in relation to an allegation of assault.
Update on Previously Agreed Actions – See previous OP 55/8 & Relevant Reference on the Area Command Action Tracking Table	
None outstanding	
Update on any local community safety issues / trends within the community and any assistance / information requested from the community. Review IMPACT / intelligence etc	
In the period since the last meeting on the 25/02/14 to 30/03/14 there have been a total of 16 Incidents which were mainly of a routine nature with no significant matters of note. 2 crimes were reported; 1 theft of property from outside a house in Cromarty village. Enquiries are ongoing and an assault on a juvenile on holiday in the area. 2 juveniles are to be reported to the Childrens' Reporter.	
Any local / Area Command / Divisional / Police Scotland updates / key messages	
Inspector Neil MacKinnon, the current Operations Inspector for Dingwall/Black Isle and Wester Ross retires in a few weeks time. His successor will be Temporary Inspector Paul Daly who takes up post on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014.	