



CROMARTY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 12 January 2015
in the Hugh Miller Institute

APPROVED
MINUTES
23.2.2015

Community Councillors: Jeremy Price (JP) Chair, Gabriele Pearson (GP) Secretary, Vivienne Plampton (VP) Treasurer, Diane Brawn (DB), Andrew Hulse (AH), Estelle Quick (EQ)

Youth Representative: Niamh McCann (NM)

Highland Councillors: Cllr Craig Fraser(CF), Cllr David Alston(DA)

Police Scotland: Not present

Member(s) of the public: Nigel Shapcott

Community Council Minute Secretary: Gillian McNaught

1	<u>Chairman's Welcome</u> JP welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.1	<u>Apologies:</u> Calum Reid, Police Scotland.	
2	<u>Approval of previous Minutes 5th December</u> Approved by DB and seconded by EQ.	
3	<u>Youth Issues</u>	
3.1	NM reported that the lamppost at the Harbour and one on Braehead is damaged.	
3.2	A service bus had reversed in to the Bus Shelter at the Links, which was reported by the bus driver immediately.	
3.3	Bus Shelter at the Victoria Hall has an out of date timetable on display. CF will contact Steve Walker at Stagecoach.	CF
3.4	The Bus Shelter at the Park still smells of urine, despite it having been cleaned recently. VP will follow this up.	VP

3.5	The dog poo bin on the links was reported as full, though CF, currently on rota duty, had been round very recently and it was fine. In future, anyone with concerns about the dog poo bins can consult the C&DCC notice board on Bank street and make contact with the person on duty in person.	
3.6	At the links bus stop, a wheelie bin has been damaged in the storms. CF will report to HC.	CF
3.7	Further to concerns about deterioration of lettering on the War Memorial (Item 3.2, 27.10.14), EQ checked and found all the metal lettering to be legible and in good condition, with the exception of small damage to a '9'. EQ noted the memorial could benefit from a wash down in the Spring. NM will report back to Wanda.	NM
3.8	Youth Cafe has re-started and a busy six months ahead is planned. JP praised the continuing full programme of activities for young people. NM was thanked and left the meeting.	
4	<u>Police Report</u>	
4.1	Police Report. Appendix (A).	
5	<u>Matters Arising from 5th December 2014 minutes</u>	
5.1	(3.1 HC maintenance issues). Discharged.	
5.2	(3.2 Inspection of War memorial.) Discharged.	
5.3	(3.4 Ladies' Walk repairs). CF sent photos to HC. Will follow up. Ongoing.	CF
5.4	(5.2 Links Bus Shelter Repairs). In addition, EQ will report on recent bus damage incident (3.2). Ongoing.	EQ
5.5	(5.3 Nigg Ferry). DA & CF will meet with David Summers(HC Transport) to discuss how Ferry service information can be publicised and how best to monitor the service. EQ agreed to be part of these discussions which will be followed by a meeting with Tom Henderson prior to the new season.	DA, CF & EQ
5.6	(5.4 Beach Clean). Discharged.	
5.7	(5.6 Removal of wood, Nancy's bus shelter). DB phoned, will chase. Ongoing.	DB
5.8	(5.7 Tractor Insurance.). Sorted out and paid. Discharged.	
5.9	(5.8. Additional Revenue Funding Sources). Ongoing.	DA
5.10	(5.10 Unsafe Farness Road verges) CF will follow up this week. Ongoing.	CF
5.11	(5.12 BT Superfast Broadband in outlying areas). Tim Pearson is continuing to fight the corner for areas outwith Cromarty that may be disadvantaged in the BT programme currently being rolled out. He will be presenting his findings to the next meeting of the Black Isle Community Councils.	

5.12	JP advised the members that the application has been submitted for mobile phone boosters (Vodafone Sure Signal Ross 100 programme), which Calico are championing in Cromarty. Now awaiting a reply. (Ref 13.3, 27 October 2014 minutes).	
5.13	(7.1 Black Isle Community Councils meeting). JP attending. Discharged.	
5.14	(7.2 Repair to Post on Dog Waste Bin). Done. Discharged.	
5.15	(10.1 Sunday Bus Routes). CF brought to the attention of Steve Walker, Stagecoach. Not heard further, but can be looked at again if necessary. Discharged.	
5.16	(10.2 Meeting with new Area Commander). Date to be fixed. Discharged.	
5.17	(10.3 Speeding on Denny Road). JP had received one further letter of complaint about traffic speeding up the hill <i>out</i> of Cromarty before the 30mph ends. He replied to all correspondents that (1) the Police are focusing on speed checks on the Black Isle, including the Denny road (see Appendix A) and (2) that Culbokie is in the final stages of confirming a pilot Community Speed Watch scheme which will be a useful model for other areas. Ongoing.	All
5.18	(10.5 Memorial Bench) Done. Discharged.	
5.19	(10.6 Global application). JP wrote to the Scottish Parliament with members' observations and a public meeting/presentation will take place on 14th January by Global Energy. <i>Sec's note:</i> this has been postponed because of the bad weather and road closure. To be rescheduled.	
5.20	(10.7 Public Notice about SCIOs) JP has had one response to date. It was agreed to give it another month's publicity and discuss at future meeting. Ongoing.	All DB & JP
5.21	(11.1 Community Funding). Ongoing.	
5.22	(11.4 Cromarty Estate Shoots). JP reported the gentleman in charge of the Game Shoots had replied and offered to meet with the member of the public concerned. Discharged.	
5.23	(11.5 Join C&DCC as members to Highland Small Communities Trust.) Done. Discharged.	
5.24	(11.6 Energy saving on street lights). DA reported that it had previously been confirmed that the street lights in Cromarty were either all 'on' or all 'off' and turning off certain ones cannot be an energy saving option. JP will speak in the first instance to John Wood or Transition Black Isle to take forward.	JP

6	<p><u>Gaelic Chapel</u> Some progress has been made. Ongoing.</p>	
7	<p><u>Community Councillors' Portfolios-review/update</u></p> <p>7.1 <u>Vivienne Plampton</u> VP let members know of her intention to stand down as Treasurer in November at the next elections and also wished to devolve the following from her portfolio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keys for the Hugh Miller Institute will now be held at the Post office by Estelle Quick. • The administration of Cromarty Guide Books, the Dialect Book, Walks leaflet and chargeable Cromarty Guide will be taken on by Diane Brawn . • The administration of the Christmas Tree will be taken on by Andrew Hulse. <p>Members were thanked by VP for taking on these Portfolio items.</p> <p><u>Andrew Hulse</u></p> <p>7.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dog Poo issue has been raised again recently as the Primary School is using the links as a playground until the new building is completed. Several parents had contacted the school to complain that the children were playing among dog mess and getting on shoes and clothing. It has been agreed with John Nightingale and the contractors that a temporary extended 'dog free' area will be put on the links for the duration of the build. • Discussions followed about how to tackle the issue in the town. It was agreed that JP will order biodegradable coloured spray as used before for volunteers to highlight mess and publicise how to report fouling. AH will contact the school about the possibility of producing posters. <p><u>Gabriele Pearson</u></p> <p>7.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Isle Community Energy Proposal would like to give community councils the opportunity to comment on the wording of the question on the forthcoming ballot paper i.e. Do you support the proposal by Black Isle Community Energy for a community-owned wind energy scheme in the Millbuie Forest? Members were also asked to consider if the leaflet by BICE should be included with the ballot papers. Members will consider these points and give their views to GP by the weekend. <p>(NB. Minute Secretary's note. Following the C&DCC meeting of 23 February, members agreed it was important to include their response to Martin Sherring of BICE.(Appendix F).</p>	<p>JP & AH</p> <p>ALL</p>
8	<p><u>Victoria Hall and Youth Cafe Reports</u></p> <p>8.1 Report attached (Appendix B). During recent renovations, a fire exit door was damaged by gales. VP wished to have minuted her thanks for the quick response of Alan Shaw who did a fantastic job of making an emergency repair.</p> <p>8.2 VP presented a Regular User Groups' newsletter. (Appendix C).</p> <p>8.3 Youth Cafe Report. (No report this month).</p>	

<p>9</p> <p>9.1</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p>	<p><u>Treasurer’s Report</u></p> <p>VP presented her report. (Appendix D).</p> <p>VP suggested that it would be helpful if all Christmas fundraising and expenses, including replacement and upkeep of lights, erection of Xmas Tree etc were incorporated under one fund. The proposal to rename the Lonna’s Lights Fund the <i>Community Christmas Fund</i> was agreed by all members. VP will update the collection tins around the Town with the new name.</p> <p>DA will check on the state of the blue lights under the Harbour and report back.</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>DA</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p> <p>10.4</p>	<p><u>Highland Councillors’ Reports</u></p> <p><u>Craig Fraser</u></p> <p>Recent Power Cut- Discussions took place amongst members of issues arising out of the recent power loss. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSE’s very effective vulnerable peoples’ register which could possibly be extended. • Some Care at Home emergency buttons do not working during power outage. • Electric stairlifts affected and possible problems arising from that. • Townlands Park and other homes are fully electric. • To help those vulnerable with power loss, the Victoria Hall would be the obvious central community venue for a generator for heat and hot food. <p>It was agreed that a good job had been done by all the agencies, but there was concern that not all the people requiring extra support were reached. It was suggested as a starting point that JP would contact the Fourways through Anne Short and that these discussions would be fed back to Di Agnew, Ward Manager. JP said he’d been in constant contact with agencies about what services Cromarty would be getting and Craig had also been communicating with them, too. There was a likelihood that feedback from these events would help to shape the response in the future.</p> <p>Bridge at Newhall - This has been damaged extensively and CF suggests there is now an opportunity to discuss the bridge’s future i.e. can it be made wider?</p> <p>Jessie Sutherland now has a road gully outside her home and she is delighted. (10.4, Minutes 5 December 2014).</p> <p>Town Tractor - Several members of the public had asked why the Town Tractor was not being used following pedestrian accidents on recent icy conditions. Several people had volunteered to drive it to help keep the Town gritted, but more information is required about grit supplies, driving licence conditions etc. JP will follow up.</p> <p>VP confirmed the Tractor is safely in store and it was suggested asking Bobby MacKay for advice about its use.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>

10.5	The Links 2015. JP updated members that John Nightingale has confirmed the Links will not be open for vehicle access at all except for the Funfair and Cromarty Youth Cafe Annual camping event. In addition there will be posts or fencing erected between the Salmon Bothy and the Links cottages. No action can be taken to stop 'wild camping' in tents. JP will send this information to websites.	JP
10.6	<u>David Alston</u> After the recent storms, Nancy's Bus Shelter requires stabilising,	
11	<u>Correspondence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward Forum meeting 29th January Culbokie Primary School 6-8pm. Members of the public encouraged to attend. • Black Isle Community Energy drop in session, Cromarty Old Brewery 15th January 4-7.30. • Digital Workshop in Edinburgh for Community Councils. • David Fraser on behalf of Tom Boyd, 'No to Black Isle Windfarm'. • GP had been asked by HC for feedback on their new website. VP said she found it harder to navigate. GP will respond. 	GP
12	<u>AOCB</u>	
12.1	Post Office Service interruption - EQ reported that Cromarty PO experienced an interruption of network service due to a BT fault for 2 weeks over the festive period which left customers hugely inconvenienced with no local access to pensions etc. Members agreed to make a representation to the PO. EQ will draft a letter for JP.	EQ & JP
12.2	Christmas Tree - the stormy weather had blown the tree over to the side. Members suggested ways that the tree could be more secure, including ordering a smaller tree, which will be discussed in time for next Christmas.	
12.3	Black Isle Wildlife Trail - This project is in early stages of discussion to create a trail to include the many birdwatching and wildlife sites around the Black isle. CF will liaise with Mike Armitage in Avoch.	CF
12.4	30/30- JP receives many comments about dissatisfaction over issues such as litter and he put forward the idea of 30/30 - 30 volunteers give 30 minutes of their time on an occasional basis, perhaps every month or couple of weeks initially in order to meet and tackle these jobs or issues. Members agreed it was a great idea and JP will firm up the proposal.	JP
12.5	Prescription Run - Set up through the NHS by the late Dr Hendry in 1981, a twice daily run with prescriptions to Fortrose dispensary has been coordinated by three volunteers. Benita Miller, one of the volunteers is looking for a responsible person to be a signatory for the account(which pays a mileage allowance) and be an occasional stand in driver. JP will put a notice on CL website and DB will contact NHS patients Groups.	JP & DB
12.6	Pothole Poster. VP would like to reprint this. GP will email the original poster.	VP & GP

13	<p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>The planning report wasn't circulated prior to the meeting due to the power cut, but was emailed afterwards to members. (Appendix E).</p>	
14	<p><u>Date of Next Meetings</u></p> <p>Monday 23rd February 2015 @ 7.30 Hugh Miller Institute, Church Street, Cromarty</p>	
	<p>JP thanked everyone for attending and for their input.</p>	

Summary of Action Points from meeting

Reference	To whom allocated	Notes
3.3	Estelle	Report out of date timetable at High St Bus Stop
3.4	Vivienne	Follow up on cleanliness of High St Bus Shelter
3.6	Craig	Report damaged bin on links
3.7	Niamh	Report back to Wanda ref: War memorial
5.3	Craig	Follow up Ladies Walk repairs.
5.4	Estelle	Links Bus Shelter repairs.
5.5	David, Craig Estelle	Set up meeting with David Summers ref: Nigg Ferry
5.7	Diane	Follow up removal of wooden base from old bus shelter
5.9	David	Additional revenue funding in discussion with Wanda
5.10	Craig	Follow up unsafe verges at Farness
5.17	All	Speeding issues
5.20	All	SCIO's - discuss at next meeting
5.21	Diane and Jeremy	Community Funding
5.24	Jeremy	Speak to John Wood /Transition Black Isle about energy saving on street lights
7.2	Jeremy & Andrew	JP order red spray, AH contact school about posters
7.3	All	Respond to GP ref Windfarm Ballot Question
9.2	Vivienne	Amend collection tins with new Fund name

9.3	David	Check blue lights under Harbour bridge
10.1	Jeremy	Contact Anne Short following power cut discussions
10.4	Jeremy	Follow up on information about Town tractor
10.5	Jeremy	Post information about the Links closure to vehicles
11	Gabriele	Respond to HC website survey
12.1	Jeremy and Estelle	Letter to Post office about service interruption
12.3	Craig	Update members informed of Black Isle Wildlife Trail
12.4	Jeremy	Follow up on 30/30 suggestion
12.5	Jeremy & Diane	Post notice on CL about volunteer for prescription run and Diane to liaise with patient groups
12.6	Gabriele & Vivienne	GP email pothole poster to VP for C&DCC noticeboard

Appendix A

Agenda item no 4.1

Police report for Dec and the start of Jan.

CROMARTY

1 Road accident.

1 Person charged road traffic offences (Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme)

1 Animal call.

1 Person charged in relation disorder.

As you can see quiet month for the area. The command area is now focusing on speed checks in the Black Isle so I will ensure that members of my shift will carry them out on the Denny Road as this has previously been highlighted as an issue.

Appendix B
Agenda Item 8.1

Cromarty & District Community Council

Committee Meeting 12th January 2015

Agenda Item 8 - Victoria Hall Report

1. Bookings for 2015 look very healthy. The calendar is full and a number of booking requests from prospective new users have had to be declined. The Hall is now in use every day of the week and for those with relevant New Year resolutions, we now have two Pilates and two Fitness classes each week!

ACTION - Information only, no action required.

2. All the original banners have now been received by the families. We have received thanks and many generous comments about the new replacements which have also been visited by some of the families.

ACTION - Information only, no action required.

3. It had been hoped to give Members a 3rd quarter financial report but with power cuts and subsequent broadband problems, this has not been possible.

ACTION - Information only, no action required.

4. Attached to this report is a Regular User update that will shortly (broadband allowing!) be circulated to all of the Hall's main local users.

ACTION - Information only, no action required.

5. The fire exit door in the kitchen has to undergo emergency repairs due to damage in recent high winds. **The VHMC would like to publicly thank Alan Shaw for 'saving the day' when he responded without hesitation or delay in our hour of need.**

ACTION - Information only, no action required.

6. Youth Café Report - Not available due to power cut and broadband problems.

ACTION - Information only, no action required.

Vivienne Plampton

Appendix C

Agenda item 8.2

TO ALL REGULAR VICTORIA HALL USERS

Welcome to 2015 and hopefully yet another successful year.

Hopefully everyone is appreciating all the refurbishment work that was completed in the Hall during 2014. However it is important that all users respect this considerable investment so that we can continue to keep the Hall rental charges at the subsidised low levels that have now been maintained for many years.

The management of the Hall is done on a voluntary basis so it is essential that all users help by making sure that the running of the Hall is as smooth as possible. Most users already know what needs to happen when using the Hall, and we thank you for continuing to give us your support, but we have listed below a few reminders to assist users in their continued help in managing the Hall.

CHAIRS

Following our last Health & Safety audit, we have had to arrange the storage of chairs in a more organised fashion. There are already notices up in the kitchen and the main hall explaining the system but the principle is fairly simple.

1. When moving the chairs please use the trolley provided. Never more than 6 at a time. Dragging without the trolley will damage the recently resurfaced floor.
2. 48 chairs are stored in the main hall. 24 in each of the two indicated corners. 4 piles with six chairs in each. Position with the backs outwards so that the trolley can access the pile without having to turn the pile and thereby risk damaging the floor.
3. Apart from 12 chairs in the meeting room and a few in the upstairs ladies cloakroom, all the other chairs should again be in piles of 6 in the area at the end of the kitchen, along with the two table trolleys. Again leave the backs facing outwards for easier trolley access and make sure that there is nothing blocking the space between the two sets of fire exit doors.

HEATING

Obviously as the heating is preset to your bookings there may well be occasions when the weather is mild and it is too warm in the Hall. Of course, if this happens, users are welcome to turn any or all radiators down. However it is essential, for the benefit of fellow Hall users, that you then turn the radiators back up to the maximum settings at the end of your session. The system is balanced to having the radiators on the highest setting and to alter this may well affect the comfort of the next Hall user.

BOOKINGS

The Hall is proving to be a very popular venue and, with very few spare dates, we are now disappointing many potential users. It is therefore essential that we have your booking forms in as early as possible. We receive enquires over a year ahead so it is never too early to confirm your future sessions. The rule has to be that until the booking form has been received, and confirmed by email from us, a date cannot be guaranteed as being in the diary. Thank you to those regular users who have been flexible over some of their dates so that we have been able to accommodate an important booking we were keen to accept. Invoicing at the end of month seems to work well but please can we

emphasise that it is very important any cheques are made payable to “C&DCC-VHMC”, as requested on the invoice, with the invoice number on the cheque reverse. If paying by cash please assist with the invoice number on the envelope. Also those with internet banking can pay by transfer (with the invoice number as reference).

VICTORIA PARK

The Park is not part of the Hall and is separately managed by Highlife Highland (formerly part of the Highland Council) at the Fortrose Leisure Centre. If you require use of the Park on its own or as part of your Hall booking you need to contact them direct. Of course we realise that some Hall users do wish to use the Park for vehicle access when delivering or collecting goods as part of your Hall booking. However users must respect that the condition of the Park surface might not be suitable for any vehicle access. If in doubt, please do not attempt to take vehicles on to the grass. Severe damage can be caused, as happened before Christmas when a user took two cars on a very wet and muddy Park. This must not happen and if not respected could result in the Highland Council refusing to allow the C&DCC to continue using the Hall.

SMOKING

The Hall is a strictly Non-Smoking building. It is illegal to smoke on any part of the premises. Smokers should go outside, away from the building and also make sure they do not cause any littering with cigarette ends etc. We realise this may be inconvenient when the weather is inclement but it is simply not acceptable to smoke next to an open door. Users are responsible for their members and if any user group continues to flout this law then they are likely to lose their booking as the C&DCC could become liable to prosecution.

KITCHEN

Included in the refurbishment work, the kitchen was redecorated, had new lighting fitted and now has an upgraded cooker in place. As a result, and following a user suggestion, there is now a register that must be completed if you use the cooker and/or the heated trolley. Even if you are using an outside group to do catering, you as the user are responsible for the register's completion. In this way we can all help to keep the equipment in a clean and hygienic condition.

Lastly, especially in the recent high winds, it is essential that users make sure external doors are held firmly and not allowed to swing freely. We have already lost the rear kitchen fire exit door, which has had to be repaired, as a gust of wind, with its sheer, force completely snapped in half one door on the outside brickwork! Please be vigilant.

Thank you for all your support.
Victoria Hall Management Committee
January 2015

Appendix D
Agenda item 9.1

<u>Finance Report – Cromarty & District Community Council</u>				
<u>Agenda Item No 9 - Treasurer's Report</u>				
<u>Period: 8th to 31st December 2014</u>				
<u>General Income</u>				
Less:				
<u>General Expenditure</u>				
Secretarial Services - December meeting	£	50.00		
Dog Poo Bin Repair	£	6.99		
Increase/(Decrease) in Accumulated Fund		£(56.99)		
<u>Fund Income</u>				
Monday Lunch Club - HC Benevolent Fund Donation	£	33.00		
Less:				
<u>Fund Expenditure</u>				
Monday Lunch Club - Cromarty Arms December	£	182.00		
Splash & Dash Fund - G Macleod Sundry Expenses	£	954.54		
Increase/(Decrease) in Other Funds		£(1,103.54)		
<u>Net Assets</u>				
Accounts Receivable @ 31.12.14	£	392.67	HC re Snow Plough Insurance	
Accounts Payable @31.12.14				
Bank & Cash in hand balances as @ 31.12.14	£	11,023.85		
Total Net Assets at 31st December 2014		£11,416.52		
<u>Comprising:</u>				
Community Council Accumulated Fund	£	1,895.54		
Provision for Guide Book reprinting	£	717.50	287 sold at £2.50 cost =	£ 717.50
Seaplane Plinth Fund	£	820.13		
Bonfire Night Fund	£	1,685.52		
Splash & Dash Fund	£	591.20		
Monday Club Fund	£	1,099.30		
Lonna's Lights Fund	£	208.00		
Gala Day Fund	£	4,399.33		
		£11,416.52		
Vivienne Plampton 12.01.15				

Appendix E
Agenda Item 13

Planning Report

New Planning Applications

None

Update on Planning applications

14/03933/FUL I Erection of shed I New Schoolhouse Braehead Cromarty IV11 8XR-
Permission Granted

Out of area Planning applications

None

Appendix F
Agenda Item 7.3

C&DCC's response to Martin Sherring, Black Isle Community Energy Project

We have discussed this at the Cromarty and District Community Council meeting last week and would like to make the following comments regarding the ballot arrangements:-

1. The ballot question itself is vague and does not provide residents with relevant information. We would like to see the number of turbines, height and specific location to be included on the ballot paper.
2. We feel that a background information sheet should not be issued as part of the ballot process itself. The ballot letter and question must be entirely neutral and factual and be seen to be so. Any information sheet coming from your organization or anyone associated with the development might not be seen in that light.

