



# CROMARTY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 25 May 2015  
in the Hugh Miller Institute

MINUTES  
APPROVED  
29.6 2015

## Present

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

**Youth Representative:**

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

**Police Scotland:**

**Member(s) of the public:** 30 members of the public

**Community Council Minute Secretary:** Gillian McNaught

1	<b><u>Chairman's Welcome</u></b> JP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to the numbers present, agenda item number 8, The Cromarty/Nigg Ferry would be moved up the agenda to item no 3.	
1.1	<b><u>Apologies:</u></b> Niamh McCann (NM), PC Calum Reid(CR), Police Scotland.	
2	<b><u>Approval of previous Minutes 27th April 2015</u></b>	
2.1	GP asked that it be included in the minutes that further correspondence had been received from John Wood regarding the High Street flower beds and this was ongoing.	
2.2	Approved by GP and seconded by EQ.	
3	<b><u>Cromarty/Nigg Ferry</u></b> JP acknowledged the members of the public who had turned out to share concern about the withdrawal of the Cromarty/Nigg Ferry service and introduced David Alston(DA), Highland Councillor and Harbour Trust Trustee and Tom Henderson(TH), owner of the ferry. JP asked that the discussion be constructive and any points be addressed through the Chair.	
3.1	DA was first asked to outline the background from the point of view of the Harbour Trust, and explained in detail the Trustees' safety concerns of the ferry harbour berth and their decision that it could no longer be used. DA pointed out that another operator may be able to use another part of the harbour structure and that alternative solutions had been offered. The Harbour, including the reinforced concrete structure was also Grade A listed and so was a major consideration for improvements. The Trust has actively been seeking someone to assist with funding streams for harbour refurbishment and repairs. It was suggested that the Trust could look to employ a professional fundraiser for this purpose.	(cont)

3.1 (cont)	DA repeated the Harbour Trust's commitment to finding a solution and also to provide funding towards a swing mooring.	
3.2	<p>Tom Henderson (TH) expressed thanks for the invitation to the meeting and outlined the options offered for alternative berthing arrangements and why these were not in his opinion practical for the ferry.</p> <p>(1) a <b>tidal berth</b> was wholly unsuitable</p> <p>(2) The <b>V of the harbour</b> behind the sheds is in bad condition, offers poor tying up conditions and is a potentially dangerous, open approach</p> <p>(3) a <b>swing mooring</b> out from the harbour would be satisfactory in fine conditions, but may present problems in bad weather. The unsuitability of the Cromarty Queen's design for a swing mooring could compromise crew safety and it would also require a permanent reserved berth in the event of emergency, which so far no one has been able to commit</p>	
3.3	<p>Several representatives of businesses were present and offered their views. Special mention was made of the impact to foot passengers and cyclists, the crossing being part of the National Cycle Network. A number of interested parties made suggestions of alternative options and many questions were asked of the principal parties. Several other qualified people made salient comments about technical issues, engineering matters and other relevant points.</p> <p>After much discussion, it was agreed that a working party made up of members of the public present and including CF, DA and TH (independent of the C&amp;DCC), would work together and look at a constructive way forward and report back to the next meeting of the C&amp;DCC.</p> <p>JP thanked those who had come to attend and he in turn was thanked for his able chairing of this part of the meeting. All members of the public left.</p>	
4	<p><b><u>Youth Issues</u></b></p> <p>No report this month</p>	
5	<p><b><u>Police Report</u></b></p> <p>There was nothing of note to report up until 14th May, the next report will cover the remainder of May and June up to the next meeting.</p>	
5.1	<p>PC Calum Reid has seen some of the data from the recent speed check but he has not yet ascertained whether this can be shared with the C&amp;DCC. JP spoke with the original Inspector who had been misinformed about the 12 week period (Ref: minutes 27.4.2015, item 4.1). There is currently enough data to ensure Cromarty is visited regularly by Police and this will feed to HC to inform them of potential traffic calming measures.</p>	

6	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b>	
6.1	(3.5 Compile notice about Links closure for C&DCC noticeboard). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.2	(4.1 Contact Police Inspector regarding data box on the Denny). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.3	(4.1 Remind PC Calum Reid in September about Natal event). <b>Ongoing.</b>	GP
6.4	(4.1 Post on CL website appeals for information from Police Reports.) Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.5	(5.1 Report back on progress of replacement basketball hoop). Followed up. <b>Ongoing.</b>	VP
6.6	(5.2 Follow up with damaged bus timetable notice board). CF sent email asking this to be done. <b>Ongoing.</b>	CF
6.7	(5.6 Take photographs of verges and uprooted trees at Farness). Pictures taken and passed to CF. <b>Ongoing.</b>	CF
6.8	(5.9.Follow up community funding from Global). <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.9	(5.10 Follow up with Transition Black Isle to discuss energy saving on street lights). JP followed up and TBI have taken on board. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.10	(5.14 Compile news item and include link to HC planning for CL website as discussed). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.11	(7.1 Update Portfolio List). Will be completed after AGM. <b>Ongoing.</b>	GM
6.12	(7.2 Research replacement Hospital Road sign). DA awaiting a quote. <b>Ongoing.</b>	DA
6.13	(8.1 Note suggested upgrades to leads and PA at Victoria Hall). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.14	(9.1 Browse Cromarty Booklet for suggested changes). <b>Ongoing.</b>	VP & All
6.15	(9.1 Inform Kenny MacFarlane of Lunch Club figures). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.16	(9.3 Apply to Ward Budget for Quickbooks accounts updates funding). Members <b>agreed</b> C&DCC would contribute half the total cost with the remainder coming from the HC Ward Budget. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.17	(10.1 Look at a 30/30 group to help tidy up links). <b>Ongoing.</b>	JP & CF

6.18	(10.1 Look at possible re-use of traffic mirror for junction at Barkly Street). CF had spoken to the school contractors. <b>Ongoing.</b>	CF
6.19	(10.1 Follow up on new bin at Marine Terrace). <b>Ongoing.</b>	CF
6.20	(10.1 Follow up with HC on strimming on Miler Road). has been put in the HC list. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.21	(10.2 Email members with figures from Monday Lunch Club). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.22	(10.2 Draft a letter to confirm Jeremy as Chair of C&DCC). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.23	(12.1 Contact Ronald Young about a defibrillator for Cromarty). JP reported that there are already two defibrillators in Cromarty; one in the Doctors' Surgery and one with the First Responders. <b>Discharged.</b>	
6.24	(12.5 Attend the meeting on Whitedykes). Both meetings postponed. <b>Discharged.</b>	
7	<b><u>Gaelic Chapel</u></b>  Ongoing.	DA & CF
8	<b><u>Community Councillors' Portfolios-review/update</u></b>  None.	
9	<b><u>Victoria Hall and Youth Cafe Reports</u></b>  9.1 VP circulated the Victoria Hall report prior to the meeting. (Appendix A).	
10	<b><u>Treasurer's Report</u></b>  10.1 VP circulated the Treasurer's report prior to the meeting. (Appendix B).	
11	<b><u>Highland Councillors' Reports</u></b>  11.1 <b><u>Craig Fraser</u></b>  Help is required to move stones and debris on the links so that the contractor can mow right to the edge of the shore and the banking on Braehead. (see item 6.17)	JP & CF
12	<b><u>Cromarty Residents' Association update</u></b>  12.1 Sarah Jane Wilson was unable to attend but reported that the new heating installations in Townlands are going well.	

13	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An email received from Michael Gallagher, Member of Coupar Angus &amp; Bendochy Community Council, who has set up a Facebook group called Scotland's Community Councillors Chewin' the Fat.</li> <li>• An email from Mr Tim Pearson with a brief update on a possible broadband project given that the BT solution is not going to help a lot of people.</li> </ul> <p>1. I met with AB internet - currently providing services to some parts of Ferintosh - expressed interest in expanding along the Firth, but they still seem to have no local people.</p> <p>2. Mike Hicks (Black Isle Broadband) local provider covers much of Cromarty CC area already continues to grow as a straight commercial offering.</p> <p>3. Together with Ferintosh CC I met with an ex BT consultant who wanted us to look at lobbying for more BT roll out in the area - but he offered no more reason than we have previously seen.</p> <p>4. David Fraser and Myself met with HIE/Community Broadband Scotland earlier this month - we now have a new contact there which is good as previously they were overloaded. They were very upbeat about our proposal and encouraged us to move forward.</p> <p>5. The next steps are (i) register a not for profit company (ii) send out a questionnaire. Both being worked on.</p> <p>6. Still looking for one or two local people to help - ideally with skills in finance or technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email from Liz Whiteford, Highland LEADER Development Officer regarding the Highland Leader 2014-2020 programme and local Area Partnerships and seeking members to form the Inner Moray firth North LAP Steering Group.</li> </ul> <p>JP had circulated this to some local businesses and will follow up as the deadline is June 8th.</p>	JP
14	<p><b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <p>Jon Palmer re-joined the meeting to raise two points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He read out a letter he had written detailing the impact the ferry service withdrawal will have on the local economy. Members agreed it was worth sending these important points to the Director of Planning and Infrastructure.</li> <li>• Jon raised the issue of possible alternative areas to the links as a camping space and one or two suggestions were made that could be followed up.</li> </ul>	
15	<p><b><u>Planning</u></b></p> <p>The planning report was not circulated prior to the meeting because the HC e-planning website was down. <i>Secretary's note: this was subsequently circulated and is attached.</i> (Appendix C).</p>	
16	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p><b>Monday 29th June 2015, Hugh Miller Institute, Church Street, Cromarty. AGM @ 7 pm followed by C&amp;DCC meeting @ 7.30pm</b></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	Craig and David	To meet with working party and TH to look at Cromarty/ Nigg Ferry issue
6.3	Gabriele	Remind PC Calum Reid in September about Natal event
6.5	Viviene	Report back on progress of replacement basketball hoop
6.6	Craig	Follow up with damaged bus timetable notice board
6.7	Craig	Follow up on Farness Road
6.11	Gillian	Update Portfolio List after AGM
6.12	David	Update meeting on replacement Hospital Road sign
6.14	All	Browse Cromarty Booklet for suggested changes
6.17	Craig & Jeremy	Look at a 30/30 group to help tidy up links
6.18	Craig	Report back on traffic mirror for Braehead
10.1	Craig	Follow up on new bin at Marine Terrace
13	Jeremy	Follow up on LEADER email to local businesses

### Appendix A Agenda item no 9.1

#### Cromarty & District Community Council

#### Committee Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015

#### Agenda Item 9 - Victoria Hall Report

1. Strong bookings for the next 12 months. Since the refurbishment of the Hall was started two years ago, Hall revenues have risen by over 20%.

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

2. No further news on the Licence to Occupy renewal. Still currently with Di Agnew.

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

3. The security lighting on the Park side of the Hall has again been damaged by continued climbing on to the kitchen roof. It seems that stepping on the wiring is

favourite way to get on to the roof. Repairs have been instructed with the intention of protecting the wiring from such future abuse. Unfortunately this will increase the repair cost.

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

4. Following the intended change of Treasurer to the C&DCC at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, the Hall's finances will be separated from the administration. The existing structure for running the Hall via the Victoria Hall Management Committee will remain in place until the Community Council elections in November with the addition of the new Treasurer to the VHMC. During this 5 month period, the VHMC will try to separate the bookings work from the Day to Day running of the Hall. By splitting this work it is hoped that the VHMC will be able to attract suitable candidates to continue the running of the Hall after November. It is hoped that by the July meeting of the C&DCC, progress on this separation will have been commenced.

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

5. Youth Café Report - No update since last meeting. However it has been agreed that following the AGM, the C&DCC Treasurer will no longer be expected to manage the Youth Café's finances. This work will now be undertaken by the Youth Café's Treasurer who will then supply figures to the C&DCC's Treasurer for their continued inclusion in the annual audited C&DCC accounts.

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

Vivienne Plampton

**Appendix B**  
**Agenda item 10.1**

<b><u>Finance Report – Cromarty &amp; District Community Council</u></b>			
<b><u>Agenda Item No 10 - Treasurer's Report</u></b>			
<b><u>Period: 26th April to 24th May 2015</u></b>			
<b><u>General Income</u></b>			
Publications Income - Guide Book Sales	£	144.50	
Less:			
<b><u>General Expenditure</u></b>			
Secretarial Services - April meeting	£	50.00	
Print Post & Stationery - Photocopying re Links	£	2.40	
Subscriptions & Fees - Data Protection Act Annual Fee	£	35.00	
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Accumulated Fund</b>		<b>£57.10</b>	
<b><u>Fund Income</u></b>			
Less:			
<b><u>Fund Expenditure</u></b>			
Monday Lunch Club - Cromarty Arms April	£	245.00	
Monday Lunch Club - Cromarty Arms May	£	113.00	
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Other Funds</b>		<b>£(358.00)</b>	
<b><u>Net Assets</u></b>			
Accounts Receivable @ 24.05.15	£	59.50	Guide Book Sales (HMI & Emporium)
Accounts Payable @ 24.05.15			
Bank & Cash in hand balances as @ 24.05.15	£	10,074.12	
<b>Total Net Assets at 24th May 2015</b>		<b>£10,133.62</b>	
<b><u>Comprising:</u></b>			
Community Council Accumulated Fund	£	1,354.09	
Provision for Guide Book reprinting	£	1,122.50	449 sold at £2.50 cost = £1,122.50
Seaplane Plinth Fund	£	820.13	
Bonfire Night Fund	£	1,685.52	
Splash & Dash Fund	£	739.72	
Monday Club Fund	£	2.80	
Community Christmas Fund	£	9.53	
Gala Day Fund	£	4,399.33	
		<b>£10,133.62</b>	
Vivienne Plampton 24.05.15			

**Appendix C**  
**Agenda Item 15**

**New Planning Applications**

15/01765/AGR | Erection of agricultural building (Prior notification) | Navity Farm Cromarty IV11 8XY- Awaiting decision

15/01639/FUL | Erection of summerhouse, formation of opening in boundary wall, and erection of fences and gates | Harbour View 4 Coastguard George Street Cromarty IV11 8YL- Awaiting decision

15/01272/FUL | Part demolition of gable of extension (Planning Permission) | Townlands Barn High Street Cromarty- Awaiting decision

15/01157/LBC | Part demolition of gable of extension (Listed Building) | Townlands Barn High Street Cromarty- Awaiting decision

**Up date on Planning Applications**

15/00775/FUL | Erection of replacement outbuilding | Struy House 16 Church Street Cromarty IV11 8XA- Granted