



CROMARTY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED
25th February 2013

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 28th January 2013 in the Emporium, High Street, Cromarty

Community Councillors Ronald Young (Chair), Julie Penwright, Vivienne Plampton, Anne Short, Gabriele Pearson, Andrew Hulse,
Highland Councillors: Craig Fraser
Community Council Minute Secretary: Jeremy Price
Youth Representatives: Paige Shepherd
Police Representative: PC Donald McNeil
Representative from Global Energy – Alastair Kennedy

Three members of the public were also present

Item	Details	Action
1	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome</u></p> <p>Ronald welcomed everyone present to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from David Alston and PC Darren Williams</p>	
2	<p><u>Approval of previous minutes</u></p> <p>These were agreed as accurate subject to a change to item 6 at the request of Craig.</p> <p>Proposed: Anne Short Seconded: Gabriele Pearson</p>	
3	<p><u>Youth issues</u></p> <p>3.1 Paige reported on a number of issues including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cromarty Youth Café classes back to normal – dancing, shinty, chanter – and all are well attended. 2. Youth café continues to run on Monday and Wednesday evenings and it recently had 2 busy sessions with a professional rugby coach 3. 3 Young Leaders are doing a Day in Sports leadership award 4. Liver Lifestyle Dance Project – a number of local youths are going on a skiing trip to Aviemore to recognise their achievement over 12 weeks 5. Another Getting To Know Techno 6-week course is running for older people and the feedback is very positive 6. Fusion events continue once a month at Fortrose Leisure Centre 	

3.2	Paige was delighted to report that her brother received a new laptop thanks to the support from Black Isle Need to Play funding. She thanked Wanda for her support and also Argos for donating a bag, mouse, anti-virus software and speakers. He is delighted with the computer and it will help immensely with his needs.	
3.3	Paige asked three questions about the boat service from Cromarty to Nigg: A) whether it would be possible to extend the service to cover shifts which run 7-7 days and nights. She said workers from Cromarty have a 600 mile trip every 7 days. B) Could Global Energy subsidise or offer a small boat service as the yard grows by utilising a service boat as a passenger boat? C) With the new harbour berthing work at Nigg could a small pontoon be built so boat owners or a boat service could access the slip?	
3.4	The questions were asked in the hope that an increased service taking account of the shifts would be a catalyst for increasing the number of workers travelling via Cromarty and also lodging, renting and buying property in the town. It would also boost the economy of the town and provide a safe, reliable service for employees and employers alike.	
3.5	Ronald and Alastair were able together to give a comprehensive answer about the cost, subsidies to the ferry and licence it has for 4 months a year. Global does not have boats taking more than 12 people in any event. Ronald said the pier was privately owned but in a rather dilapidated state and needed refurbishment to be allowed passenger traffic and the slip was owned by Cromarty Estate and also needed improvements.	
3.6	They said that in an ideal world this would be a wonderful idea but the reality is that only 4 people in Cromarty work at Nigg. Ronald could not see funding – either public or private – being found for it.	
3.7	Alastair said that Global Energy was talking to Highland Council to discuss possible subsidies to improve the ferry service to take account of shifts but he could not rule this in or out as it was at an early stage. He felt that it would need looking at when employment increased in the yard so that some idea of costs could be obtained.	
3.8	Vivienne asked if shifts could change. It was pointed out that the shifts work alongside the North Sea industrial norms and there is a reason for them running in parallel for handover purposes.	
3.9	The issue of buses was then raised in relation to a stop being found in Bayview Crescent near the West Church as Paige reported some people were surprised the drivers refused to stop there. Ronald said, as had been minuted in previous meetings, that the unofficial stop was at the discretion of the driver. No official stop existed and there was no requirement for the bus to stop there for passengers to alight or embark.	
3.10	Paige asked if, during the road works on the Kessock Bridge, if Kessock could be removed as a stop on the Cromarty route to save time. It was agreed that Andy would email Steve Walker to see if this was possible. Sec's note: this has been done and a response received within 2 days to the effect that this idea has been taken up and the timetable published to show the removal of Kessock from the Cromarty service. Full response is at Appendix A.	AH
3.11	Paige asked about the state of the graveyard and when it was likely to get some attention. Julie said that she and Anne would be meeting with Ricky McNabb prior to the grass cutting season starting to discuss the work schedules.	

4	<u>Police Report</u>	
4.1	Ronald welcomed PC Donald McNeil who introduced himself and said he would be the police liaison officer for Cromarty as PC Williams was now permanently transferred to Inverness. He said it would be easier in the long term for continuity if he took the role liaising with the council.	
4.2		
4.3	Donald alluded to the changes in Scotland with the forces merging into a single force and said it was not possible to say what the impact would be until it had been running a while.	
4.4	He covered the problem of speeding locally and said he'd chase up the loose ends from the last meeting about getting better coverage in terms of checks. Ronald said he'd noticed that measurement devices had been installed in Denny Road. These were to obtain a record of average speeds for future action.	
4.5	Donald then updated the meeting about changes to the Dingwall station opening times which, from 1 st April 2013, would go to 8am – 8pm. It would not affect operational cover, just the front office opening hours.	
4.6	He also said that from the end of February it was likely Scotland would move to a system of a single number for non-emergency calls to the police. It would be 101 and the exchange would automatically route the call to the appropriate area's staff to deal with. Each call would cost 15p, regardless of the length of time the caller was on the line.	
4.7	Donald then covered the reports and incidents relating to Cromarty and the area. He said there had been 70 in the last month, over half of which were routine calls such as night shooting and gave some details of other more serious incidents such as domestic assaults, thefts and a break in. He said there had been a theft of heating oil out towards Culbokie.	
4.8	Gabriele referred to the two cars reported as apparently abandoned. Donald said that one was being moved and the other had been reported to Protective Services at Highland Council for any necessary action.	
4.9	Ronald showed the meeting a photograph of fly tipping at Eathie and asked Donald what could be done. He said removal from private land was the landowner's responsibility but if it was Highland Council land, Protective Services should be advised via TEC Services.	
4.10	Julie asked how school visits by police could be arranged now that PC Williams had left. Donald said that every school has a designated officer now and he believed the officer should have been in contact with Henri Shepherd already to arrange this.	
4.11	Alastair Kennedy asked, through the Chair, about Community Speedwatch schemes in Scotland. He believed one was operating in Renfrewshire and asked if there were plans for the Highlands. Donald said he was not aware of the scheme running here at the moment.	
4.12	Ronald thanked Donald for coming and said he looked forward to seeing him in the future.	

5	<u>Guest – Alastair Kennedy from Global Energy</u>	
5.1	Ronald Welcomed Alastair and thanked him for attending.	
5.2	Alastair then gave a summary of activity and events currently underway at Nigg.	
5.3	As an overview, he said Global Energy bought Nigg Energy Park about a year ago and have been investing considerably in the enterprise. The renewable side was developing slower than the oil, gas and nuclear elements.	
5.4	Alastair said that the proposed wind turbine development alongside the large sheds would not be happening now. It was unlikely that the anemometer would go ahead, too. Due to a lack of space in the park, it was an unrealistic and impractical project and had been shelved.	
5.5	He said the dry dock had been very busy. After the current rig has gone (this week) another is scheduled in for three months, followed by an FPSO – a floating oil tanker/rig combination. There is work scheduled in to the end of 2013/early 2014.	
5.6	Some contracts from Invergordon had been taken at Nigg Energy Park and 400 skilled staff were currently being sought. There had been over 1,000 applicants to date.	
5.7	The Energy Park itself has had £12m spent upgrading it already. A road was currently being constructed and the workshops were being shotblasted and repainted. These could be used for the nuclear industry. Alastair confirmed that this work did not involve nuclear material, just work on the associated ships, etc. The other workshops would be used for other purposes when they had been finished.	
5.8	There was other work taking place. For example, welding schools would be on site. The main gate is being refurbished.	
5.9	Moorings for rigs and other vessels were being made and the concreting of the base of the dry dock was underway.	
5.10	Accommodation units for 107 people had been built for staff from the rigs when they are in dry dock, but not to the detriment of local B & Bs, hotels and other accommodation.	
5.11	He said that the construction work on site was being done by local contractors which gave a local benefit. Up to 800 workers were on site when the rigs were in.	
5.12	Alastair said that the firm believed there were gains to be made developing the renewables side of the enterprise.	
5.13	Alastair then gave an overview of the Skills Academy and gave figures of the numbers of apprentices – 103 in the first year and 40 training for work. Vivienne asked how many of these were from the Black Isle. Alastair could not answer that immediately and said he would try and find the answer. [Sec’s note: this is the reply received]:	
5.14	Just to confirm in the first pilot year of the Nigg Skills Academy there will be 105 trainees commenced their Modern Apprenticeship and National Certificate with us and out of this there were 51 trainees from the Ross-shire area and 5 of these from the Black Isle. It is also right to point out that there were over 4,000 applications to gain entry and they are being tested and gaining selection on the basis of first come first served and so this must also be taken into account. It is also right to point out the vast majority of trainees were from the Highlands.	
5.15	He said that Global Energy was conscious of the need to do more for young people.	

<p>5.16</p> <p>5.17</p> <p>5.18</p> <p>5.19</p> <p>5.20</p> <p>5.21</p> <p>5.22</p>	<p>Anne asked about opportunities for graduates and Alastair said that this would be approached via the academy but it was full at present and they had to deal with those in the system. He said that employers had to be convinced to take on apprentices as they had to pay them from day 1 when they were in training post attending the academy. They would be looking to improve graduate and placement opportunities.</p> <p>Alastair said that Global Energy was going to talk to schools and academies locally to give them background in oil and gas and renewables.</p> <p>In response to a question about the application for a scoping study for a new pier/wet dock area, he said that this was in the early stages and was too early to make any meaningful comment but there were plans to develop the south dock area. It would be a huge and costly project which is at the embryonic stage at present.</p> <p>Alastair gave more information about the possibility of other firms expanding into the park, the increase in training to multi-skill and upgrade the skills of the workforce and the extension of skills training in working at heights.</p> <p>Alastair went on to say he was meeting with BT/HIE/HC to improve connectivity to the park and get fibre-optics and an exchange installed which could benefit Cromarty and the Black Isle. He was also keen to improve the mobile network coverage for the area and offered to make a case for Cromarty at the meetings. Council applauded this offer and Alastair will report back in due course.</p> <p>In conclusion, Alastair said that Global Energy was a young company which was locally based and investing heavily in the Energy Park to benefit the local community and economy as much as possible.</p> <p>Ronald thanked Alastair for coming and giving such a comprehensive summary of activity in Nigg Energy Park.</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p> <p>6.4</p> <p>6.5</p> <p>6.6</p> <p>6.7</p> <p>6.8</p>	<p><u>Matters arising from previous minutes</u></p> <p>(4.4 – speeding in Denny Road) This had been covered in the police report above.</p> <p>(5.2 – lights on multi-court) Paige has not reported back on this matter yet.</p> <p>(5.3 – catch on gate on Links) Ronald said he had yet to fit the new spring.</p> <p>(5.8 – fly tipping in Shore Road) Craig said the soil there was the council's.</p> <p>(5.9 – gates to walled garden) Anne had not heard from David yet.</p> <p>(5.10 – boats on Links) Ronald said the boat owner was going to remove his boat.</p> <p>(5.11 – railing in Bayview Road/Townlands Park) Craig had heard nothing yet and was escalating the report.</p> <p>(7.6 – dog fouling) Julie said she had produced some graphic posters to advertise the problem of dog fouling and was planning to highlight the issue with the use of temporary paint sprayed around mess. Coupled with advertising on Cromarty Live website, she hoped this would help owners to realise their responsibilities. She said the dog warden needed to catch someone and prosecute them or hand out a fixed penalty notice and people might then realise the seriousness of the issue.</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>RY</p> <p>DA</p> <p>CF</p>

<p>6.9</p> <p>6.10</p> <p>6.11</p> <p>6.12</p> <p>6.13</p>	<p>Julie said she wanted to involve the school in spreading the word and hoped that people would use the hotline to report irresponsible owners.</p> <p>She asked how Members would feel about purchasing poo bag dispensers which were installed elsewhere. The cost was around £70 plus refills which would be a revenue implication. After discussion, it was felt that the experience elsewhere was that some people took all the bags and it became expensive. Besides, free bags were available in three places in the town.</p> <p>(7.9 – potholes) Ian Hay had promised Anne that work would start repairing the potholes this week.</p> <p>(7.10 – securing dog waste bins) Julie said that Gordon Penwright had repaired the bin on the Reeds Park walk and it was successful so he would get out and repair the others in due course.</p> <p>(7.11 – Links management agreement) Julie said that Highland Council could not find the management agreement but said it had expired in any event. David was liaising with TEC Services to make a site inspection.</p>	<p>DA</p>
<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p>	<p><u>Vacancy on Community Council</u></p> <p>(This item was deferred until the end of the meeting and Diane Brawn who was present left the meeting at that point)</p> <p>Julie said that two applications had been received for the vacancy on the council and tabled the them.</p> <p>Members discussed the applications and agreed that both were very worthy candidates. The decision was taken to co-opt Diane Brawn on to the community council and to invite the second applicant to join as an associate member should they be interested.</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p>	<p><u>Gaelic Chapel</u></p> <p>The update was the same as at the last meeting – that Craig and David will be arranging a meeting with Jane Chisholm at THS Burns to progress the Gaelic Chapel Trust. David would be concentrating on the legal aspects and Craig would liaise with THS Burns, the solicitors. Craig said he hoped to see some progress before the next meeting and said he was about the make a news piece with BBC Alba about it.</p>	

9	<u>Review and update on Councillors' portfolios</u>	
9.1	Julie made a request to reduce the workload on her at present. Her portfolio responsibilities were getting rather onerous and she'd like to lighten the load somewhat.	
9.2	Julie said that she'd notice that several requests on several matters to staff at Highland Council were going in without any response whatsoever. She was disappointed at the lack of communication between HC staff and Community Councils and was concerned that issues may get lost.. She wanted to create a spreadsheet for members to update when they had made a formal request so the action or lack of action was formally recorded and could be tracked.	JP
9.3	Julie said that she had one quote for the trees on the Kirkie Brae but the War Memorial Fund insisted on two being obtained. She had been in contact with Dietrich Pannwitz who suggested that planning permission may well be necessary if any trees were protected. He was reluctant to give a quotation without knowing if a TPO is in force.	
9.4	Jeremy will contact Rachel Robertson who may have some information from the last time it was done. <i>[Sec's note: done. The response was that some of the larger trees would have needed permission but as they were rotten and a health and safety issue it was acceptable to remove them without application.</i>	JCNP
9.5	Andrew reported that he'd been to the Cromarty promotion meeting which he felt was very productive. There were two main ideas – a YouTube video and a new map of local businesses. There will be a follow-up meeting in February.	
9.6	Julie said it was important to try and get new signs to the public toilets for this year.	
9.7	Andrew said that there had been an offer from Highland Council to give some winter resilience money to local people who would assist in anything that needed to be done locally. He was going to speak to Bobby about grit bins.	
9.8	Gabriele reported that the Easter Ross Association of Community Councils is meeting on 5 th February and she is hoping to attend. Also, the Black Isle community councils group – the inaugural meeting – had taken place.	
9.9	The second had been well attended – 5 of the 7 councils being represented and some common issues being discussed. It was interesting to note the different relationships some councils had with Highland Council, particularly over matters of planning and the use of TEC Services. Julie, who had also been present, expressed her views on the substance of the meeting.	
9.10	There was to be a follow-up meeting in March to share the positives about what <u>does</u> work for each council and how it might help others improve. It was agreed to have an agenda item on the next meeting to discuss what Cromarty Community Council would like to achieve in this forum.	JCNP
9.11	Gabriele also said that CCC had been invited to the Cromarty Firth Stakeholders' Group on 31 st January but nobody could attend. She has asked to be included in their communications and hopes a representative can attend a future meeting.	
10	<u>Victoria Hall report</u>	
10.1	Vivienne read her report and the report of the Youth Café (both attached at appendix B)	

11	<u>Treasurer's report</u>	
11.1	Vivienne went through the report (attached at appendix C)	
12	<u>Highland Councillors' reports</u>	
12.1	Craig said he'd circulated details of the Roadex Trial to members. This was a methodology of creating a baseline for the state of drains and ditches and would be trialled in Lochaber and on the Black Isle. The link to more detailed information is: http://www.roadex.org/	
12.2	Craig said he was still concerned about the state of the A832 at the Fairy Glen and was waiting for an update on the road.	
12.3	He reported on the gullies which he said should have been cleared by now. Several were still blocked and the Little Vennel gully needed exploratory work as it did not seem to empty anywhere.	
12.4	Craig said the shore path and Reeds Path had been examined following the storm damage and he was awaiting an update. Jeremy said that it was clear from the plans that the Scottish Water pipe went under the path at the rear of Clunes House and the company needed to make a detailed inspection of the route. He said that Phillip Waite had indicated that he'd applied for £20k for repairs to the path and it had all gone in with the estimates for the other parts of the north east that had been hit by the storm.	
12.5	Craig said the Ladies' Walk step was still not repaired.	
12.6	Ronald asked Craig if he would follow up two issues. The first was the signage in Braehead for the school had still not been installed after some years of asking. Second was the terrible state of the school playground which needed immediate action. He asked if Bobby would be able to grit it where puddles form at times of low temperatures.	
12.7	One of the members of public asked Craig why the white lining had still not been done at Learnie Red Rock. Craig said he'd advised Members at the last meeting that it could not be done in this weather. The member of public said this was nonsense and there were plenty of examples of white lining being laid in winter. Craig will follow up with TEC Services.	CF

13	<u>Correspondence</u>	
13.1	Jeremy referred to an email from Highland Council about the integration of health and social care services and a meeting inviting interested parties on 8 th February.	
13.2	An email had been sent out to councils asking for comments on the Community Council Scheme. Julie agreed to contact Di Agnew to find out exactly what was required .	JP
13.3	Ross-shire Voluntary Action had asked if details of our contact could be included on their new database. This was agreed and Julie will fill in the form as contact.	
13.4	An email had been received from a member of public in Cromarty with reference to the apparent erosion of day care provision (see appendix D).	
13.5	The matter was discussed and Ronald and Julie gave some detailed history about the opening times and staffing of the provision. There was concern amongst Members that it seemed to be an erosion of provision by stealth and a consequent knock-on effect on the community and how it might make younger families reluctant to move to the area if no child-care was available at the times it was needed.	
13.6	Julie said that what CALA (Care and Learning Alliance) was now offering did not meet working parents' needs. The discussion centred on the hours, useage and facilities and what is required and the fact that there had been a lack of consultation when any changes were made to hours, etc.	
13.7	It was agreed the council should intervene. Anne will meet David Alston with representative parents to determine the way forward.	
13.8	A letter had been received from the Cromarty Childcare Centre asking if any funding might be available for speech and language therapy for early years. It was agreed that none was available from the community council but any possible funding from the discretionary fund or Middleton Trust or Acorns would need further discussion with David and Anne. Ronald and Julie will deal.	RY/JP
13.9	A letter had been received from Ferintosh CC asking if we would support their objections to the Ben Wyvis wind farm which will be visible, if permission is given, to around 100,000 people. A number of other community councils had joined the list of objectors and after some discussion it was agreed that Cromarty CC will be happy to be co-signatories to the objection letter. Julie to email and confirm this.	JP

14	<u>Any other business</u>	
14.1	<u>Facebook</u> Julie said that the Rosemarkie Facebook page was an interesting concept which was another way of disseminating information about the area and council business. There could be links to Cromarty Live, information about the poo-bin rota, council meetings, etc.,	
14.2	Jeremy was asked if he would look into how such a page for Cromarty could be set up.	JCNP
14.3	A request had been made about putting minutes on Cromarty Live in .pdf format as some residents did not have Microsoft Word or Open Office to read them. Gabrielle will speak with Kristina Dupar about the feasibility. <i>[Sec's note: Have liaised with Kristina and I will provide copies in both formats for the website.] Action discharged.</i>	GP
14.4	Concrete area at foot of Little Vennel. A letter had been sent with details of the Crow's Nest project in Stonehaven which livened up a similar drab area. A suggestion had been made for a similar project locally. The possibility of funding for an artist or school to undertake something was raised and this item will be brought up at the next meeting to discuss with David.	JCNP
15	<u>Date of next meeting</u>	
15.1	The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 25 th February 2013 at 7.30pm. The work has been completed on the Library so it will be held back at the Hugh Miller Institute.	
16	<u>Planning</u>	
	<i>Please note: the Highland Councillor did not participate in any planning related discussions and left the meeting for this agenda item.</i>	
16.1	Gabriele said the applications received this month had been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scoping study at Nigg (already discussed under item 5.18) Gabrielle said the other issues raised were:	
14.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The signs at Nigg on the sheds were still being investigated. • The shed erected at the front of the old schoolhouse on Braehead. Gabrielle said a letter had been sent by HC Planning Department about it • The application for wind turbines at Davidston had been reduced from 5 to three a few days before the hearing. It went to committee and was rejected by 7 votes to 5. There was still the possibility of an appeal within 3 months. 	
	The meeting concluded at 22.07 hrs. Ronald thanked everyone for their attendance.	

Good Morning

I am writing to you as a member of Cromarty Community Council. At a recent meeting we were asked what provisions were being implement Stagecoach to deal with the traffic issues that will arise because of the road works on the bridge.

One suggestion was regarding the possibility of moving the North Kessock stops to the 26 service rather than having them on the 26 A&C service. This would then reduce the travel for those travelling to and from Cromarty. I am not sure whether this would be a viable option though

Could you please give our Community Council an update of what provisions are being put in place so we can inform the community.

Kind Regards

Andrew

To: andyhulse@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Re: Cromarty Community Council
From: Steve.Walker@stagecoachbus.com
Date: Wed, 30 Jan 2013 14:51:50 +0000

Hi Andrew,

Thanks for your email. Attached is the revised timetable for when the bridge works is in operation.

You will note that we have adopted some of your suggestion in that the morning peak journeys going into Inverness have been removed from North Kessock to allow extra time and faster journey speeds. From what Transport Scotland are telling us through their modelling software, they believe that with the measures they are putting in place, with traffic light systems and bus lanes, that our services should be affected only slightly. Indeed in the evening peak they are predicting that our journey times will be as quick as current.

Hopefully this will be the case but we will be monitoring the situation closely and taking any immediate action if this is not the case

You will also be pleased to here that there are extra journeys added to service 26 with one extra in the morning peak into Inverness from Cromarty.

Let me know if there are any further questions.

Kind regards

Steve Walker
Managing Director
Stagecoach in the Highlands
1 Seafield Road
Inverness
IV1 1SG

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**Cromarty & District Community Council
Committee Meeting 28th January 2013
Agenda Item – Victoria Hall Report**

1. Victoria Hall finances remain stable and bookings for the winter period continue to look healthy. Cromarty Homestart Toddlers Group has successfully transferred to the Victoria Hall and their initial 6 week booking has now been extended all the way through to the summer holidays. In addition we have now taken a booking for a regular therapies day which will happen once a month on Fridays. This is as a result of the successful ‘taster’ sessions that have been running as part of the Community Market. For details see posters that will shortly be displaying in Cromarty with the first session on Friday 15th February.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

2. The Youth Cafe Assistant Youth Worker has now successfully completed his three month probationary period. Fraser’s latest report is attached below detailing his work since the last meeting.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

3. The Victoria Hall locks have now been changed and all regular users issued with new keys. This had become necessary for insurance purposes and hastened by some unscheduled entries into the Hall over the Christmas period by unknown persons who obviously had key access.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

4. Following their use in a local art display, the A4 versions of the Cromarty old folk banners displayed in the main hall may well soon be appearing at another display in a Scottish central belt NHS hospital. The necessary permissions are currently being obtained and more detail of this event will be reported at the next meeting.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

Vivienne Plampton

CROMARTY YOUTH CAFE

Assistant Youth Worker Report

10th January 2013

This is Fraser's 3rd month in post as Assistant Youth Worker.

Fraser has covered a lot of ground in the last 3 months; he is keen and always works very hard.

- Fraser works every week in the Cromarty Primary School offering 1 to1 mentoring with some pupils and assisting in a range of lunchtime activities, for the month of December he spent a lot of time helping young ones with Xmas Crafts for the Fayre and provided Football Skills and Games which were fully enjoyed by the 15 young lads taking part each week. From January he has begun with Badminton sessions but as of next week is starting Cross-Country.
- He plans and supports three nights a week at the Youth Café and also assists with the Shinty Class and Chanter which run each week.
- He helped plan and supported running the Tenants Ass'n Xmas party for all young people, setting up the grotto, doing lots of baking and on the day running all of the games which was fully appreciated by all.
- All of his activities have been enjoyed in both Senior and Junior Youth Cafés.
- He will be starting doing the new Youth work SVQ in the North Highland College and so will attend every Tues night. This course will run for 12 months and will compliment Fraser's work practice and his understanding of using all sorts of policies and the reasons why we use them.
- Fraser supports and attends number Community monthly meetings including the Cromarty Sports and Tennis Club, Townlands Together and the Heritage and Homes Project.
- Fraser helped deliver over 100 meals to young and older people in Cromarty as part of the Mince and Tatties Project which supported Young and older people in our Community in need of a little extra at Xmas time.
- Fraser worked with the Youth Café and the Chanter Class to design and create a Window on the World Project at Hugh Miller's Museum.
- Lots of planning and funding applications continue monthly.

Finance Report – Cromarty & District Community Council

Agenda Item - Treasurer’s Report

Period: 11th December 2012 to 28th January 2013

General Income

Less:

General Expenditure

Secretarial Services - January meeting	£	50.00
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Increase/(Decrease) in Accumulated Fund

£(50.00)

Fund Income

Splash & Dash - Cromarty Brewing Donation	£	130.00
Splash & Dash - HC Grant	£	500.00
Splash & Dash - General Public Donations	£	89.00
Lonna's Lights - Public Donations	£	40.70
Lonna's Lights - Dr Forth Bequest	£	261.29

Less:

Fund Expenditure

Splash & Dash Costs	£	263.95
Cromarty Arms Inn - December lunches	£	149.50
Dr Forth Bequest - Lonna's Lights	£	261.29
Play Equipment Fund - Highland Council	£	9,170.57

Increase/(Decrease) in Other Funds

£(8,824.32)

Net Assets

Accounts Receivable @ 28.01.2013 - (1)	£	382.00
Accounts Payable @ 28.01.2013	£	-
Bank & Cash in hand balances as @ 28.01.2013	£	10,093.14
Total Net Assets at 28th January 2013	£	10,475.14

Comprising:

Community Council Accumulated Fund	£	1,896.36
Provision for Guide Book reprinting - (2)	£	425.00
Seaplane Plinth Fund	£	820.13
Bonfire Night Fund	£	468.84
Splash & Dash (formerly Cromarty 2007) Fund	£	761.92
Dr Forth's Bequest Fund	£	0.00
Monday Club Fund	£	899.30
Play Equipment Fund	£	-
Lonna's Lights Fund	£	3.19
Gala Day Fund	£	300.40
Homes & Heritage Project Fund	£	4,900.00
	£	10,475.14

- (1) – Highland Council insurance refund
(2) – 170 sold at £2.50 cost = £425

Vivienne Plampton 28.01.2013

For consideration by Cromarty Community Council/ January 2013

Withdrawal of day-care provision for children in Cromarty.

As many are aware, CALA intimated before Christmas that as of January 2013, no day care would be available from the centre in Cromarty. That is, state funded pre school provision will continue, alongside after school club (for now) but no additional “wrap around” care will be available.

I am now alarmed at the lack of childcare available in our community and the barrier this may pose for inward migration to the community in the future.

I no longer need such childcare, but without it I would not have moved to Cromarty. I believe others will be deterred.

When I moved to Cromarty 7+ years ago, availability of local childcare was a key factor in selecting Cromarty as my home base.

At that time, only Cromarty and Strathpeffer were offering “rural” care outside Inverness.

As the financial climate continues to take effect and increasing flexibility is required, workers need support that allows them to engage as fully as possible in the workplace whilst also caring for any dependent children. This is particularly the case when working in town and living rurally, given travel times and even taking into account possibilities offered by mobile / off site working.

Of course, rural living is a lifestyle choice for many. However, without available childcare, rural living will not be an option for many that otherwise may choose such an environment and all that Cromarty has to offer.

As a relative newcomer I like many, use local services, purchase goods and add to the local economy. Restrictions to inward migration such as those posed by lack of childcare will limit this.

I am aware of anecdotal reports of families seeking and finding childcare outside Cromarty, which then leads to enrolment in pre-school and primary schooling outside the area. Whilst this is a familial choice, a decreasing school role will pose an increasing challenge in maintaining the kind of school provision we would like in the village. Working parents have no choice but to seek the childcare support they need wherever they can source it. This is not easily accessible in the north. I believe this will lead to fewer families being able to make the positive lifestyle choice of living in Cromarty and its surrounds.

As an aside I understand that any childcare provision has to operate on business terms. That being said I believe the CALA model in Cromarty was flawed. They applied an urban model in a rural setting which does not work (in my experience with health education related challenges). CALA needed greater flexibility and greater engagement with families. Interestingly, there was no parental (or I believe staff) involvement in their considerations prior to terminating day care in December 2012. I don't feel that there was a long term commitment to support this rural childcare provision from CALA. They will argue that need was not evident. I would suggest that need requires to be addressed in a different way.

So with all this being said, may I ask the Community Council to consider the impact of CALA's recent decision on the community and the potential for inward migration by families with child care needs in the future.

As a community can we think very laterally and consider inventive solutions to such a challenge?

Can any interest in local child minding be supported by access to a premise that is set up for child care use?

There is ample accommodation in Cromarty that could be appropriate.

Can limited provision over certain days/ hours be pursued?

Can this need be explored alongside the current development within our primary school?

I am aware that this challenge will have been considered previously, many times. But there has always been some form of child care available, all be it with battles to access it at the times and days we have required. There is now no day care. I am also aware that regulation and current accepted “norms of behaviour” may appear to work against such cross organisational solutions. Yet, as a community we will need to think out of the box and very ingeniously to help solve this one and guard against the challenge of a falling school roll, and a potential imbalance in the demographic of Cromarty in the future. Our community is a good one, with integration across the age range. I would be keen for this to be protected and believe that access to childcare will support this end.

I am hopeful that this note may stimulate debate and generate actions at the Community Council meeting.

(signed)

Cromarty resident and working parent

January 2013

