



CROMARTY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
APPROVED
30th September 2013

DRAFT Minutes of meeting held on Monday 29th July 2013 in the Hugh Miller Institute

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

Highland Councillors: David Alston, Craig Fraser

Community Council Minute Secretary: Jeremy Price

Guest: Mary McDonald (One Million Miles project)

| Item | Details | Action |
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| 1 | <u>Chairman's Welcome</u> Ronald welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Paige Shepherd | |
| 2 | <u>Approval of previous minutes</u> | |
| 2.1 | The minutes of the meeting on 24 th June 2013 were approved. Proposed: Diane Brawn Seconded: Anne Short | |
| 3 | <u>Youth issues</u> | |
| 3.1 | There was no youth representative present. | |
| 4 | <u>Police Report</u> | |
| 4.1 | There was no police representative present. Gabriele said that she had been promised that a report would be provided but none had been forthcoming. | |
| 4.2 | Two untaxed cars had been reported to the police and have now been removed. | |

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| <p>5</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p> <p>5.6</p> | <p><u>Guest Speaker</u></p> <p>Marion McDonald from the Transition Black Isle's Million Miles project was welcomed by the chairman.</p> <p>She gave a thorough overview of TBI, the project itself and the aim to cut the car miles travelled by the residents of Black Isle. She said that the focus was on cycling, walking, car sharing and public transport in a bid to reduce car journeys by one percent - roughly a million miles - a year. The project is being funded to the tune of £194,741 over three years from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund.</p> <p>Marion gave examples of how this was being achieved from driver training to promoting buses, from priority cycling to lift shares.</p> <p>Diane offered to be the point of contact for the community council.</p> <p>Ronald thanked Marion for her attendance.</p> <p>The website address for further information is:</p> <p>http://www.transitionblackisle.org/million-miles-project.asp</p> | |
| <p>6</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p> | <p><u>Matters arising from previous minutes</u></p> <p>(5.2 – catch on gates on Links) Ronald had completed the work and the gate is now working properly.</p> <p>(8.8 – caravan on Links car park) David has reinstated the sign and the caravan is now gone.</p> <p>(14 – noise from Nigg) Alastair Kennedy had contacted Ronald and David and will be arranging a visit by Global Energy to Cromarty.</p> | |
| <p>7</p> <p>7.1</p> | <p><u>Gaelic Chapel</u></p> <p>There was nothing further to update the meeting.</p> | |

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| 8 | <u>Review and update on Councillors' portfolios</u> | |
| 8.1 | Anne said that she had spoken to the owner of the two boats on Shore Street and hopes that they might be moved in the coming weeks. | |
| 8.2 | Anne also reported that following a complaint about barbed wire around some land by the surgery, it had now been removed from the top of the fence. | |
| 8.3 | Anne reported on the meeting she had with Craig and David together with Ricky McNab, Ewan Marsh from Highland Council. The notes of the meeting are at Appendix D. | |
| 8.4 | Gabriele reported that Diane and she had attended a Black Isle Community Council meeting on the 3rd of July in Avoch. It was attended by four of the community councils. On the agenda were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up of a meeting in September with the HC Planning Department to discuss transparency, accessibility of information, enforcement and neighbourhood notification. - Anti-social behaviour and engagement with the police. - Cooperation and communication on community events and the setting up of a single calendar that would link to all the CC websites. | |
| 9 | <u>Victoria Hall report</u> | |
| 9.1 | Vivienne had circulated her report and there were no issues raised (Appendix A). | |
| 9.2 | Vivienne did emphasise that the new acoustic panels in the hall were working fantastically well and were a great success. | |
| 10 | <u>Treasurer's report</u> | |
| 10.1 | Vivienne had circulated her report and there were no questions raised about it. (Appendix B) | |
| 11 | <u>Highland Councillors' reports</u> | |
| 11.1 | Craig reported on some environmental issues including the drainage by the Salmon Bothy which was not part of the management agreement with Highland Council. David said that the HC would not do any work to improve it and John Nightingale was aware. | |
| 11.2 | Craig said that following reports of giant hogweed along the Stroupie Path, it had been examined and found not to be the giant variety, but the harmless normal type. | |
| 12 | <u>Seaplane Memorial Plinth</u> | |
| 12.1 | There was no further update for this matter. | |

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| <p>13</p> <p>13.1</p> <p>13.2</p> <p>13.3</p> <p>13.4</p> | <p><u>Trees in Cromarty</u></p> <p>Following an issue with the felling of some trees in Church Road, David updated the meeting on the history of the matter at St Ann's. The council had given permission for one tree to be removed and the second was found to be rotten and was allowed to be removed.</p> <p>As a consequence, Lynne Sproull has given some advice about the felling of trees in the conservation area which is appended to these minutes (Appendix C).</p> <p>Vivienne said she would make a poster from this and display it on the council notice board.</p> <p>A letter was send to Robert Patton to ask if HC would wish to carry out a more strategic review of mature trees in the conservation area.</p> | <p>VP</p> |
| <p>14</p> <p>14.1</p> <p>14.2</p> <p>14.3</p> <p>14.4</p> | <p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>Jeremy said he'd received details of the Black Isle Community Car Scheme (BICCS) with some poster that he said he would ensure were displayed somewhere in the town.</p> <p>There were details of the Scottish Government's draft strategy to combat litter inviting responses. Details can be found on the Scottish Government website.</p> <p>Jeremy said he'd received a charming response from Henry McKenzie Johnston in reply to his letter of thanks to the Middleton Trust. He was sad that he could not make it to the Noye's Fludde production later in August.</p> <p>Gabriele had received a letter from a resident in Muir of Ord complaining about the toilet doors in the town. She had forwarded details to TECS at Highland Council.</p> | |

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| <p>15</p> <p>15.1</p> <p>15.2</p> <p>15.3</p> <p>15.4</p> <p>15.5</p> <p>15.6</p> <p>15.7</p> <p>15.8</p> <p>15.9</p> <p>15.10</p> <p>15.11</p> <p>15.12</p> | <p><u>Any other business</u></p> <p>Vivienne asked about the use of the tennis courts for visitors to the town. She said that non-members could not necessarily find out how to play easily and with the courts locked did not want the community council criticised for apparently funding a 'private' club that not everyone could benefit from.</p> <p>It was pointed out that a notice will be going up soon advising people that a key can be obtained from the post office upon a small deposit.</p> <p>The issue of balls from the multi-court going into a locked tennis court was raised but it was unlikely that the fence on the tennis court could be raised further to stop this if it did happen.</p> <p>Andrew said that he'd received an email from Carsten Fleiger about potential funding streams for playground equipment. He was hoping to get something set up at the south side of the town if any ground could be found.</p> <p>David said a number of grants were available from the council and landfill funds for play equipment.</p> <p>Gabriele asked Andrew if Carsten would be prepared to lead on this and Andrew agreed to ask him.</p> <p>Andrew raised the issue of jet skis in the firth. He'd received complaints about their noise and proximity to the beach at times. Ronald said that as the noise pollution is not constant there is nothing that can be done unless they deliberately go too close to dolphins. It was a perennial problem for beach resorts everywhere!</p> <p>Anne mentioned the success of the archeological dig on the Reeds Beds and congratulated the organisers on what seemed like a well organised and run project.</p> <p>Anne also said the date for the Cromarty Youth Opera was fast approaching and she looked forward to it.</p> <p>Ronald brought up the subject of the BT pole that was suddenly and without warning erected outside his house to provide a single wire to one other house. He had objected to this.</p> <p>He also raised the subject of a tenant from Townlands Park parking on the grass and not in their designated spot. David said this might be in breach of their tenancy agreement and suggested contacting the housing officer.</p> <p>A question was raised about Sandilands House and whether there was a time-scale to start work on it. It was suggested that Lynne Sproull be contacted to find this out.</p> | <p>AH</p> |
| <p>16</p> | <p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>This was agreed as Monday 30th September 2013 to allow for the summer break. Should any serious issues arise then a meeting would be called.</p> | |

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| <p>17</p> <p>17.1</p> <p>17.2</p> | <p><u>Planning</u></p> <p><i>Please note: the Highland Councillors did not participate in any planning related discussions and left the meeting for this agenda item</i></p> <p>Gabriele said that there were two new applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erection of conservatory at Sydney House, High Street • Erection of house on land at the rear of Hadley, Denny Road <p>Gabriele said the application to replace windows at 2 & 4 Allen Square had been successful.</p> | |
| | <p>The meeting concluded at 21.12 hrs. Ronald thanked everyone for their attendance.</p> | |

Cromarty & District Community Council

Committee Meeting 24th June 2013

Agenda Item 9 – Victoria Hall Report

1. Victoria Hall finances remain stable. This is a quiet time of the year for Hall bookings but there have been a number of social bookings including a wedding, a ceilidh and a music event during July/August.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

2. Repairs to the exterior artwork panels still need replacing due to an error in printing – John McNaught is chasing the printer. A proposal to install effective but aesthetic acoustic improvements has now been completed. The work involved the installation of 28 ceiling and 4 wall panels. The cost to the Victoria Hall was just over £3k and funded from their Refurbishment Reserve. The result of this work has been outstanding and has transformed the Victoria Hall in to a venue suitable to hold musical, theatrical and film related events. The acoustic improvement in the Hall is over 80% and the work has produced a visual effect that is sympathetic to the Hall's look. The artwork panels were removed to protect them during the work and to take the opportunity for refurbishment before re-hanging in August. Further work including surround curtaining and an electric screen may also be proposed in the future depending on the success of the panels. This additional work would be funded entirely from external sources. The pathway bordering the Park has been cleared of all weeds using environmentally and animal friendly treatments.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

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

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

4. Youth Cafe Report – Fraser Thomson, the Youth Cafe Assistant Youth Worker, reports that numbers attending have risen. There are now 30 Juniors and 15 Seniors participating in a number of projects. They have now completed the Mosaic for the Celtic Trail Alphabet. The Sailing Project, led by Simon Simms, has been a

huge success and it is hoped that a number of those participating will now work towards relevant qualifications. Tuesday's Job Club is proving popular and Fraser has assisted a number of the Senior members with job applications. As a result of their participation in the Saltire Awards, two of the Youth Cafe members have been appointed as Saltire ambassadors for the Highlands. Fraser also continues to work closely with the Primary School and in particular is giving one to one support to a child with additional support needs. The Chanter classes are proving successful with 10 students now able to play pipes to various levels of competence. The Youth Cafe has been successful in negotiating a 2 hour Monday night slot on the new Tennis Court, during which it is hoped to have qualified coaching for its members.

ACTION – Information only, no action required.

Vivienne Plampton

Finance Report – Cromarty & District Community Council

Agenda Item No 10 - Treasurer’s Report

Period: 22nd June to 26th July 2013

General Income

Guide Book and Leaflet Sales - Emporium £40.00

Less:

General Expenditure

Secretarial Services - July meeting £50.00

Printing and Postage £21.25

Increase/(Decrease) in Accumulated Fund **£(31.25)**

Fund Income

Lonna' Lights Fund - Public Donations £28.60

Less:

Fund Expenditure

Homes & Heritage Project - Consultant Fees £994.40

Increase/(Decrease) in Other Funds **£(965.80)**

Net Assets

Accounts Receivable @26.07.2013 £-

Accounts Payable @ 26.07.2013 £-

Bank & Cash in hand balances as @ 26.07.2013 £8,382.59

Total Net Assets at 26th July 2013 **£8,382.59**

Comprising:

Community Council Accumulated Fund £1,555.21

Provision for Guide Book reprinting £450.00

Seaplane Plinth Fund £820.13

Bonfire Night Fund £468.84

Splash & Dash (formerly Cromarty 2007) Fund £1,312.55

Monday Club Fund £223.30

Lonna's Lights Fund £56.79

Gala Day Fund £370.40

Homes & Heritage Project Fund £3,125.37

£8,382.59

Vivienne Plampton 26.07.2013

Anyone proposing to work on a tree in a Conservation Area which is not protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is required to give notice to the Local Authority concerned.

Anyone wishing to fell, prune or uproot a tree (as defined above) within a Conservation Area, must give six weeks' notice in writing to the Local Authority detailing the nature and extent of the proposed work and identify the trees.

The Local Authority may, if it sees fit, place a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the tree and the TPO procedures would then apply - that is, a formal application for permission would have to be made to the Local Authority. If a TPO has not been made after six weeks, the work may proceed but if it is not completed within two years, a further notice is needed. Such work must be consistent with that specified in the notice of intention.

Working on trees in Conservation Areas without giving six weeks written notification or before the six-week period has expired is an offence and the Local Authority may prosecute.

Deliberate destruction of a protected tree without permission or in contravention of Conservation Area legislation, or damage in a manner likely to destroy it, can incur a fine up to £20,000 on conviction in a sheriff court. In determining the amount of the fine, the court will take account of any financial benefits arising from the offence. For other offences fines of up to £2,500 may be awarded. Serious cases may be taken to the High Court, where there is no limit to any fine that may be imposed on conviction.

The placing of a TPO does not preclude work on trees or the felling of them, but it does require owners to apply for consent, subject to the penalties outlined above.

This process might do much to restore residents' faith in the Local Authority and their management of the Conservation Area. It might also help owners and neighbours come to a better understanding as to if, why, and when trees important to the town, should, or should not be protected by law.

Cromarty Issues Meeting 12th July 2013-07-15

In attendance

Cllr Craig Fraser

Cllr David Alston

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

Ewan Marsh – Contract supervisor TECS (Highland Council)

Anne Short – Cromarty Community Council

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

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

ADDITIONAL POINTS RAISED.

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

WALK ROUND.

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