



Present

Community Councillors: Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chair, Alan Plampton (AP) - Treasurer, Peter Ratcliffe (PR) - Secretary, Kari Magee (KM) & Nigel Shapcott (NS).

Youth Representative(s): N/A

Highland Councillor(s): - Cllr Craig Fraser (CF)

Member(s) of the public: - N/A

Community Council Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the video meeting.

Apologies received from Youth Members' Gregor Fox (GF) & Tilly Grist (TG), plus Youth Representative, Teagan Young (TY).

2. Declarations of interest

Declarations unchanged from meeting of 26th October 2020.

3. Approval of previous minutes, 28th June 2021

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by PR.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 28th June 2021

Minute secretary note – THC means The Highland Council.

- 4.1 (4.1 - To continue to discuss the neighbourhood questionnaire re. Townlands parking areas being white lined). **Ongoing. Action CF & FT.**
- 4.2 (4.2 - Follow up with THC contact re. Community Pay Back Scheme). **Ongoing. Action CF.**
- 4.3 (4.3 – Await response from Di Agnew (Ward Manager) re. TMP proposals.). No response from Iain Moncrieff, Laura MacAllister or Di Agnew (Even when emailed via Craig). Official complaint submitted via THC website 18 August 2021. **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
- 4.4 (4.4 - To continue to discuss redesign of the Welcome sign for Cromarty). **Ongoing. Action – CF & FT.**
- 4.5 (4.5 – Continue to update the data on Cromarty Live Website). **Ongoing. Action AP, PR, GF, TG & Claire.**
- 4.6 (4.6 – Re-submit new photos to THC re. waste to be removed at Whitedykes). **Ongoing. Action – KM.**

- 4.7 (4.7 – Discuss the fencing at Reeds Loop, to prevent roam of livestock on a public walkway (funding not approved)). PS to contact farmer re. erecting fences via his daughters (per 4.34 the legal duty will depend on what's in the lease agreement). All members agreed must be done in writing. **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
- 4.8 (4.8 – Await delivery of free-standing hand sanitiser unit, to be situated outside public toilets). Delivery awaited, extra one ordered for TVH. **Ongoing. Action – AP.**
- 4.9 (4.9 – Await proposal re. Advanced Manufacturing Facility at GEG has been submitted to TSG so that n Environment Impact Assessment can be conducted). Awaiting guidance from the Scottish Government on the freeport/greenport proposals, before PoCF can conduct an Environment Impact Assessment. **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
- 4.10 (4.10 – Awaiting quote to be received for bus shelter works). Quotes have been received, labour time tends to be a fixed cost per hour, but the cost of materials is changing weekly. **Discussed further in #8.**
- 4.11 (4.11 – Training for Cromarty 1st responders to be followed up on, as no response yet received). **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
- 4.12 (4.12 - Regular meetings still ongoing re. weekly covid updates). Still on going but no action needed. **Discharged.**
- 4.13 (4.13 – To speak to Albyn housing re. the pump track, as they have the responsibility to the land). Email now sent to Albyn stating a time limit for any objection. **Ongoing. Action AP.**
- 4.14 (4.14 - Dog bin rota to be finalised, further organisation required. 1 existing bin, in storage for replacing on site). THC don't want to continue to use these bins, and emptying them. They've removed one at the Bowling Green, PR has asked them to return it. **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
- 4.15 (4.15 - To discuss with plumber the water supply to Sheddie once summer is over). **Ongoing. Action – AP & NS.**
- 4.16 (4.16 - Confirm dates with Di Agnew re. previous letter in respect of omission of charging points). **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
- 4.17 (4.17 – Survey of the Links shrubbery to be done in the Autumn. To request that THC continue to cut it back so the path is passable in the meantime). **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
- 4.18 (4.20 - Respond to residents when issues re. dog fouling in the community are raised (continuous)). **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
- 4.19 (4.21 - Organise contractor to repair damaged steps at the start of The Ladies Walk). **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
- 4.20 (4.23 – Respond to the CDT re. the Bye law as advised by THC, but still awaiting further advice re. hot spot areas). Hot spot areas identified, to work with THC is going to be required. **Ongoing. Action – PS.**
- 4.21 (4.24 - Identify who at PoCF that is of 'higher authority', as we might need to contact them re. the noise in the firth). **Ongoing. Action – KM.**
- 4.22 (4.25 – Chase THC re. feedback in relation to noise monitoring and discussions with GEG and PoCF). Follow up email send to Mr Ratter and Mr Thornton to request the report

regarding noise and also to ask for feedback on how/if vibrations can be monitored.

Ongoing. Action – KM.

- 4.23 (4.26 – To send out email to volunteers re. litter pick up, once decided on methodology). Equipment has been distributed to some members. No volunteers for organising the litter pick up sessions however quite a few members of the community do regularly carry out operations picking up litter. **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
- 4.24 (4.27 - To approach JN re. addition of signs to the South Sutor re. no overnight camping/fouling). No further action taken, to be followed up by PR. **Ongoing. Action – PR.**
- 4.25 (4.28 – Monitor response from residents re. how to create an out of hours service when electricity needs after the Co-op in Fortrose closes). No responses. **Discharged.**
- 4.26 (4.30 - Email THC asking for help with the work involved in re-opening village halls. Then to contact Kate Forbes). **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
- 4.27 (4.31 - To discuss further re. the re-opening of the hall, once guidance received and the PDBC has been calculated). See VH report. **Discharged.**
- 4.28 (4.33 - Nige to apply for discretionary funding as finance needed to ensure regular servicing of gritters). **Ongoing. Action – NS.**
- 4.29 (4.34 - To look into the legal obligations regarding JN/the tenant at Reeds Park Loop). Legal obligations with regards to fencing, gates and signage will likely be dependent on the terms of the lease. The lease may dictate that the tenant has full responsibility, that the land owner does or that responsibility is shared.

Excerpt from <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais17s.pdf>

■ Consider whether it is reasonably practicable to temporarily fence alongside a public right of way so that the cattle and people are kept separate. Take care not to obstruct rights of way by fencing across them.

■ An alternative route can be offered or provided, but bear in mind that even if you do decide to provide an alternative route, the public will still be entitled to use the right of way.

■ Plan the location of handling and feeding areas away from public rights of way to reduce the possibility of stock congregating around the route.

■ Where the landowner and the cattle owner are not the same person, there may be some joint responsibility and it is the duty of both parties to agree a course of action.

See AOB for further action. Discharged.

- 4.30 (4.35 - To email THC re. further information on how to approach THC lawyers re. Reeds Park Loop). **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
- 4.31 (4.36 – C&DCC think we should agree to tree planting for the Queens Jubilee. Site to be sourced. Potential to use the new campsite. **Discharged.**
- 4.32 (4.37 - To email Ian Moncreiff at THC re. the condition/speed on the road at The Sutors). **Ongoing. Action – CF.**
- 4.33 (5.4 – Contact local businesses and ask them about current vacancies). Draft letter composed, to be agreed by members. **Action – PS.**
- 4.34 (5.5 – Gather info together re. vacancies and advertise of facebook x2, newsletter and website). Letter to employers drafted (as per 4.33). **Action – AP.**

- 4.35 (5.6 - To think of replacement for Gregor as he leaves for uni in September). **Ongoing.**
Action – TG.
- 4.36 (7.2 – Await response from THC re. C&DCC resurrecting the goalposts). Ongoing.
Funding agreed with THC. Goalposts ordered and paid for, awaiting delivery. Ongoing.
Action – AP.
- 4.37 (8.1.2 – Circulate minutes from previous BICC meeting to members). Minutes circulated.
Discharged.
- 4.38 (8.2.1 – NS to proceed with his ideas for wellbeing event, as members supported).
Discharged.
- 4.39 (8.3.1 – Follow up with contact re. servicing of gritters for C&DCC as no response to Nige). Further action to be taken (NS to look at costs). Brought up in further point.
Discharged.
- 4.40 (8.4.2 – Email to CF re. residents concern re. dogs off leads and CF to follow up with THC). Email clarification given. **Discharged.**
- 4.41 (8.4.4 – To follow up with Di Agnew re. Road Traffic Management plan (as per 4.3) but if still no response rec'd – to go to head of THC). Complaint submitted via 4.3. **Discharged.**
- 4.42 (8.4.5 – Email to CF re. the use of the slipway due to recent events and CF to follow up with THC). **Discharged.**
- 4.43 (9.1.1 – Await quote for Hugh Miller Monument works and then see if THC will fund it). Discussed in 8.2 – further action point. **Discharged.**
- 4.44 (9.2.5 – Prepare a document to approach the residents with re. music event on the links. Discuss further with members once done). PS to send to organizer of event to confirm information on document is correct. Then to be printed & distributed to all residents, poster put up, and information added to social media/website. Email responses to be requested, plus option to drop into The Post Office and Cromarty Stores. **Ongoing.**
Action – PS.
- 4.45 (9.3.3 – Write to Di Agnew re. THC plans for the use of The East Church Hall). Updates from THC awaited, residents informed. **Discharged.**

Minute secretary note – Kari had to leave the meeting early, so PS (chair) asked all members to raise anything relevant with KM once Craig (section 8.2) had spoken. Anything that is minuted with reference to Kari was discussed before she left at 20.35pm.

5. Youth Issues

Tilly and Gregor weren't present at the meeting, so AP commented:

- 5.1 The summer program has been a huge success, and the C&DCC would like to express a huge thanks to all that were involved with this. Keep an eye out for the monthly newsletter, and on our website for more information.

- 5.2 This meeting was Gregor's last unfortunately. All members thanked him for all his hard work, and wish him well for the future, with the best years of his life yet to happen! There was also a special congratulation given for passing his driving test!

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report Notes (**Appendix A**) & Treasurer's Report (**Appendix B**) were prepared by AP and circulated prior to the meeting.

There weren't many additional comments other than what is shown on the report but it's worth highlighting that:

- 6.1 AP is applying for discretionary ward funding, and common good funding, to allow us to bring all community assets up to date. **Action - AP.**
- 6.2 The annual maintenance grant has been awarded for another year.
- 6.3 The collecting tin (for another defibrillator) in the bakery has been a huge success and is crammed full after only 5 months. The C&DCC express thanks to all who have contributed so far.

There were no further questions and AP was thanked for his reports.

7. Victoria Hall Report including Youth Café

The Victoria Hall Report (**Appendix C**) that was prepared by AP was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to the report for a full breakdown of the reopening plan (a summary of the headlines can be read below).

- 7.1 Reopening is planned from 1 September 2021. The first wedding reception Cromarty has seen in over a year is being held this weekend. Rules continue to be conflicted with mask wearing only essential when eating, sitting, drinking or dancing.
- 7.2 There is a new cleaning protocol in place, a regular cleaner has been sourced, plus the original caretaker will now be un-furloughed. AP to set up an arrangement with the caretaker, so that there is a rota in place, showing clearly when the hall cleaning, maintenance and other routine tasks will be carried out (removing the ad-hoc set up that was in place pre-Covid). **Action – AP.**
- 7.3 All bookings at the moment will only be from existing hall users (i.e. the Youth Café), and/or Cromarty residents. All members agreed this was the best solution as it's our responsibility to reduce the risk of Covid in the hall, to ensure it remains a safe place for hall users to be, and somewhere that can be enjoyed by all.
- 7.4 From October, regular bookings will recommence, however this does NOT include community markets (the future of the markets is in discussion, but everyone hopes they will restart at some point).
- 7.5 Youth Café sessions have been moved to a Wednesday (from a Monday), as youth worker John is to attend college, which will be on a Monday.

NS and PR thanked AP for all of his professionalism in how the reopening of the hall has been dealt with. PS agreed and thanked AP again for his continuous hard work.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolios

Portfolio Reports prepared by NS (**Appendix D**), PR (**Appendix E**), AP (**Appendix F**), KM (**Appendix G**), and PS (**Appendix H**) were circulated prior to the meeting by The Members.

- 8.1.1 KM attended a meeting with the Port of Cromarty Firth (see her report) and several things were discussed. They are hoping to create/become a 0 energy, smart tourism hub and are looking for feedback from the community on this.
- 8.1.2 There is a nationwide delay of the decision on the green/free port status. KM asked if the funding will still be achieved given the length of time this has taken. P of CF advised they'd still like to meet the requirements, even if investment is not granted.
- 8.1.3 P of CF were also looking for feedback on the impact of Covid and KM suggested they prepare a 'lessons learned' document, asking for impact from the Community Councils. This will mean that if this does ever happen again (which we hope not), we should be more prepared.

We discussed all other reports at the meeting, but there were no further comments made. All were thanked by PS for their efforts and work done to date.

8.2 Highland Council (Cllr Craig Fraser)

Minute secretary note – this section was discussed at the start of the meeting (before agenda point #4), as Craig had other commitments and couldn't hang around.

- CF has asked that if anyone sees any lights out to let him know so he can arrange repair. All recent light outs should be fixed.
- Also advise CF of any git bins that need repaired, as we're going to be entering the winter months soon, now is the time of year to address this.
- CF sent link as to how residents/community members should report problems/report potholes (and any damages) to The Highland Council.
- Bus shelter repair – the cost per tradesmen per hour is going to be a fixed cost, however the material costs are changing weekly. To finalise this as soon as possible.
Action – CF.
- Hugh Miller Monument – To repair and weld the railings where corroded, plus painting them afterwards is going to cost just under £1,000. However, there aren't any costs calculated yet for the chippings/gravel and weed tarp. NS suggests can take gravel from neighboring farm, we'd just need to source a trailer (max 2 ton required).
- NS also suggested it would be a good idea to approach THC re. the funding of these items (plus others that have been discussed), in order of priority. All members agreed this was a good suggestion.
- It was also discussed that it is not yet clear who is responsible for the Hugh Miller Monument (HMM). Until we know, we can't apply to THC as they might reject the fund application if they are not responsible. CF to find an answer to this. **Action – CF.**

- Once we know who is responsible for HMM, we can list the items we need to speak to THC about and PS can then apply to the ward discretionary fund to finance all/some of this work. **Action – PS.**
- Martin Goswick (resident who has recently passed away) – CF suggests a memorial bench could be made and placed next to the HMM, potential for Friends of Hugh Miller to contribute to this also. C&DCC are to decide how to proceed. **Action – ALL.**

There were no further comments and CF was thanked for his continued support of the C&DCC and the local community.

Minute secretary note – Craig left the meeting at 19.44pm.

9. Correspondence Received

- 9.1 The C&DCC received an email from a member of the community asking re. ‘Providing contact details for the person dealing with the future electrical needs in Cromarty.’ All members agreed that this question is very vague so no contact details should be provided until further information is obtained. AP to respond. **Action – AP.**
- 9.2 PR received a request from the Bonfire committee re. booking the links for the Cromarty Bonfire – to be held on 5th November 2021. This date has been confirmed, no further action needed.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Reeds Loop/Shore Path Maintenance

- The grass is currently being maintained, however the long term responsibility to ensure this is done, lies with THC. Suggest we approach THC about this, starting off by saying how great the work they have done is, and can they help us keep it at this level. It was also noted that THC have recently employed local rangers and all members agreed that the impact these rangers have had has been positive. PS to email THC as the chair will have the greatest impact. **Action – PS.**

10.2 Gritter maintenance

- Trikes need to be maintained because, as previously minuted, Aidan is going to uni. An alternative person has been sourced and is happy to go on the same training course as Aidan (via Cromarty Care). NS suggests we use the same person to maintain the gritters too (which they’ve agreed to do), funding however remains an issue. AP suggests that there is the potential to source more funds from THC as we approach the winter months, as the gritters are deemed a necessity in Cromarty. We’d need to see how much more is needed though. NS to go back and look at the figures. The C&DCC will continue to discuss this, and apply for funding once costings etc are established. **Action – NS.**

10.3 East Church Hall

- Become aware that the CDT (Cromarty development trust) have expressed an interest to Di Agnew in the future of The East Church Hall (ECH). They will work closely with the C&DCC to use it as the community see fit.

- The C&DCC however made it clear that the community don't want the ECH to be a CDT project, and that THC are keeping us informed of any future interest shown in the ECH.

10.4 Slipway at Cromarty Harbour

- PR reported a gas leakage earlier today (30th), but has since gone back to take better pictures and the smell has potentially gone. Will keep an eye on it, as another resident suggested that it could just be because of changes to the tide. Awaiting a response from THC still. **Action – PR.**

10.5 A9 Consultation document

- NS queried if the C&DCC has replied on behalf of the community. AP confirmed no, but all should have responded personally to the survey. AP to circulate again so that those who haven't yet done so, have a chance. The closing date however is this week. **Action – AP.**

10.6 The Victoria Park

- KM mentioned a few areas in The Victoria Park that need to be repaired/addressed (approached by members of the community, but also aware of the issues personally).
 - i. The swings have been taken apart and not replaced
 - ii. The repairs to the adult equipment aren't satisfactory (just being taped up)
 - iii. There are dogs in park even though there are signs to suggest otherwise
 - iv. Metal gate at the entrance to the park is quite badly damaged and should be repaired.
- Members all agreed that these were issues to be raised to The Highland Council. It is however Highlife Highland who have the rights to the park, so AP suggests they are contacted (via Di Agnew). PS to email DA. **Action – PS.**
- It was also mentioned that the signs re. no dogs in park aren't enforceable and that maybe another solution needs to be thought of.

10.7 Meeting with John Nightingale (JN)

- Has requested a meet with the C&DCC on Friday 3rd September. Peter (PR) has agreed to meet but would like there to be another member available if possible.
- Couple of items to discuss:
 - i. Salmon Fisher's Bothy (application for a bench)
 - ii. Plus the on-going discussion re. the music festival
- JN has suggested the meeting is held at Cromarty House. PS to check re. work, if not, PR to go back to JN to see if he can change the meeting to sometime after 530pm. **Action – PS/PR.**

11. Date of next meeting

Next Ordinary Meeting, **Monday, 27th September 2021 @ 7.30pm via Whereby.**

PS thanked **everyone** for attending and the meeting concluded at 21.19pm.

Cromarty & District Community Council Ordinary Meeting – 30th August 2021

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

- 1. AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** reflects publications income receivable as well 2 months of our online Covid-19 meeting costs (from the Black Isle Ward Covid-19 Resilience Fund). **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
- 2. COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND** shows that we have received another £76.19 in public donations (via the Bakery) and that we have donated £50 towards a new plastic cover for the Cromarty Arms unit. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
- 3. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (Surplus/Deficit for Year)** for period ending 31st March 2022 to date reflects that we have received our Community Council Maintenance Grant for 2021 from the Highland Council. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
29/08/21

AGENDA ITEM B – TREASURER’S REPORT

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting				
Held on Monday 30th August 2021				
Agenda Item No 6 - Treasurer’s Report				
Statement of Financial Position at 29th August 2021				
		£	£	£
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 25/06/21</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 29th August 2021		14,161.76	-332.24	14,494.00
Paypal Balance as at 29th August 2021		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		37.00	20.00	17.00
Amounts Payable		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Net Assets at 29th August 2021		£14,198.76	-312.24	£14,511.00
		£	£	£
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2021 **		2,077.44	0.00	2,077.44
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		460.07	561.57	-101.50
		2,537.51	561.57	1,975.94
Community Amenities Fund		1,021.19	0.00	1,021.19
Emergency Resilience Centre Fund		87.66	0.00	87.66
Covid-19 Resilience Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 29th August 2021		78.75	0.00	78.75
Gritting Fund		809.52	0.00	809.52
Cromarty Live Fund		25.13	0.00	25.13
Community Defibrillator Fund		90.04	26.19	63.85
Net C&DCC Reserves		4,649.80	587.76	4,062.04
Community Event Funds				
Bonfire Night Fund	2,272.14		0.00	2,272.14
Gala Fund	4,215.73		0.00	4,215.73
Splash & Dash Fund	126.00		0.00	126.00
Open Gardens Fund	6.86		0.00	6.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06	6,822.79	0.00	202.06
Designated Community Funds				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00
Monday Lunch Club Fund		422.75	0.00	422.75
Cromarty Rising Fund		953.42	-900.00	1,853.42
		£14,198.76	-312.24	£14,511.00
Alan Plampton 29th August 2021				

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 30th August 2021

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Repairs & Maintenance** Extensive repair work is underway. We are very confident that funding will be received to cover most of this work, as we prepare the Hall for full re-opening. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

2. **Youth Cafe** The latest Report attached, from Fraser, the Assistant Youth Worker. This report covers the recent Summer Programme which was very successful. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

3. **Hall Bookings/Reopening Plans** The latest update to the Victoria Hall Re-opening Proposals is attached. The proposal is to reopen in September. This proposal mixes optimism with caution.
 - 1) Despite the legal removal of social distancing we limit the capacity to 100.
 - 2) To limit bookings to regular users and Cromarty residents.
 - 3) Follow legal requirements for mask wearing.
 - 4) Introduce cleaning between bookings, where needed, with extra cleaning time and unfurloughing the caretaker.
 - 5) Encourage use of good ventilation.
 - 6) Restricting user access to Hall to booked times only.**ACTION – INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION**

Alan Plampton - VHMC
29/08/21

VICTORIA HALL PLANS FOR REOPENING

WE ARE PROPOSING TO REOPEN FOR BOOKINGS FROM 1st SEPTEMBER!

Over the last 3 months the C&DCC, through the VHMC, has continuously reviewed the situation since the use of the Hall for the Scottish Elections on 6th May. Once all the necessary protocols and precautions were put in place (one way systems, social distancing etc.), this proved to be a useful exercise in understanding what will be necessary for the Hall to reopen. In addition we are taking guidance from the HTSI (Highland Third Sector Interface) as to how we might be able to reopen the Hall, as well as seeking Highland Council support. Obviously Scottish Government decisions impact this whole process. We are responsible for not only establishing clear guidance as to what is required, but also making sure that a hirer follows that guidance. These requirements make no allowance for whether the Hall is run by volunteers or paid staff. The Health & Safety standards are the legal priority and cannot be delegated to hirers. It is **the legal responsibility of the Hall to provide a safe venue.**

What does this mean for the Victoria Hall?

OUR OBLIGATIONS

- A. We have to ensure that the way we run the Hall has to keep people safe and stop the spread of the virus.
- B. We have to ensure that use of the Hall is in line with all Health Protection guidance.
- C. We have to ensure that all users of the Hall follow and practice the guidance that we establish for the use of the Victoria Hall.

WHAT MUST HAPPEN

- A. We have calculated a PDBC (Physical Distance Based Capacity) for the Hall, based on users maintaining sensible distancing.
- B. We will complete a full Venue Risk Assessment of the Hall, which will include the PDBC, how the space will be used, how entry and exit points will be used, what cleaning routines are required, what gaps between lettings are needed, what signage is required and, given the extended closure of the Hall, what health considerations need to be addressed (e.g. required building repairs, water supply hygiene etc.)
- C. We will create a new Booking Form to reflect all aspects of the Venue Risk Assessment results. This new Booking Form will require all hirers to accept all the Hall's guidance and responsibilities for ensuring the delivery of this guidance by all users. All hirers will be required to complete their own Risk Assessment that covers their particular activity or event and to submit this to the Hall with the Booking Form. The Hall will then hopefully confirm that the booking's risk assessment conforms to all the Hall's requirements. Currently all users of the Hall will be required to wear face masks, except when consuming food/drink, dancing and for medical exemption reasons.

D. The cost of extra cleaning between lettings will probably need to be added to the hire cost but for now we will attempt to maintain previous rental fees as we budget for an unknown future. To be reviewed.

E. The hirer will be required to keep accurate Test & Protect records with verified contact details. We will be required to make sure the hirer is following the conditions of hire.

PRACTICAL PLAN FOR REOPENING

A. PDBC for the Hall is now calculated as 100, based on 155sqm, based on sensible indoor 1m social distancing. Good ventilation will be encouraged.

B. Initially, bookings will be restricted to previous regular users and Cromarty residents. Regular users will be asked to start booking after 5th September.

C. The Youth Cafe has mainly operated outdoors, but will commence indoor sessions from 8th September. Their sessions will now be on Wednesdays, for 2021. There will then be a review of whether they return to Mondays.

D. Regular Users who are registered key-holders will not be allowed access to the Hall, outside the times for booked sessions. This is very important.

This plan will be monitored on a weekly basis, and any update will appear on the Cromarty Live website.

The C&DCC, at its meeting on 30th August, reviewed and confirmed this update to the Hall reopening timetable/plan.

Portfolio Report to C&DCC- Nigel Shapcott, for Meeting 25th January 2021

Cromarty Harbour Trust

- The Cromarty Harbour Trust AGM will be happening one 2nd September- after which a report will be published.
- Two additional small fingers have been purchased and fitted.

Cromarty Care Project

- Community Larder- this has been closed.
- Next meeting planned for 4th October- report thereafter.

Cromarty and Community Development Trust

- Campsite. The use of land adjacent to the campsite for tree planting was investigated, with associated communication with THC- unfortunately this consumed a lot of time. We are currently preparing further communication with THC.
- Townlands Barn
 - Maintenance. No change.
 - Gin- Sutors Gin has expressed an interest in the Barn as part of the development of a Cromarty Gin brand- talks are ongoing- No change
- Housing

Albyn has stated that it cannot move ahead with the proposed housing project in the field behind Townlands Barn. Although the community council has been taking the lead with Albyn latterly, its statutory powers would not allow it to lead a community buyout. The CCDT, like local community development trusts across Scotland, is however appropriately empowered. Ongoing.
- Slipways

The slipways on both sides of the Cromarty Firth at Nigg and Cromarty have been used extensively this year- wear and tear of the new structure will be repaired at the end of the ferry season to prevent disruption.

Black Isle Partnership meeting

- This has now evolved into a discussion on how the Black Isle community will progress post COVID.
- COVID-19- see Alan's weekly THC communications.

Gritting

- Gritter Maintenance - currently carried out by Peter and Nigel. NS is following up with this
- To write a discretionary fund as finance needed to ensure regular servicing

Wellbeing Walks Events

- Three walks were hosted in Cromarty on July 31st and August 1st. Thanks go out to Dave Newman, Jon Palmer and Arthur Bird for leading these which were well reviewed and most enjoyable.
- Also thanks to Lorna and her staff at the Church Street Cafe and Sandy and Patsy for tea on the lawn for post walk networking.

General Comments

- 4.34 and 4.35 Kari and Craig items- I would like to comment on these.

- 8.4.5 Paige and Craig- what's this: Email to CF re. the use of the slipway due to recent events and CF to follow up with THC

Cromarty Ferry.

- Ongoing.
- Ferry appears to be running satisfactorily, weather and tides permitting. Notice is given in advance for any changes, e.g. no cars when there is a low tide or stormy weather.

Dog Fouling.

- Ongoing.
- New rota not distributed yet. The red bins were/are located out of town area.

But there are signs that the Town bins are still being well used, as requested by Highland Council signs.

- One red bin that fell off its post being held in custody of Jeremy Price. Notified and reminded by email to C&DCC by Mrs. J. Price.
- Highland Council operatives are currently emptying these bins.
- The Red Bin that was located at the Bowling Green car park has been removed by Highland Council. I have requested that it be returned.
- This was part of the discussion held with Highland Council Waste Management Services last week.

Links & Links Events Diary / Beaches and Litter.

- Ongoing.
- Vehicular access to The Links still closed and locked, by C&DCC decision.. However there are two removable stanchions at the Cinema end that can be removed at time of emergency to allow access. As was discovered during the recent operations regarding the beached dolphin on the Links.
- Proposal for having a musical event (large) by Smillie Music (Elephant Sessions) is under current discussion by the Community Council. John Nightingale (Cromarty Estate) has been approached for use of the Links, he is looking for C&DCC commitment and approval. [No change]
- The area in front of Bob Maclean's house (old ice rink) is marked off by bollards to stop parking and let the grass grow. However still being used!

Litter.

Communication with H.C. (Katrina Taylor) ongoing, Virtual meeting held last week with Katrina and Her Locality Foreman.

- Additional H.C. Operative comes to town to "top off" the bins and empty, most days of the week. He also carries out litter picking on the streets. (South Sutor also).
- There are some "missing" bins, which was investigated. A number of bins have been rotated in location.
- Photos have been taken on a regular basis of the litter bin contents in order to have some small amount on analysis of any issues or problems. It is found that the bins most used and overflowing, are due to local food and drink takeaways, evident campervan refuse, and other items. It is noted that there have been items from the beach also left at the bins for removal and uplift, e.g. tyres.
- The Bins most at issue are :-
- The Harbour Area.
- The Cinema Area.

- The Bins (now 2) on Shore Street, in the vicinity of "Old Fish Store".
- Proposal to be reviewed further is the use of Metal Enclosures as is done in places like Ullapool and Skye. But these would need to be sponsored locally, e.g. by local businesses. Needs to be planned and arranged for uptake.
- Cromarty Litter Pickers – not up and running as a group yet, no volunteers for leading a group. Equipment has been distributed, some is on hold for use on other projects such as 100 Steps Project. Map was issued confirming where town bins are.
- Additional equipment is stored in the Sheddie. (But need more black bags)
- Beach Litter – instances of uplift and removal – e.g. Craig Fraser. Big tractor tyre on the Beach to be moved?

Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport Proposal.

Main Report issued by Kari Magee.

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – ongoing.

Green Hydrogen Plant – planning and preparations continue.

PoCF - Virtual Meeting was attended, giving update of Cruise Liners (which has re-commenced) and some information on Windfarm Project Progress. PoCF Presentation sent and distributed.

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

Work activities on hold for the season. Maintenance programme on equipment is under discussion. Equipment is currently stored in "The Sheddie."

Other.

Cromarty First Responders.

No further action taken regarding the required re-training.

However, I have been advised that there is a new Training Co-ordinator, by name of Susan Ness, who has been in touch with the local appointees to organise updated training which is expected to start soon.

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing. Also reported elsewhere here.

Issue at contention is that Highland Council do not want/intend to support these. Local intention is to continue using these bins with volunteers.

John Nightingale Follow Ups.

Bench Location Approval.

Benches – request from local family – survey on Town Benches prepared and issued, email sent to John Nightingale, location proposed. ONGOING.

Music Festival. (Ongoing)

Sutor Car Park.

Will we get the same numbers of incoming tourists next year?

No action ongoing at this time.

Are Cromarty Community Development Trust following up on this?

Email received today from John Nightingale, copied to Paige also, suggesting that I meet with him next Friday on site, at the Links. I agreed.
Out of Office Response recently received to my email, so John must be on holiday to 1st September (In Cromarty?).
No change, ongoing.

**Craig Fraser Projects - 2021:-
Hugh Miller Statue Enclosure.**

Craig has received painting quotation.

Gaelic Chapel.

On site meeting was held with Craig Fraser, HITSI Rep and myself.

E.V. Charging points.

Emails – Craig Fraser has raised the issue. Needs to be followed up.
Are CCDT following up with this issue?

Other Meetings.

Black Isle Communities Zoom Meetings continue on Tuesday Mornings.

Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 30th August 2021

Agenda Item 8 – PORTFOLIOS

4. Housing

No further developments re the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan and no news from the independent arbiter on the Daffodil Field appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission. As previously reported under MAs, the MTB Pump Track will proceed unless Albyn objects.

ACTION – Information only, no action required

5. BICC

Paige and I attended and chaired the latest BICC meeting held on 24th August 2021. There were discussions and agreement on the BICC Terms of Reference which recognise that the individual CCs would always reserve the right to make decisions on behalf of the community they were elected to represent. F&RCC reported on their visit to the new Eilean Dubh Care Home (attached). There were updates from the stakeholder CCs re the A9/Munlochy Junction speed limit proposals. Detailed contributions on Litter/Tourism/Parking and general agreement the new Rangers were doing great work and that we should make it known to the HC that this initiative should receive continued funding. Lastly, and most importantly, there were strong views on the new Black Isle Area Committee, the confusion over its power/role and its conflicted relationship with the Black Isle Partnership. In addition there was a strong opinion that the BIP Tuesday morning briefings had little usefulness and should no longer be labelled as representing the Black Isle communities. A joint draft of these views and questions is to be agreed for submission through the Black Isle Ward Manager.

ACTION – For Information and possible discussion

6. Community Events

Minutes received from the Bonfire Night Sub-Committee. Attached for information.

ACTION – Information only, no action require

Alan Plampton
29/08/21

Port of Cromarty Firth (PoCF) Joint Community Council Meeting Report

1. **Current Works.** The Moray East Offshore Wind project is due to complete in the next few months. The Seagreen Offshore Wind project is ongoing; jacket foundations are starting to arrive. Nigg will undertake all marshalling, storage and associated logistics for the project, which should last for 12 months and is supporting 141 jobs (48 new).
2. **Current Rigs and Ships in CF.** There are 12 rigs in the Cromarty Firth, 6 of which are warm stacked. The Protector has moved from berth 2 to berth 4.
3. **Current Cruise Season.** The season will last until 8 Oct 21 with an anticipated 19 further cruise calls (as at 11 Aug 21). Shore excursion bubbles have also relaxed.
4. **Future Proposals.** Scotwind; agreements may be awarded in Jan 2022 with a view of works starting no earlier than summer 2023.
5. **Opportunity Cromarty Firth.** No update as awaiting guidance from Scottish and UK Governments as to when the competition will open. No impact assessments can be conducted until guidance has been received. A recent port enhancement study has identified Cromarty Firth as an ideal location for offshore wind marshalling.

Next meeting: 21 October 21

100 Steps Project

1. **Action.** The volunteers came out on Saturday 14 August to conduct a litter pick and build 4 steps down to the benches located at the car park. Very many thanks to Maren, Ben Andy, Hector and Torben for all their efforts. The team also checked all the replacement steps that had been put in place in November 2020. All are still intact and bedding in well. The steps at the beginning of the path experience the worst that the weather, environment and path users have to throw at them – they might benefit from the support of gabion baskets on the shore-side but this may be being considered by the Pat Haynes' team. Another volunteer event will be organised in October before stopping for the winter.
2. **Planning recce.** Corrie Jeffery has asked that a recce be conducted for sites of interest or locations where outdoor activities such as drama or reading groups could be held. This will be conducted once the weather has improved and the information will be presented to both Corrie and the C&DCC no later than the meeting in July. *Update – recce has been completed but needs to be written up. Apologies for the delay.*

<p><u>Bus Services and Road Surfaces</u></p>	<p>Craig and I have received a very detailed report from a local bus user which will be submitted to Stagecoach to work out where the problems lie and what they propose to do about it</p> <p>The road surfaces in Cromarty are becoming a cause from concern. There is more pot holes appearing and the existing pot holes are getting larger. Waiting on confirmation on where best to send information and photos to in the Highland Council.</p>
<p><u>Planning</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erection of replacement extension to house  <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>1 Davidston Canon Street Davidston Cromarty IV11 8XD Ref. No: 21/03644/FUL Received: Tue 27 Jul 2021 Validated: Sat 07 Aug 2021 Status: Under Consideration</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erection of sign <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Land 725M NE Of Greenhill Cottage Rosefarm Cromarty Ref. No: 21/03258/ADV Received: Fri 02 Jul 2021 Validated: Fri 09 Jul 2021 Status: Decided</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erection of sign <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Land 650M SW Of Greenhill Cottage Rosefarm Cromarty Ref. No: 21/03257/ADV Received: Fri 02 Jul 2021 Validated: Fri 02 Jul 2021 Status: Decided</p> </div>
<p><u>Police Liaison</u></p>	<p>Cyber Crime safety / Fraud input</p> <p> Mon 06/09/2021 19:00 - 20:00</p> <p>Members of the local Community Councils have been invited to attend the above event.</p>