



# Cromarty & District Community Council

## Virtual Meeting of the new C&DCC Monday 28th September, 2020 at 7.30pm

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, all current C&DCC meetings are held virtually using the  
'Whereby' platform.

**Present: Gregor Fox, Kari Magee, Alan Plampton, Peter Ratcliffe, Paige Shepherd, Nigel Shapcott, Fraser Thomson**

**HC Councillor: Craig Fraser**

**Minutes: Della Matheson**

Minutes  
Approved  
26.10.2020

1. Welcome and apologies as per Inaugural Meeting.

### 2. Declaration of Interests

Paige Shepherd: now Chair of Cromarty and District Community Council.

Peter Ratcliffe: was, but is no longer, a trustee of the Middleton Trust. Also Secretary of the Freemasons' Lodge.

Alan Plampton: Treasurer of the Youth Cafe and Chair of Victoria Hall.

Craig Fraser: Trustee of the Harbour Trust and Cromarty Courthouse

Gregor Fox: Parents own Sutor Restaurant

Fraser Thomson: Attending as member of public

Nigel Shapcott: Trustee of Cromarty Care Project, Director of Cromarty Commercial Development Trust, Clerk of Cromarty Harbour Trust, member of Black Isle Partnership Strategy Group

### 3. Approval of previous minutes - 31st August 2020

Minutes approved. Proposed by Alan, seconded by Peter.

### 4. C&DCC Meeting format and length

Nigel pointed out that there are 47 items on the agenda. He proposed that all discharged items go into an appendix, and that speakers during the meeting should be limited to three minutes per person.

Alan suggested that matters arising can be dealt with succinctly and can then be archived. The key here is to decide on a group of people to come up with proposals to clarify and simplify the meeting process.

A group was agreed to propose how best to condense: Alan, Paige, Nigel and Della.

**Note: Della should now be replaced by another member.**

## 5. Youth Issues

Fraser and John Munro are currently running the Youth Cafe out of doors, due to Covid restrictions. Fraser is looking at funding options, because the Youth Cafe out of doors in winter would be 'a nightmare'.

## 6. Police Report

No report received. It was proposed that Gabrielle Pearson be asked to act as contact for Police reports.

Paige queried the need for a police report. Alan suggested that unless we hear otherwise, there is no need to have the report as a formal item on the agenda. It was agreed to keep police reports under Correspondence.

## 7. Matters Arising from previous minutes - 31st August 2020

**6.2** Alan proposed that all C-19 items be marked as discharged or ongoing.

**6.5** White lines: Aim is to make parking more structured. Craig will pursue to ask what is the best way forward.

**6.10** Community Payback. **Craig to pursue.**

**6.11** Traffic proposals:

a) To make Cromarty 20mph zone throughout

b) To have countdown signs on access roads

There was agreement that these proposals may be paused due to pressures of Covid-19. Kari to go back to Highland Council to ask what we can do in these circumstances. **Ongoing.**

**6.12** Link Shrubbery: **Ongoing**

**6.13** Hugh Miller Monument: **Ongoing**

**6.14** Resilience training: **Ongoing**

**6.15** Bank of Scotland mandates: **Ongoing**

**6.17 Town Sign:** This has been transferred to CF. **Ongoing**

**6.18** Events Groups; **Ongoing**

**6.19** Urgent repairs on Farness Road. **Ongoing.**

**6.20** Munlochy junction: No progress. Kari says Council should consider impact of Free Trade Zone on road traffic. Craig to look again at including local councils in this discussion. **Ongoing**

**6.21** Potholes: **Craig to pursue**

**6.22** Ladies Walk: **Craig to pursue**

**6.23.** CL Website updates: **Ongoing.**

**6.24** Townland Housing. Alan to continue as contact person for Albyn Housing until 2022. Albyn stated that no development is in prospect for at least two years. This area is also of interest to Community Council Development Trust. **Discharged.**

**6.25** Reschedule AGM when Covid restrictions allow public meeting. **Ongoing.**

**6.26** Report back on response from HC ref; permit for new track at Farness. **Ongoing.**

**6.30** Check if waste removal at Whitedykes site complete. **Ongoing.**

**6.31** 100 Steps Project: Application to Black Isle Partnership for funding was unsuccessful. Project was not seen as appropriate for funding. Members therefore considered where to go with this project.

Options were either to look for an alternative funding source, or to hand the project over to the Community Development Trust, or to drop the project entirely. Peter suggests cutting back overgrowth and creating a viewpoint. Kari says that a lot can be done by groups, if people are willing, and suggests replacing wooden boards and replacing debris. In springtime the wooden steps can be put in ie this would be a two-phase approach. Decision taken is that Kari will piecemeal the project, and then funding will be sought for the individual parts. Alan will look to fund from other sources, and to look for matching funding from different sources. **Alan to pursue.**

**6.32** Awaiting a response from Zurich Insurance to 100 steps project risk assessment. **Ongoing.**

**6.34** Cold Classrooms: Because of the requirement to keep classroom windows open during the Covid-19 pandemic, the CC agreed to find funding for all children to have warm fleeces. Money so far not forthcoming from HIE and Black Isle Partnership. Search for funding ongoing. **Nigel to pursue.**

**6.35** Tesco Bags of Help. Project complete. **Discharged.**

**6.36** Dog Poo Bins. Re Members' agreement to reopen the bins providing volunteers are willing to start the emptying rota as normal. A lot of poo had ended up in the town bins. Peter has a list of names of volunteers. Need to get a formal handover list from Tiffany and to ask who might be willing to take over the running of the team. **Paige will contact.**

**6.41** Review Links closure. Move to AOB as standard agenda item. **Discharged.**

**6.42** Notify respondents to rig noise survey, the C&DCC's agreement on their stance as minuted. **Discharged.**

**6.44** Gaps in fencing at Reed's Loop: It was felt that both the farmer and the landowner (John Nightingale) have a duty of care in regard to mending the gaps. **Peter to send letter to John Nightingale. Ongoing.**

**6.46** Research suggestion of free standing hand sanitiser unit outside the public toilets. **Ongoing.**

**10.3** HMI Grass complaint. **Ongoing.**

**10.4** Feedback on HC response to report on rats at Shore Street. **Ongoing.**

## **8 Treasurer's Report**

Alan Plampton circulated the CC Financial Report prior to the meeting (**Appendix 5**).

## **9. Victoria Hall Report**

Alan Plampton circulated the VHMC Report (**Appendix 6**) and the Assistant Youth Worker report prior to the meeting.

## **10. Community Councillors' Portfolios**

With the resignation of Gabriele Pearson and Diane Brawn, there's a need to look at their portfolios and identify who is best suited to take over these roles. Della Matheson has identified the following:

### **Gabriele:**

Cromarty Care Project, Cromarty Community Development Trust, Covid-19 (Gabriele supported by Marcel Gommers, Nigel Shapcott, Ronald Young), Bus Services and Road Surfaces, Links/Beaches

and Litter (Support role), Planning and Police Liaison.

**Diane:**

Community Noticeboard, Dog Fouling, Nigg Liaison and Nigg Noise, Cromarty Leaflets and Booklets (support role)

**Highland Councillors' Report-Craig Fraser:**

Agenda items 6.3, 6.6, 6.8, 6.9 6.16,6.19, 6.28 6.37 can all now be discharged.

**6.5** White lines: Aim is to make parking more structured. will pursue HC to ask what is the best way forward. **Ongoing**

**6.10** Community payback. Craig will pursue. **Ongoing**

**6.12** Link Shrubbery. **Ongoing**

**6.43** Reed's Loop: **Ongoing**

**12. Correspondence**

Freeport project: Kari consolidated all comments and questions regarding the proposed Freeport, and sent them as an email to the Port of Cromarty Firth Authority. She got a holding email. She waited another ten days for them to respond, and then sent an email to the MSPs Kate Forbes and Fergus Ewing. Port Authority is not answering questions. Kari spoke of the gloss the Authority is putting on the Freeport bid, and the conflict between their projections and the reality of other Freeports. The impact, even in terms of road traffic, would be felt all over the Highlands. The Chairperson thanked Kari, and requested a list of the questions she had put to the Authority.

**13. Any Other Business**

Gritters: The pavement gritter organiser, Duncan Bowers, has resigned. **Nigel** to look at finding a team of volunteers and will report at the next meeting. **Peter** will report on grit bins.

Funding for resilience and reconstruction of communities in the Highlands: Craig doesn't think Cromarty is eligible for funding.

**Email related to asset transfer:** Highland Council and the Scottish Government are looking for communities to get involved with asset transfer. No decision made. **Ongoing.**

**Cromarty Links Bus Shelter**

Has been hit again. Craig has raised a formal complaint. **Ongoing**

**14. Date of next ordinary meeting:**

**Monday 26 October 2020, 7.30pm** via the Whereby virtual Platform

**Summary of Action Points**

**4 Meeting format and length proposals: Nigel, Alan & Paige**

**6.5 White lines: Craig**

**6.10 Community payback: Craig**

**6.11 Traffic proposals: Kari**

**6.17 Progress town sign: Craig**

**6.20 Munlochy junction: Craig**

**6.21 Potholes: Craig**

**6.22 Ladies Walk: Craig**  
**6.23 CL Website: Alan & Peter**  
**6.24 Townland Housing: Craig**  
**6.26 Farness Track Permit: Craig**  
**6.30. Whitedykes site. Kari**  
**6.31 100 Steps: Kari and Alan**  
**6.32 100 steps Insurance. Alan**  
**6.34 Cold Classrooms: Nigel**  
**6.36 Dog Poo Bins: Peter and Paige**  
**6.43 Reeds Loop: Craig**  
**6.44 Reed's Loop: Peter**  
**6.46 Free standing hand sanitisers: Alan**  
**10.3 HMI Grass complaint: Craig**  
**10.4 Rats on Shore Street: Craig**  
**12.4 Freeport: Kari**  
**13 Community Asset Transfer : All**  
**13 Gritting volunteers: Nigel**  
**13 Grit Bins: Peter**  
**13 Links Bus Shelter: Craig**

#### **APPENDIX 1**

##### **Discharged items:**

**6.3 Discharged**  
**6.6 Vegetation: Discharged**  
**6.8 East Church: Discharged**  
**6.9 Road repairs: Discharged**  
**6.16 Nigg Development: Discharged**  
**6.24 CCDT & Townlands site. Discharged.**  
**6.28 Bins: Discharged**  
**6.35. Tesco Bags of Help. Discharged.**  
**6.37 Townlands CCTV: Discharged**  
**6.41 Add 'Links closure' to AOB: Discharged**  
**6.42 Rig Noise: Discharged.**

#### **APPENDIX 2**

##### **Items ongoing due to Covid-19**

**6.12 Links Shrubbery**  
**6.13 Hugh Miller Monument ownership records**  
**6.14 Resilience Training**  
**6.15 Bank of Scotland Mandates**  
**6.18 Events group sub committee**  
**6.19 Farness Road**  
**6.22 Ladies Walk**  
**6.24 Townland housing**  
**6.25 AGM reschedule**



## **Agenda item 9**

### **Appendix 4**

#### **Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

##### **Agenda Item 9 – Victoria Hall Report**

- 1. Hall Bookings** Although lots of people would love to see the Hall reopen as normal, this currently is not possible. The situation in the Highlands is worrying and there is no point in pretending that to encourage social gathering, by opening the Hall, is in any way a sensible decision. However this is a subject that needs to be considered by all Members with a decision that gives clarity to the Community and any regular users who need to make forward plans.

**ACTION – Information and discussion.**

- 2. Youth Cafe** Attached is the latest Report from Fraser, the Assistant Youth Worker.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September, John Munro also started a 3 month contract to assist the AYW. John was the other shortlisted candidate for the AYW interviews, at which he impressed everybody on the panel with his enthusiasm and clear thinking about working for young folk in Cromarty. He will be doing 5 hours per week. This employment has been financed by the Middleton Trust from their Covid-19 Resilience Fund.

In addition we have been successful in securing more Middleton Trust funding from their Covid-19 Resilience Fund, for a further 6 projects. Brief details of all these projects and their funding are attached. The Youth Cafe is enormously grateful for this Middleton Trust support that will make a big impact in combating Cromarty young folk's struggles in these challenging times.

Given that project 6, School Bags to Help, is very similar to the C&DCC Tesco Bags of Help funded project for the Cromarty Primary School, we have combined their Project Plans. Orders have been placed and the Primary School Bags to all 51 Primary School children in Cromarty will be handed over before the mid term break.

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

Alan Plampton, VHMC

27/09/20