



# Cromarty and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on  
Monday 25th February 2019, 7.30pm  
in the Hugh Miller Institute

**Draft**  
**Minutes**  
**25.2.2019**

## Present

**Community Councillors:** Jacquie Ross (JR) Chair, Diane Brawn (DB) Secretary, Estelle Quick (EQ) Treasurer, Rosemarie Hogg (RH), Kenneth MacFarlane (KM)

**Youth Representatives:** Tilly Grist (TG) & Teagan Young (TY)

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

**Police Scotland:** -

**Member(s) of the public:** Natalie Murray (NM), Assistant Youth Worker, Nigel Shapcott & Ruth Clark

**Community Council Minute Secretary:** Gillian McNaught (GM)

1	<b><u>Chairman's Welcome</u></b> JR welcomed everyone to the meeting.  <b><u>Apologies:</u></b> Gabriele Pearson (GP), PC Scott Cameron (PC SC).	
2 End	<b><u>Declarations of Interests</u></b>  None	
3  3.1  3.2 End	<b><u>Approval of previous Minutes, 28th January 2019</u></b>  3.1 <b>Amendment</b> - 'Members of the Public' at the top of page 1 was updated to include the attendance of Jon Palmer.  3.2 The minutes were then approved by DB and seconded by RH.	
4  4.1  4.2  4.3 (cont)	<b><u>Submission from the gritting squad - represented by Nigel Shapcott(NS)</u></b>  4.1 NS presented a report summarising the difficulties faced by the volunteers. (Appendix A).  4.2 NS requested C&DCC support for the following solutions: 1. to replace the gritting tractor with 4 manual machines, costing £500 - £700 each which would be easy to use, store and maintain 2. to purchase one machine initially to test 3. to look into the possibility of selling and/or part exchanging the tractor and for any remaining monies to benefit the community  4.3 Members discussed and <b>agreed</b> support in full.	

<p>(cont) <b>4.4</b></p> <p>End</p>	<p>EQ proposed that the C&amp;DCC fund the purchase of the trial machine (<i>item 2</i>), costing approx £500. <b>All agreed.</b></p> <p>The gritting team was thanked for their input. NS will report back with further details and left the meeting at 7.45pm.</p>	<p><b>EQ</b></p>
<p><b>(4a)</b></p> <p><b>(4a.1)</b></p> <p><b>(4a.2)</b></p> <p><b>(4a.3)</b></p> <p>End</p>	<p><i>(Minute Secretary's note: Chair agreed this item to be discussed at this point).</i></p> <p><b><u>Ruth Clark - Nuisance rig noise</u></b></p> <p>Ruth Clark (RC) attended to highlight the ongoing problem of rig noise which affects her and other residents around the anchorages close to Cromarty both day and night. She updated Members on her complaints to CFPA and HC. A recent monitoring visit by HC had found rig noise levels to be problematic. RC will continue to engage with the authorities on this and encourages others affected to do likewise.</p> <p>Members expressed concern that this is an ongoing problem for the community. DB will request who to contact at HC to direct complaints and copy in CF.</p> <p>JR will contact the owners of the Rig on behalf of the C&amp;DCC.</p> <p>RC was thanked and left the meeting at 7.55pm.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>DB</b></p> <p><b>JR</b></p>
<p><b>(12)</b></p> <p><b>(12.1)</b></p> <p><b>(12.2)</b></p> <p><b>(12.3)</b></p> <p><b>(12.4)</b></p> <p><b>(12.5)</b></p> <p><b>(12.6)</b></p> <p>End</p>	<p><i>Minute Secretary's note: Chair agreed this item be discussed at this point).</i></p> <p><b><u>Highland Councillor (HC) Report</u></b></p> <p><b>Bench(es) for sheltered housing area</b> (<i>Minutes 28.1.2019, item 6.8</i>) - HC have replied to indicate they would have no problem with the proposed siting.</p> <p><b>Graveyard Maintenance</b> (<i>Minutes 28.1.2019, item 11.1 &amp; 2</i> )- CF liaising with residents who have volunteered their services to help tidy.</p> <p><b>Traffic Management Meeting</b> - a meeting date to be rearranged.</p> <p><b>Condition of East Church</b> - This is owned by The Scottish Redundant Churches Trust and CF will follow up on the poor state of several areas of the building.</p> <p><b>Cromarty Primary School</b> - Letter received for the attention of HC from school pupils with concerns about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the amount of rubbish on the ground as there are not enough bins</li> <li>• the absence of public facilities for plastic recycling in Cromarty, resulting in plastic waste, particularly along the shoreline.</li> <li>• caravans parking on the Links preventing the school using the space for games</li> </ul> <p>CF will meet the children and invite HC officials to come out to Cromarty.</p> <p><b>Seagulls</b> - CF circulated the link for HC policy regarding seagulls and he reiterated it is illegal to touch nests. However, DB had received further complaint about seagulls causing distress and nuisance in Fishertown and she will discuss with SNH if permissions exist for nest removal.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>CF</b></p> <p><b>CF</b></p> <p><b>CF</b></p> <p><b>CF</b></p> <p><b>CF</b></p> <p><b>DB</b></p>

<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>End</p>	<p><b><u>Youth issues</u></b></p> <p>TY and TG gave a brief summary of activities available to young people in Cromarty, including the Indoor Rowing at Youth Cafe, Wendy’s Music classes, the Mother and Toddler Group and an upcoming Rowing Club Regatta in August.</p> <p>Flyers were given to TY &amp; TG for letterbox distribution around the Denny area following discussions about parking and road safety. (<i>Minutes 28.1.2019, item 4.4</i>)</p> <p>NM, TY &amp; TG were thanked for their input and left the meeting at 8pm.</p>	<p><b>TY &amp; TG</b></p>
<p>6</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>End</p>	<p><b><u>Police Report</u></b></p> <p>PC Scott Cameron (PC SC) submitted his report to Members, prior to the meeting. (<b>Appendix B</b>).</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p> <p>7.5</p> <p>7.6</p> <p>7.7</p> <p>7.8</p> <p>7.9</p> <p>(cont)</p>	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p>(4.4 Draft a letter and print to distribute to residents in homes around the Denny road requesting consideration to park safely). Done. <b>Discharged.</b></p> <p>(4.4 Deliver safer parking letter). <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>(4.5 Follow up on a proposal from the young people about a skate or bike park provision). <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>(4.6 Bring issues affecting young people to meetings and survey if the younger residents think there is enough for them to do in Cromarty). <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>(4.7 Organise pre-meeting discussions each month to collate information for short Youth Report). <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>(6.1 Report to Members once Joanne Allday has responded to invitation to attend a CC meeting). Dates offered but no reply. <b>Discharged.</b></p> <p>(6.1 Make poster for the CC notice board informing residents how to report concerns about rig noise). Done. <b>Discharged.</b></p> <p>(6.1 post links for CFPa and HC Environmental Health on Facebook to report rig noise). Done. <b>Discharged.</b></p> <p>(6.3 Progress the possibility of young people taking on the removal of leaves from footpaths as a project). <b>Ongoing.</b></p>	<p><b>NM, TY &amp; TG</b></p> <p><b>NM, TY &amp; TG</b></p> <p><b>NM, TY &amp; TG</b></p> <p><b>NM, TY &amp; TG</b></p> <p><b>NM, TY &amp; TG</b></p> <p><b>NM, TY &amp; TG</b></p> <p><b>NM, TY &amp; TG</b></p>

(cont)		
7.10	(6.4 Continue to monitor burial procedures). No issues to report. <b>Ongoing.</b>	JR
7.11	(6.5 Organise a visit to Youth Cafe ref CCDT). <b>Ongoing.</b>	EQ
7.12	(6.6 Report back on discussions about Whitedykes site community ownership). JR reported an Asset Transfer has been requested for the land by the CCDT and discussion continuing. <b>Ongoing.</b>	JR
7.13	(6.8. Contact HC about benches for the sheltered housing courtyard). See <i>item (12.1)</i> . <b>Discharged.</b>	
7.14	(6.9 Continue to monitor the emptying of graveyard waste bin). The bin continues to be put out regularly by a volunteer for collection. <b>Ongoing.</b>	JR
7.15	(6.13 Look at market stalls for size etc and suitability for using and storing as discussed). <b>Ongoing.</b>	EQ & RH
7.16	(6.18 Keep Members informed of ‘Choose Life’ events). JR reported that the core group had recently met and a community event in the Academy is planned to support groups/organisations on mental health awareness. <b>Ongoing.</b>	JR
7.17	(6.19 Keep informed of Community Council Scheme Review progress & further information). JR will forward the document to Members and an update on progress is expected in May/June. <b>Ongoing.</b>	ALL
7.18	(7.3 Chase up Tractor insurance refund from HC). At HC’s request, EQ sent documents outlining the current insurance arrangements. No refund to date. <b>Ongoing.</b>	EQ
7.19	(10.7 Raise an objection to planning application as minuted). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
7.20	(10.8 Write to HC Planning about parking consideration for any application and copy Craig in). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
7.21	(10.9 Update Members on communications with Planning about Biomass Boilers & discussions with Resolis CC). GP circulated by email prior to the meeting, “ <i>The HC Enforcement Officer and Environmental Health are still dealing with the issue and Sepa has also been involved</i> ”. <b>Ongoing.</b>	GP
7.22	( 11.1 & 2 Progress/report back on graveyard maintenance, overgrown vegetation at links carpark and street light problems). See <i>item (12.2)</i> . Members to be updated on overgrown vegetation and street lighting <b>Ongoing.</b>	CF
(cont)		

<p>(cont) 7.23  7.24  7.25  7.26  End</p>	<p><b>(11.3</b> Craig to organise meeting as minuted to discuss draft TMP with Jacque and Ian Moncrieff). <i>See item (12.3)</i>. <b>Discharged.</b></p> <p>(12.1 Confirm support for the Harbour Trust application for updating security cameras system). Done. <b>Discharged.</b></p> <p>(12.2 Write to Craig to support the ‘sensible’ location of Council Housing to support needs of the Community). <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>(13.1 Ascertain the ownership/origin of the interpretive panels in poor condition in Town and ask for them to be replaced or removed). EQ has done preliminary work and in the first instance will contact SNH.</p>	<p><b>JR</b>  <b>EQ</b></p>
<p>8  8.1  8.2  8.3  8.4  End</p>	<p><b><u>Treasurer’s Report</u></b></p> <p>EQ circulated her report prior to the meeting and presented to Members. <b>(Appendix C)</b>.</p> <p><b>Lunch Club</b> - There is enough funding in place to continue until the end of March.</p> <p><b>C&amp;DCC Insurance</b> is now paid direct to Zurich and information on premiums will follow.</p> <p>A request to support Blackhaven Podcasts was turned down as no funds are available.</p> <p>EQ was thanked for her report.</p>	
<p>9  9.1  9.2  9.3  9.4 End</p>	<p><b><u>Cromarty Community Development Trust (CCDT)</u></b></p> <p>The £440k <b>Rural Tourist Infrastructure Fund</b> application for the Whitedykes campsite and slipways had required final adjustments and information and is now submitted. Decisions on awards will be made in April and Members expressed thanks to the working group.</p> <p>JR met with HC and Albyn Housing to discuss the findings of the <b>C&amp;DCC Housing Survey</b>, which will form the basis for proposals now being drawn up by Architects. Any plans would have to meet Community approval in the first instance.</p> <p>The open meeting on <b>The Townlands Barn</b> (10.2.2019) was well attended. Ideas for use will be taken forward by the Barn group this week.</p> <p>RH reported that the <b>Thrift Shop</b> is scheduled for opening by Easter.</p>	<p><b>JR</b>  <b>JR</b>  <b>EQ &amp; JR</b></p>

<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>10.1</b></p> <p><b>10.2</b></p> <p>End</p>	<p><b><u>Victoria Hall Management Committee (VHMC) Report</u></b></p> <p>Alan Plampton (AP) circulated the VHMC report (<b>Appendix D</b>) and the <b>Cromarty Youth Worker Report (Appendix E)</b> to Members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Members expressed disappointment that the HC are not fulfilling their responsibilities and making funds available to maintain their asset (<i>see report item 4</i>). DB will email Cllr CF.</p>	<p><b>DB</b></p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>11.1</b></p> <p><b>11.2</b></p> <p>(a)</p> <p>(b)</p> <p><b>11.3</b></p> <p><b>11.4</b></p>	<p><b><u>Community Councillors' Portfolios</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Rosemarie Hogg</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Tractor</b> has been relicensed for another 12 months.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Diane Brawn</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A card and gift will be organised as a 'Thank You' to Kristina Dupar, who managed the Cromarty Live website on behalf of the C&amp;DCC as a volunteer for over 10 years.</li> <li>The CFPA has requested the C&amp;DCC propose a site for their Sustainability Trail information board (<i>see Minutes 28.1.2019, item 10.3</i>). Discussion took place in the light of the number and variety of interpretive boards already within the District, some in a state of disrepair and/or out of date (<i>item 7.26</i>). Members <b>agreed</b> that DB inform Joanne Allday at CFPA of these concerns and request that consideration is given to alternative interpretation methods. DB and EQ will also count and check the condition of existing panels.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Jacquie Ross</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundraising efforts by the Trust continue for further necessary works at the Harbour.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Gabriele Pearson</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Planning Report - New Application</b> Erection of log cabin for ancillary accommodation 19 Bayview Crescent Cromarty IV11 8YP Ref. No: 19/00673/FUL   Received: Sat 16 Feb 2019   Validated: Sat 16 Feb 2019   Status: Under Consideration</li> </ul>	<p><b>DB</b></p> <p><b>DB &amp; EQ</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>12.1</b></p> <p>End</p>	<p><b><u>Highland Councillor (HC) Report</u></b></p> <p>(<i>Minute Secretary note: presented after item 4a</i>)</p>	

<b>12</b>	<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	
<b>12.1</b>	JR had an email request from the Cromarty Primary Parent Council to attend their next meeting to talk about wellbeing on the Black Isle.	<b>JR</b>
<b>12.2</b>	Press release received from Highland & Moray Councils who have launched a new website to support the Armed Forces communities.	
<b>12.3</b>	February newsletter was received from <b>Ross shire Voluntary Action</b> .	
<b>12.4</b>	Email received from Iain Maclean, <b>BBC Alba News</b> in Inverness, interested to hear of community news stories and events for broadcasting.	
<b>12.5</b>	Email from <b>Police Scotland</b> wanting to hear views from the public on how the ir service is shaped over the next three years. The survey will be open until <u>18th March</u> and the Annual Plan will be submitted to the Scottish Parliament by the end of March 2019. To take part, visit <a href="http://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2019shape">consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2019shape</a>	
<b>12.6</b>	The <b>Highland Senior Citizens Spring 2019 Newsletter</b> was received and an invitation on <u>24th April 2019</u> to their AGM and Conference on the theme,“Age Friendly Communities”.	
End		
<b>13</b>	<b><u>AOB</u></b> -	
<b>14</b>	<b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b> <b>Monday 25th March 2019 @ 7.30pm, Hugh Miller Institute, Church Street, Cromarty.</b>	
	JR thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 8.45pm.	

### Summary of Matters Arising & Action Points

Reference	To whom allocated	Notes
4a.2	Diane	Request a contact at HC for rig noise complaints and copy in Craig
4a.3	Jacque	Send a letter to Rig owners about noise levels
(12.1)	Craig	Progress possibility of bench(es) at sheltered housing
(12.2)	Craig	Liaise with volunteers to tidy graveyard
(12.3)	Craig	Rearrange date for TMP meeting
(12.4)	Craig	Follow up on building problems at the East Church
(12.5)	Craig	Meet with Primary School children about concerns expressed in their letter. Arrange a visit from HC officials

(12.6)	Diane	Contact SNH for information about seagull nest removal permissions
4.4	Estelle	Liaise with gritting squad over the purchase of a test manual machine
(4a.2)	Diane	Email HC for a direct contact to report rig noise & copy in Craig
(4a.3)	Jacquie	Contact Rig owners directly with concerns over noise levels
7.2	Natalie and Teagan and Tilly	Deliver letter to residents requesting safer parking
7.3	Natalie and Teagan and Tilly	Follow up on a proposal from the young people about a skate or bike park provision
7.4	Natalie and Teagan and Tilly	Bring issues affecting young people to meetings and survey if the younger residents think there is enough for them to do in Cromarty
7.5	Natalie and Teagan and Tilly	Organise pre-meeting discussions each month to collate information for short Youth Report
7.9	Natalie and Teagan and Tilly	Progress the possibility of young people taking on the removal of leaves from footpaths as a project
7.10	Jacquie	Continue to monitor burial procedures
7.11	Estelle	Organise a visit to Youth Cafe ref CCDT
7.12	Jacquie	Report back on further discussions about Whitedykes site community asset transfer
7.14	Jacquie	Continue to monitor the emptying of graveyard waste bin
7.15	Estelle & Rosemarie	Look at market stalls for size etc and suitability for using and storing as discussed.
7.16	Jacquie	Keep Members informed of the next 'Choose Life' events
7.17	Jacquie & All	Circulate the Community Council Scheme Review document to Members and update once further information is available
7.18	Estelle	Continue to chase up Tractor insurance refund from HC
7.20	Gabriele	Update Members on Biomass Boilers planning issues
7.22	Craig	Progress/report back overgrown vegetation at links carpark and street light problems
7.25	Jacquie	Write to Craig to support the 'sensible' location of Council Housing to support needs of the Community
7.26	Estelle	Contact SNH to discuss interpretive panels in poor condition
9.1	Jacquie	Update Members on RTIF application submitted
9.2	Jacquie	Keep Members informed of Townlands Barn discussions with Albyn & HC
9.3	Jacquie & Estelle	Update Members on Barn Group meeting
10.2	Diane	Write to Craig to express C&DCC disappointment with lack of support and funding to maintain the Victoria Hall



11.2 (a)	Diane	Send card and gift to thank Kristina Dupar as minuted
11.2 (b)	Diane	Write to Joanne Allday as minuted re: interpretive boards
11.2 (b)	Diane & Estelle	Count and record position and state of local interpretive panels
12.1	Jacque	Organise a visit to the next Cromarty Parent Council meeting to talk about wellbeing on the Black Isle

## **Agenda item 4.1**

### **Appendix A**

#### Main Points

I'll summarise the conclusions of recent discussions between the lead "gritters".

Voluntary gritting of Cromarty has become unsustainable. When bad weather strikes this puts individuals at risk of falls and particularly for the elderly this can be life threatening. Our analysis is that there are two main reasons for this:

1. Reliability of gritting machine
2. Low numbers of volunteers due to reluctance of individuals to drive and set up the gritter

Currently the gritter is not available as it is with HC for repair. This is a constant problem. This season the machine has not worked for a complete gritting session. We have worked with this for 3 or 4 years and although the machine, when working, works well, it is constantly breaking down.

We have 15 or so people on the list but most of these are uncomfortable with driving the gritter. They will assist but not drive. It's a complicated machine to get your head around and indeed I have to look at the training video, that myself and Duncan made, before I go out.

We have put articles in the last two issues of the new Cromarty Newsletter asking interested people to contact us as potential volunteers but have had little interest.

**Nigel Shapcott**

## **Agenda item 6.1**

### **Appendix B**

"POLICE REPORT TO 25/01/19 - 22/02/19"

Between 25/01/19 and 22/02/19 Police Scotland were involved in 0 incidents within the Cromarty area and there are no enquires outstanding within the Cromarty area.

This being said Officers routinely conduct high visibility mobile patrols as well as foot patrols and Licence premise checks within the Cromarty area. Should you wish to discuss anything further or are aware of anything I may not be aware of then please do not hesitate to contact me.

I will be visiting the primary school to deliver a talk on road safety and anti-social behaviour on Friday the 1st of March 2019, this will provide a great opportunity to meet the kids and to give a little insight to the topics mentioned. These topics were chosen by the Head teacher Julie Dinwoodie.

**PC Scott Cameron N0377**

**Agenda item 8.1**  
**Appendix C**

<b><u>Finance Report – Cromarty &amp; District Community Council</u></b>				
<b><u>Agenda Item No 8 - Treasurer's Report</u></b>				
<b><u>Period: 27/1/19-24/2/19</u></b>				
<b><u>General Income</u></b>				
Less:				
<b><u>General Expenditure</u></b>				
Printer paper	£4.99			
<b>Increase/Decrease in Accumulated Fund</b>	<b>£4.99</b>			
<b><u>Fund Income</u></b>				
Less:				
<b><u>Fund Expenditure</u></b>				
Cromarty Rising - loan repayments	£1,340.00			
Cromarty Rising - website	£15.00			
Monday Club Fund - January lunches	£133.00			
Ferry Slip Fund - transfer to CCDT	£5,000.00			
	£6,488.00			
<b>Increase/Decrease in Other Funds</b>	<b>£6,488.00</b>			
<b><u>Net Assets</u></b>				
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 24/2/19	£14,118.37			
Paypal - website sales	£68.55			
<b>Total Net Assets at 24/2/19</b>	<b>£14,186.92</b>			
<b><u>Comprising:</u></b>				
Community Council Accumulated Fund	£2,384.89			
Provision for Guide Book reprinting	£900.70			
Seaplane Plinth Fund	£48.93			
Bonfire Night Fund	£2,155.60			
Splash & Dash Fund	£126.00			
Monday Club Fund	£330.00			
Community Development Fund	£536.26			
Gala Fund	£4,661.35			
Emergency Resilience Fund	£242.72			
Open Gardens Fund	£6.86			
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	£202.06			
Tractor Operations Fund	£110.92			
Tractor Maintenance Fund	£72.40			
Cromarty Rising Fund	£2,408.23			

## Agenda item 10

### Appendix D

#### Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019

##### Agenda Item 10 - Victoria Hall Report

1. **Finances and Bookings** No updates from last report. Full Financial Performance reporting at the April meeting.

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

2. **Repairs and Maintenance** A schedule of repairs has been started and the 1<sup>st</sup> phase has been completed. This included repairs to the understage cupboard door locks, the kitchen cabinets and the glazing/security grills in the toilets behind the kitchen. This last job should have been done by the Highland Council, but as it became a Health & Safety issue with the broken glass, the Hall has had to bear this cost, due to their refusal to complete any Hall repair responsibilities. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will include replacement hinges to the main internal hall doors (£150 per pair!), joinery repairs to stage front, repairs to kitchen park doors and the meeting room skylight leak. Again, these last two should have been the responsibility of the Highland Council.

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

3. **Insurance** It had been hoped to make a full presentation of the implications to this February Community Council Meeting. However the negotiations and the new proposed quotes are not yet finalised, so this presentation will now take place on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

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

4. **Highland Council/Highlife Highland** Still nothing new to report. This is being handled by Di Agnew, on behalf of Cromarty Common Good interests.

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

5. **Youth Café Attached** is Natalie's latest Youth Café Report.

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

## **Agenda item 10**

### **Appendix E**

## **Cromarty Youth Cafe Youth Worker Report**

Month: January 2019

### Summary of activities

- **Rowing**  
Indoor rowing is still going ahead! They are training for upcoming regattas and our young leaders have been fantastic at coaching them through techniques and timings.
- **Community Council**  
We discussed the seagulls at Community Council this month and how they keep attacking people, for example, Wanda almost died! She was eating a Pineapple tart and a seagull just flew down and attacked her! We also went over the graveyard and how it's a mess, so we are going to get on top of that. The parking at the bottom of the Denny is a nightmare as well, an accident waiting to happen, so myself and a few young leaders will be putting notices in peoples doors to let them know that they can't be parking there anymore.
- **Mental Health**  
Mental Health week is in February so this month they were going over what they discussed last year and how important it is to speak to someone, no matter if you feel that it's an insignificant issue, if it's affecting you then speak to anyone whether it's a teacher, parent, youth worker or friend. They went over ALGEE again.
- **Leadership**  
I completed a coaching course for Badminton so I can now take sessions with the primary school children and teach them everything I know! I can even hold tournaments for them and the lovely woman who taught me is more than happy to come out and help me out if I need it, so I'm going to get that started this year.
- **Youth Café - Juniors**  
Each week the kids have been taking something home with them, whether it's a keyring, a picture or any little thing they've created. We have them make mini bird houses, plasticine models, they decorate mugs and flower pots as well and they love letting their creativity flow. We have some fantastic artists among us! They also done an hour of games, ones that they choose and new ones I learn to bring a bit of spice to the session. They love learning new games and adapting it to fit how they would like to play it.
- **Youth Café - Seniors**  
Seniors are doing a great job at helping me during junior sessions and then they do whatever they would like in their own session. We have debriefs, we go over why we do what we do and then we discuss new ideas for them and what they would like in their two hours at youth café. Most would love to bake, cook and chill out. We are also looking at getting some training in the holidays for myself and the young leaders.
- **Mountain Biking**  
Mountain Biking has been going well, lots of the boys won competitions over the holidays and are powering through even in this freezing cold weather!
- **Cookwell and Bakewell**  
We've had so many amazing meals so far, ranging from macaroni to fajitas to then having some belgian waffles for dessert. We're very lucky with the help we get and the young leaders love getting stuck in.
- **Citizenship Groups**

Eco group are looking at how they can improve the school to make it more eco-friendly, they take polls around the classrooms and are going to be looking into getting compost bins.

- **Junior Leaders**

The Primary 7's had their training to become junior leaders in the primary school. They loved it and learnt all about session plans, how to make the games fun for the wee ones and are looking forward to running their own games in the playground to then gain their badges. They have to do ten sessions in a group before they get their badges. It's a fantastic way to break the cliques in the school and it teaches them to include everyone, it's a good mindset to have when going into the academy.

- **Resilient Kids**

Resilient Kids has been going for a few weeks now and it's going really well, the schools I am with are Cromarty Primary, Resolis Primary and Culbokie Primary. They all get along fantastically and work really well together, whether it's in small groups or altogether which sometimes has to be done since it's just Izzie on her own running the sessions. The kids are so clever and they get taught about how to be resilient when moving up to the academy, not to be scared and not to be afraid to speak up to anyone. Not to judge people for who they are, where they come from and also to make sure you're okay. Their slogan is "I'm okay, you're okay, we're okay together" and it's a brilliant way to think at that age, or any age for that matter!

### **Impact of activities**

Young people as a result of these activities are a lot more **confident**, they're **happier** and they are learning **responsibility** and **respect**. They are **participating** in the community more and going outside of their **comfort zone** to get involved and try new things.

All of the kids tell me each week they are happy at youth café, they feel safe and they are learning each week what it means to be responsible and active and to have respect for other people. There is never any trouble with them, other than the odd accident when playing sports. It's going really well.

### **Additional Information (if appropriate)**

#### **Plans for February will include** -

- Working on SHANARRI and wellbeing indicators.
- Resilient kids with the primary 7's.
- Helping the kids with their sessions to gain their Junior Leader badges.
- First Aid training.

Natalie Murray