



# Cromarty and District Community Council

Draft  
Minutes  
30.11.2020

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 30th November 2020, 7.30pm**  
via video link due to Covid-19 restrictions

## Present

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

**Youth Representative(s):** Fraser Thomson (FT), Assistant Youth Worker

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

**Member(s) of the public:** Jill Stoner, (JS), representing Cromarty Care Project

**Community Council Minute Secretary:** Gillian McNaught

1	<p><b><u>Chairman's Welcome &amp; Apologies</u></b> PS welcomed everyone to the video conference meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from NS, who joined the meeting at 8pm due to a family event.</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interests</u></b></p> <p>2.1 Declarations unchanged from meeting of 26th October 2020.</p> <p>End</p>	
(9.1)	<p><b><u>Cromarty Community Larder</u></b> <i>(Minute Secretary Note: Chair brought this item forward from AOB)</i></p> <p>Jill Stoner (JS) reported that recently some Black Isle communities have established Community Larders and CCP are keen to set up a Cromarty “Sharing Larder” before Christmas (where donations can be left and also taken for use). PS had made contact with people who could make a larder and discussion followed about potential sites.</p> <p>Members suggested the concrete base beside the old dairy, owned but currently unused by CCDT, would be ideal. JS will contact the CCDT and report back.</p> <p>PS thanked JS for this proposal to help local people.</p> <p>End</p>	
3	<p><b><u>Approval of Previous Minutes, 26th October 2020</u></b></p> <p>3.1 Approved by KM and seconded by PR.</p> <p>End</p>	

4	<b><u>Matters Arising from previous minutes, 26th October 2020</u></b>	
	<i><b>C-19</b> items can only be dealt with after Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.</i>	
4.1	(4.1 Discussion to be had on the reporting aspect of the meeting to see if we can continue in this manner or look for an alternative solution to shorten the meetings). Reporting in December. <b>Ongoing.</b>	AP, PS & NS
4.2	(4.2 Administration of Police reports). PS has contacted PC Scott Cameron and requested correspondence is sent to her for distribution to Members. He will try and submit a report for the next meeting. <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.3	(6.5 Ask HC about possibility of Townlands parking areas being white lined). CF followed up with HC 28.8.20. <b>Ongoing.</b>	CF
4.4	(6.10 Report on response to email asking if Community Payback Scheme can tidy up burial ground and sheltered housing paths). <b>Ongoing.</b>	CF
4.5	(4.6 Report back on HC response to TMP proposals as minuted). A query regarding the 2019 Traffic Management Consultation has been sent to Iain Moncrieff and Laura MacAllister at the Highland Council (HC). Still awaiting response. Will chase as at 1 December 2020. <b>Ongoing.</b>	KM
4.6	(4.7 Continue to liaise with HC about a survey of the Links Shrubbery) <b>C-19</b>	CF
4.7	(4.8 Report back on request for information re: discrepancy of ownership records for Hugh Miller Monument) <b>C-19</b>	AP
4.8	(4.9 Arrange for refresher resilience training workshop for the C&DCC when appropriate <b>C-19</b>	AP
4.9	(4.10 Report back on progress of the change of Bank of Scotland Mandates after lockdown). <b>C-19</b>	AP
4.10	(4.11 Update on a community designed “Welcome to Cromarty” sign on the Shore Road, with design involvement from Youth Cafe). <b>Ongoing.</b>	CF
4.11	(4.12 Revisit discussions with C&DCC sub committee Events groups once current situation eased). <b>Ongoing. C-19</b>	AP
4.12	(4.13 Report back on HC response ref the repairs required urgently on the Davidston to Farness Road ). Followed up with Ian Moncreiff. <b>Ongoing. C-19</b>	CF
4.13	(4.16 Follow up for a response from HC about damage to the steps at start of Ladies Walk). No budget for repairs, CF will follow up. <b>Ongoing. C-19</b>	CF
(cont)		

(cont)		
4.14	(4.17 Alan & Peter, with help from Fraser edit existing data on CL website and contact groups to do similar with their existing files. Following completion of these tasks, request quote from Plexus for upgrading website format). <b>Ongoing.</b>	AP
4.15	(4.18 Reschedule AGM when Covid restrictions allow public meeting). Delayed until further notice. <b>Ongoing. C-19</b>	ALL
4.16	(4.19 Report back on response from HC ref; permit for new track at Farness). CF reported this is with HC Planning. <b>Ongoing.</b>	CF
4.17	(4.20 Check if waste removal at Whitedykes site complete). An email has been sent via the Highland Council (HC) website. No response yet and no removal of the waste. Another email will be sent 1 Dec 2020. <b>Ongoing.</b>	KM
4.18	(4.22 Put forward proposal for 100 steps repairs, within a budget of £1000). KM compiled a report of what had been achieved by volunteers on the 21-22nd November and what might need to be re-visited. A plan will be submitted for consideration in Spring 2021 and funding sources will be investigated. KM suggested enough stakes and boards are left to finish any work remaining on the steps over the Winter. She proposed the £400 remaining in the budget be kept aside until CF liaises with HC about the urgent bridge repairs on the shore path. PS has received appreciative comments following the repairs and clearing of shrubbery on this popular walk and thanked KM and the volunteer team. <b>Ongoing.</b>	KM  CF
4.19	(4.25 Request volunteer list from Tiffany /Peter and source volunteer to co-ordinate emptying of dog poo bins). See <i>item 8.2</i> . <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.20	(4.26 Paige and Nigel- Update on litter picking group as required). <b>Discharged.</b>	
4.21	(4.28 Write letter of concern to John Nightingale about broken fencing at Reeds Loop). Email sent and awaiting a reply. <b>Ongoing.</b>	PR
4.22	(4.29 Report back when quotes come in from companies to supply free standing hand sanitiser units). <b>Ongoing.</b>	AP
4.23	(4.32 Kari awaiting responses to Freeport questions put to P of CF). The date of the next meeting has been released – 8 Dec 2020. Additional information should be forthcoming, including details of the social, environmental and skills assessments. A meeting report will follow. <b>Ongoing.</b>	KM
4.24	(13 Community asset transfer decision making). <b>Ongoing.</b>	ALL
4.25	(13 Report on grit bins). Report sent to HC but update to be submitted. <b>Ongoing.</b>	PR
(cont)		

(cont) <b>4.26</b>	(4.35 Progress proposal to move the links bus shelter to make safer as minuted). Stagecoach has agreed to repair the Links Bus Shelter and suggests moving it a few metres west and back would be better location. John Nightingale has been contacted, as owner of the land, but improvement work cannot move forward until permission has been granted. <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>CF</b>
<b>4.27</b>	(4.36 Report back on finding team of volunteers for the gritting team). Reported prior to the meeting and in <i>item 8.3</i> . <b>Discharged.</b>	
<b>4.28</b>	(5.5 Bring to November meeting a proposal for a new Bump track site, including overall size). Discussed under <i>item 5.7</i> . <b>Discharged.</b>	
<b>4.29</b>	(8.1 GM Update portfolio list). Done. <b>Discharged.</b>	
<b>4.30</b>	(8.2 Contact Gabrielle Pearson for advice on Planning Portfolio). See <i>item 8.1</i> . <b>Discharged.</b>	
<b>4.31</b>	(6.33 Report on updates from SAS of First Responders reinstatement). <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>PR</b>
<b>4.32</b>	(9.2 Ask CF advice ref; concerns raised about coach visitors and social distancing). PS circulated the email from Kate Forbes MSP regarding the concern from locals regarding Coach trips to Cromarty and trusts this response is sufficient. <b>Discharged.</b>	
End		
<b>5</b>	<b><u>Youth Issues, Presented by Fraser Thomson (FT)</u></b>	
<b>5.1</b>	FT submitted his Assistant Youth Worker report prior to the meeting.	
<b>5.2</b>	Young people have continued to clear leaves from the Park, the Denny and Cenotaph areas.	
<b>5.3</b>	AP and FT have put together a project with the remainder of the Middleton Trust covid resilience Fund, to fund work experience placements. These will be hosted by local businesses and publicised next week.	
<b>5.4</b>	Members expressed concern for young people who may be “falling through the cracks” because their plans have been derailed due to Covid. FT reported that Wanda MacKay is back full time to her Youth Development post and this will help greatly with support for young people in the community.	
<b>5.5</b>	AP reported that due to a member self isolating and lower staffing levels than usual, that Youth Café will remain closed. This decision will be reviewed on a weekly basis.	<b>AP</b>
(cont)		

(cont) <b>5.6</b>	Members asked CF if HC can provide weekly Covid case alerts so that CCs and local organisations can act quickly to implement necessary safety measures.	<b>CF</b>
<b>5.7</b>	GF shared the proposal with Members for a new <b>Pump Track</b> in Cromarty at ‘Jock’s Field’. Albyn Housing would need to be consulted for this area which under current plans will not be developed until 2022. As this may make the Track a temporary project, Members asked GF to consult with the group and look at costs which could be reduced with this in mind. GF to keep Members informed. NS & AP will support.	<b>GF, NS &amp; AP</b>
End		
<b>6</b>	<b><u>Treasurer’s Report</u></b>	
<b>6.1</b>	AP circulated the Treasurer’s Report Notes ( <b>Appendix A</b> ) and Treasurer’s Report ( <b>Appendix B</b> ), prior to the meeting. There were no further questions and AP was thanked for his reports.	
End		
<b>7</b>	<b><u>Victoria Hall Report including Youth Café</u></b>	
<b>7.1</b>	AP circulated the Victoria Hall Report ( <b>Appendix C</b> ), emails enquiring about re-opening of the Hall ( <b>Appendix D</b> ) and The Assistant Youth Worker’s report 12th October - 20th November, prior to the meeting.	
<b>7.2</b>	In the light of recent events ( <i>item 5.5</i> ), the VHMC propose the Hall remains closed and this will be reviewed in January 2021. <b>Agreed by Members.</b>	
<b>7.3</b>	AP reported that the <b>Defibrillator</b> unit at the Victoria Hall has been serviced ( <i>Appendix C item 2</i> ). The two remaining units at Cromarty Arms and the Fire Station also require new batteries and pads. Cromarty Medical Practise has offered a donation towards these costs. It was <b>agreed</b> NS will contact the Surgery to request funding for costs of pads and AP apply to HC ward budget for new batteries.	<b>NS &amp; AP</b>
End	There were no further questions and AP was thanked for his reports.	

8	<p><b><u>Members' Reports</u></b></p>	
8.1	<p><b><u>Portfolios</u></b></p> <p><b>Paige Shepherd</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Police Liaison</u> No Police report received this month, but PS has made contact with PC Scott Cameron.</li> <li>• <u>Planning</u> - PS met virtually with Gabrielle, who gave advice on the reporting and management of the planning portfolio, which has been greatly appreciated.</li> <li>• <u>New Applications</u> - Erect extension to existing dwelling at Mains of Eathie Farmhouse Cromarty IV11 8XY.</li> <li>• <u>Middleton Trust</u> - At the last AGM 8/10/20 Alison Vandyke was voted as the Trust's chairperson with Tony Vandyke the treasurer. This was following the resignation of Jacquie Ross as Chair and the resignation of Marek and Stephaine Kulesza who's father started the Trust. Awards for the year 2021 were discussed and monies awarded to the retrospective groups.</li> </ul>	
8.2	<p><b>Peter Ratcliffe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new Dog poo bin voluntary rota is being compiled.</li> </ul>	PR
8.3	<p><b>Nigel Shapcott</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Harbour Trust</b> have written to express their disapproval of the distribution of the Coastal Community Grant and of Cromarty's very small allocation of funding. <i>(AP took the opportunity to praise the full and detailed reports provided by the Harbour Trust for CC Members).</i></li> <li>• The Cromarty Harbour Trust annual Report and accounts year ended 31 March 2020 was circulated to Members prior to the meeting.</li> <li>• CCTV's security cameras, to replace the old system, have been installed at Cromarty Harbour and are in testing. They will go live shortly when appropriate signage goes up.</li> <li>• <b>CCDT</b> - slipway repairs at Cromarty and Nigg are complete.</li> <li>• A <b>Gritting</b> team of 22 volunteers has been set up, co-ordinated by Corrie Jeffries and assisted by Peter Ratcliffe and Nigel Shapcott. An external cold water supply is being sought for rinsing the machines.</li> <li>• <b>Cromarty Care Project</b> is seeking funding for a teepee for the Primary School and warm uniforms have been delivered.</li> </ul>	NS & AP
8.4	<p><b>Kari Magee</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Offshore Wind.</b> PoCF will be focussing on offshore renewables. IDEOL has signed a letter of intent with PoCF regarding the expansion of manufacturing facilities at Nigg and the use of berthing facilities to build floating windfarm foundations/ platforms with 2025 as a provisional time line.</li> <li>2. <b>Oil and Gas.</b> There are currently 13 rigs in Cromarty Firth with a number due to leave over the coming weeks. 1 rig is due to arrive but the date is not yet known.</li> </ol>	

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(cont)	<p>3. <b>Cruise Ships.</b> The 2021 season already has 100 visits booked. There is significant interest in establishing a more effective link between local businesses and the cruise ships to better showcase the region's goods and make the most of potential custom. KM will email PoCF to request access to the minutes of the Working Group.</p> <p>4. <b>Date of next meeting.</b> Due before end of January 2021.</p>	<b>KM</b>
8.5	<p><b>Highland Council - Cllr Craig Fraser</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CF has notified HC of potholes, especially around Jemimaville.</li> </ul>	
8.6	<p><b>Correspondence Received -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An email from Di Agnew listing potential sources for funding. NS requested an email discussion takes place between Members to ascertain what the C&amp;DCC may be eligible for.</li> <li>Tourism Consultation Document received from Di Agnew, which NS noted does not list Cromarty as a potential charging point location. NS will draft a response to highlight this omission.</li> </ul>	<b>ALL</b> <b>NS</b>
End		
9	<b><u>AOB</u></b>	
9.1	<b>Community Larder</b> discussed after <i>item 2</i> .	
9.2	The <b>CC Minute Secretary</b> position is now vacant. Members <b>agreed</b> to re-advertise in the first instance and thereafter spread the net wider if necessary. GM will draft a notice for Members' approval.	<b>GM</b>
9.3	Email received proposing that the joint Black Isle CCs (BICC) meetings should recommence. Members <b>agreed</b> and PS will be Cromarty's representative.	<b>PS</b>
End		
13	<b><u>Date of next meeting(s)</u></b>	
13.1	Next Ordinary Meeting, <b>Monday, 25th January 2021 @ 7.30pm via Whereby video conference.</b>	
End		
	PS thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 9.20pm	

### Summary of Matters Arising & Action Points

Reference	To whom allocated	Notes
4.1	Alan, Paige & Nigel	Report back proposals for shortening meeting times etc in December

4.3	Craig	Report back on follow up with HC about possibility of Townlands parking areas being white lined
4.4	Craig	Report on response to email asking if Community Payback Scheme can tidy up burial ground and sheltered housing paths
4.5	Kari	Report back on HC response to TMP proposals as minuted
4.6	Craig <b>C-19</b>	Continue to liaise with HC about a survey of the Links Shrubbery
4.7	Alan <b>C-19</b>	Report back on request for information re: discrepancy of ownership records for Hugh Miller Monument
4.8	Alan <b>C-19</b>	Arrange for refresher resilience training workshop for the C&DCC when appropriate
4.9	Alan <b>C-19</b>	Report back on progress of the change of Bank of Scotland Mandates after lockdown
4.10	Craig	Progress Welcome sign for Cromarty
4.11	Alan <b>C-19</b>	Revisit discussions with C&DCC sub committee Events groups once current situation eased
4.12	Craig <b>C-19</b>	Report back on HC response ref the repairs required urgently on the Davidston to Farness Road
4.13	Craig <b>C-19</b>	Look at repairs to the damaged steps at start of Ladies Walk
4.14	Alan & Peter	Alan & Peter edit existing data on CL website and contact groups to do similar with existing files. then contact Pexus for a quote to upgrade the site
4.15	ALL <b>C-19</b>	Reschedule AGM when Covid restrictions allow public meeting
4.16	Craig	Report back on response from HC ref; permit for new track at Farness
4.17	Kari	Report back of progress of waste to be removed at Whitedykes
4.18	Kari	Put together plan for 100 steps works in Spring
4.18	Craig	Ask HC about urgent repairs to bridge on shore path
4.21	Peter	Update on response from John Nightingale about broken fencing at Reeds Loop
4.22	Alan	Report back when quotes come in from companies to supply free standing hand sanitiser units
4.23	Kari	Report back with P of CF information re: Freeport status
4.24	ALL	Decision on Asset Transfers
4.25	Peter	Submit updated report to HC
4.26	Craig	Report on progress of request to John Nightingale to move the links bus shelter to make safer
4.31	Peter	Report on updates from SAS of First Responders reinstatement



5.5	Alan	Keep members informed of re-opening of Victoria Hall and Youth Café in January 2021
5.6	Craig	Request HC provide CCs with local weekly covid case updates
5.7	Gregor Nigel & Alan	Report back about Bump Track costs that can be reduced, as minuted. Nigel & Alan provide support role.
7.3	Nigel & Alan	Nigel request funding support for maintenance of defibrillators from Surgery and Alan from Ward Budget
8.2	Peter	Inform Members when dog bin rota is complete
8.3	Nigel & Alan	Research cold water supply for rinsing grit machines
8.4	Kari	Request Action Group minutes from the PoCF
8.6	ALL	Continue discussion by email of funding sources
8.6	Nigel	Write to Di Agnew to highlight document omission re: charging points
9.2	Gillian	Draft Minute Secretary advert
9.3	Paige	Take on role of C&DCC's representative and contact for BICC

## Agenda item 6

### Appendix A

#### Cromarty & District Community Council Ordinary Meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

#### Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer's Report Notes

1. The Covid-19 Resilience Fund remains in deficit following difficulties with BIP funding, however The Black Isle Ward Discretionary Fund/Common Good Fund has now confirmed the funding most of these costs, leaving just the 100 Steps tree work unfunded. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. Please note that Accumulated Fund figures at 1<sup>st</sup> April are subject to change in the Final 2019/20 Accounts. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **100 STEPS REVISED PROJECT** Following the very successful weekend, funded by the Community Amenities Fund, a number of additional tasks were identified. These include four new steps between two benches at the top and extra steps/moving rainwater course near the bottom. £400 remains in the Fund, which could be used to complete these tasks. **FOR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION AND DECISION**
4. **BONFIRE NIGHT FUND** Despite no event this year, the Fund has received a generous donation of £200 from the Sutor Creek Cafe, from their sales on Bonfire Night, outside the Cafe.

Alan Plampton, 28/11/20

**Agenda item 6**  
**Appendix B**

<b>Cromarty &amp; District Community Council Meeting</b>				
<b>Held on Monday 26th October 2020</b>				
<b>Agenda Item No 6 - Treasurer's Report</b>				
<b>Statement of Financial Position at 28th November 2020</b>				
		£	£	£
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>Movement</b>	<b>at 25/10/20</b>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 28th November 2020		13,703.73	-584.56	14,288.29
Paypal Balance as at 28th November 2020		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable		8.50	8.50	0.00
Amounts Payable		0.00	8.50	-8.50
<b>Total Net Assets at 28th November 2020</b>		<b>£13,712.23</b>	<b>-567.56</b>	<b>£14,279.79</b>
		£	£	£
<b>Represented by:</b>				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2020 ***		2,620.63	0.00	2,620.63
Surplus/Deficit for the year to date		-643.97	-100.00	-543.97
		1,976.66	-100.00	2,076.66
Community Amenities Fund (formerly CDF)		408.14	-659.06	1,067.20
Emergency Resilience Centre Fund		87.66	0.00	87.66
Covid-19 Resilience Fund		-821.79	-8.50	-813.29
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 28th November 2020		78.75	0.00	78.75
<b>Net C&amp;DCC Reserves</b>		<b>1,729.42</b>	<b>-767.56</b>	<b>2,496.98</b>
<b>Cromarty Event Funds</b>				
Bonfire Night Fund	2,272.14		200.00	2,072.14
Seaplane Plinth Fund	48.93		0.00	48.93
Gala Fund	4,446.13		0.00	4,446.13
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	7,102.12	0.00	202.06
<b>Other Community Funds</b>				
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		2,298.42	0.00	2,298.42
Gritting Fund		809.52	0.00	809.52
		<b>£13,712.23</b>	<b>-567.56</b>	<b>£14,279.79</b>
<b>*** Subject to change in Final 2019/20 Accounts</b>				
Alan Plampton 28th November 2020				

## Agenda item 7

### Appendix C

#### **Cromarty & District Community Council Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report**

- 1. Hall Bookings** There have now been two approaches seeking clarification as to why we have decided not to review reopening the Hall until at least January. The first approach, via the Youth Cafe, was from Deanna Lundie, a HLH Active Schools Co-ordinator, based at Fortrose Academy. You will see the email that was sent clarifying the situation. This response has been accepted by Deanna, who looks forward to our review on 25<sup>th</sup> January. The second approach is from a representative of Transition Black Isle, via Paige. Their views are also attached below and following discussion tonight, the proposal is to reply in a similar vein to the email sent to Deanna.

#### **ACTION – For Discussion and Agreement**

- 2. Defibrillator** The Victoria Hall unit has been serviced, with a new replacement battery, and is 'Rescue Ready'. The Hall has made a 'donation' to the charity that does the servicing and maintenance.

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

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

The Middleton Trust Covid-19 Resilience Fund projects continue, although some of work is being delayed by Covid-19 restrictions. The Bags of Help funded project for the Academy pupils, has been started and the first bags to the 65 Academy pupils, resident in Cromarty, have been well received. A second, smaller, bag will be presented in the New Year. An additional 11 bags have also been presented to the pre school pupils attending the East Church Hall. Again, these were very popular and funded from the existing budgets for Primary and Academy pupils.

The application to the Middleton Trust for future funding of the AYW post has now been confirmed. Unfortunately they are unwilling to commit to the full 3 years of funding the AYW post, so we have only been able to extend the contract of employment to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, but we are grateful for the Middleton Trust's continuing support. In addition, the Youth Cafe has decided to offer another 3 months of 5 hours per week to John Munro to assist in delivering this programme of projects. This will be financed by other Youth Cafe funding.

Funding has been received from Youth Scotland's Rural Action Fund, to finance outdoor Youth Cafe activities, plus we have had donations of furniture from Cromarty residents.

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

Alan Plampton, VHMC, 28/11/20

## **Agenda item 7**

### **Appendix D**

Hi Deanna

We haven't 'met' before but I understand that you have been enquiring about the Hall.

I shall read the Risk Assessment document you sent Fraser and get back to you with a fuller reply.

In the meantime, the decision was unanimously taken to close the Hall until at least January, when a further review will be made. This decision was not taken lightly but to give clarity to all user groups rather than continually waiting for the next set of guidelines, restrictions or easings to come from Holyrood.

We realise that under 12s in particular have all sorts of exemptions available but we were not prepared to make decisions that either increased the risk of infection or encouraged any form of indoor gathering when we cannot even see family in our own homes. If we open for the Youth Cafe then why not everyone else?

It is a difficult one and there are many different opinions as to what is safe or wise. Our Hall is totally run on a volunteer basis to serve the community as a whole. We accept that keeping schools open is important for many reasons and that activity is essential to both body and mind, but not at any cost. In Cromarty we have avoided Covid-19 and we are determined to make decisions to keep it that way.

As I said, I shall give the Risk Assessment document a serious read and then give you a fuller reply.

Regards

Alan

Chair VHMC - Treasurer C&DCC and Cromarty Youth Café

Dear Community Council (hi Paige - I couldn't find an email address for the CDCC)

We all accept and understand why the Community Council decided to close the Victoria Hall to all users earlier in the year. As time goes on, many of the long-time users of the Hall are suffering and struggling and would very much like to have some idea of how and when the Community Council might be able to re-open, at least partially and with limitations. The actual risks to individuals and groups in the community of NOT having opportunities to meet and do things together safely during the winter will be significant.

Can the Community Council advise on how community groups and Hall User organisations can best work with you to identify and address the specific criteria which you would require hall users to meet to allow selective use of the Hall after January; eg regarding Access, Safety, Cleaning, Numbers in Hall, full risk assessments in place (etc?); so that we can understand and meet your criteria - and so provide strong reassurances to the Community Council as we move forward into a more hopeful year with lower threat of the spread of infection.

**Perhaps something to discuss at your December Meeting next Monday?**

Transition Black Isle developed plans in the summer for how to operate an indoor market safely and can bring those ideas to the conversation. And we see other Halls in the Black Isle (eg Culbokie) and across Ross-shire (eg Poolewe and Gairloch) open for eg Cubs & Brownie or small indoor markets. So I am sure other groups would have ideas to suggest as well.

If there is a route-map towards reopening, then we can all work with it; so the Community Council can quantify, back-up and make less scary the decisions to open up our community hall again.

thanks, and I look forward to the chance to hear from and work with you.

Sheila Currie, for Transition Black Isle (and also talking to others in the town)