

Minutes of Crown & City Centre Community Council
Thursday 13th February 2025, 7pm
Fraser Park Bowling Club

Meeting of Crown & City Centre Community Council Abbreviations: Crown & City Centre Community Council (CC); Highland Council (HC); Crown Community Association (CCA)		
1.	Welcome	<p>Members present: Fiona MacBeath (FM), Pat Hayden (PH), Colin Mackenzie (CM), Julia Dall (JD), Val Falconer (VF), Bet MacAllister (BM), Donald MacKenzie (DM), Becky Fretwell (BF)</p> <p>In attendance: Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie (Cllr IM), Cllr Michael Gregson (Cllr MG) and three members of the public</p>
2.	Apologies	Cllr Ian Brown, Cllr Kate McLean, Cllr Michael Cameron, Cllr David Gregg Francis Williams, Mike Smith
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	<p>Meeting on 10th December 2024: Two corrections noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Under Parking Permits, it was noted that 'FM and BF to attend meeting with Highland Council – Cllr IM to arrange for the New Year.' Confusion about this. Cllr MG will pick this up. Under CCTV, it was noted that the sign would be 'facing Kingsmills Road and the park', this should have said 'facing toddler's area'. Otherwise proposed as an accurate minute by CM, seconded by DM.
4.	Matters arising	
4a.	Parks	<p>Walker Park CCTV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FM visited Acorn Signs. Saw example of A3 sign which can be printed inexpensively. Will fill in the blank areas with a phone number (agreed that 101 would be noted) and notify Scout hut too. Will be put on back of building AND side facing Kingsmills. Graffiti on the pavilion. HLH have said they're not reporting it to the police. There are houses overlooking the location so likely witnesses. Council maintains these buildings so will cost them to repaint it. FM will try to contact someone within Community Beats, if unable to she will come back to Cllr IM. <p>Equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PH was notified at the beginning of January that the Community Payback team had been in to sand all the posts – she requested that they also look at the toddler and skateboard parks, CCA to reimburse the cost of paint. <p>Fraser Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
4b.	Crown Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BF updated the group about the recent near misses with children and cars, as drivers are idling dangerously within the public Crown Car Park. HC agreed that volunteers from the Parent Council are allowed to close the car park with cones for 20 minutes at drop off and pick up times. Hoping that this simple measure will improve things; if not, they will look at School Streets Initiative as well.
4c.	Highland Council updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation for increased traffic from Inverness Castle Experience: no updates. Briefing coming up in March. To leave on agenda for now.
4d.	Parking permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above under section 3., Cllr MG will pick this up.

4e.	Training on short term lets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a recent exercise for a consultation event, BF gathered data on the number of short-term lets in Hill District – there are at least 53 in this area alone. General discussion about lack of accommodation in the area for individuals, families, and workers. It's felt that HC should be mapping these short-term lets across Inverness. Cllr IM suggests that the CC should raise at next forum – could we have a restriction on short-term let applications our area? FM/JD to ask if this can be added to next forum agenda.
4f.	Inverness Prison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BF has been in touch with prison service, they're not sure yet what they want to do with the prison, but they will keep her in the loop. SLF suggested we move forward with Local Place Plan for Hill District. Crown Connects is facilitating this and plan to submit it ASAP. Discussion around Viewhill and Masonic Lodge too. BF met with Inverness City Heritage Trust at WASPS recently. Will keep us updated.
4g.	Highland Community Council Scheme Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey for submission: JD to send the survey wording round everyone for agreement before submitting our response. Merging of councils: it was agreed that we don't have enough understanding of their local issues to comment on these. It was suggested that CCs in general should be lobbying for more funding. Cllr MG also noted that CC voice is extremely important for planning considerations, especially community benefit funds.
4h.	Velocity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing further re: Velocity. To be removed from agenda.
4h.	Curling rink and pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing the state of the Curling Rink and pavilion at Kingsmills: noted that it's now in a worse state than ever. Has not been played on this year. It's suggested that those interested write to the press about it. To be referred to Cllr IB. Cllr IM also interested to discuss with Cllr IB.
4i.	Old High Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent Old High event: the event organiser attended this CC meeting. They reported that 70 people attended. The group are planning to set up a SCIO and would be likely to get funding for a consultant from various funds. Looking at options for applying for funding in the short-term. Long-term ideas for use include small concert hall, small exhibition space, and having archived materials and information on the archaeology of the site on display. Currently trying to recruit more expertise to the group. There is a lot of enthusiasm for the project locally, and even internationally.
5.	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence from a Development Manager asking for a signed letter of support regarding the development of trails north of Inverness. Members felt that this was outwith our area. Jacob Hunt, Hub Developer at Ember, working on the Bus Depot at Ember which will also host a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project at Shore Street, Inverness. The concern of the CC had been noted via the planning system. Jacob attended this CC meeting to answer any questions. His attendance and explanations were appreciated by members. FM to send the email address for Jacob around again in case members would like to get in contact. Email from Fraser Park Bowling Club re: continued rental of the Club for CC meetings. During the meeting, a representative from the Bowling Club was in attendance but temporarily left the room while the CC members discussed the rental of the venue. Agreed that members would like to remain at the Bowling Club. Dalneigh CC meetings: Cllr MG mentioned that sometimes our meeting dates clash and could we consider coordinating so that he can attend

		both. Cllr MG to send their dates to us so we can refer to the list when setting our own.
6.	Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wickes building: this site will be turned into Home Bargains. • Damfield Road: objection was noted. The application was denied.
7.	Finance	Balance is £7,230.77. Since then, the only outlay was for hire of the hall, £25. New balance is £7,205.77.
8.	AOCCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed modifications to Ness Weir: no comments on this. To be removed from agenda. • Scottish Government Consultation on Energy Infrastructure Consenting: we did comment on this originally that we supported their position because it's reducing the ability of rural communities to comment on large infrastructure projects. This motion is to ensure council must show the bigger picture. Members agree that we should still support this. FM to send a note of support. • Proposal of Application Notice - Former Longman Landfill Site: will discuss next meeting when FW is in attendance. Cllr IM says this is going ahead. • Visitor Levy Scheme Webinar: discussion from those who attended. Noted that there will be another consultation event at the Drumossie Hotel on 05/03. • Ironworks: in the news that the purchasing company has gone bankrupt. Nobody can confirm what the fate of the building will be. Noted that planning approval on Ironworks lapses shortly. • Potholes: discussion about a large new pothole on Hill Street. Confirmed that this can be reported via the Highland Council website. • Local Development Plan evidence consultation: a lot of points in there that we should look at and discuss. FM has sent it around everyone. Deadline is 31st of March. Members to read separately. There's the option to respond individually. If we want to submit a CC response, DM suggests we have an extra online meeting to discuss – FM to follow up on this later in the month to see if needed. • Slabs on High Street: noted that a complaint was made by a resident about the missing slabs in the decorative area at the bottom of the Market Brae Steps on the High Street - several have been dug up and filled with tarmac.
9.	Date of Next Meeting	Next meeting: Tuesday 22 nd April, 7pm, Fraser Park Bowling Club.