

Minutes of Crown & City Centre Community Council
Wednesday 8th October 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); High Life Highland (HLH); Short Term Lets (STLs)		
1.	Welcome	<p>Members present: Pat Hayden (PH), Colin Mackenzie (CM), Julia Dall (JD), Bet MacAllister (BM), Donald MacKenzie (DM), Becky Fretwell (BF), Francis Williams (FW)</p> <p>In attendance: Cllr Ian Brown (Cllr IB), Cllr Michael Gregson (Cllr MG), and four members of the public</p>
2.	Apologies	Mike Smith, Val Falconer, Fiona MacBeath, Cllr Michael Cameron, Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie
	Guest discussion	<p>Louis McIntosh, Community Organiser from Living Rent</p> <p>A representative from Living Rent attended to provide an update on the group's work regarding short-term lets (STLs) in the Crown area. It was noted that Highland Council has given local area committees the authority to introduce STL control zones, which would require planning permission in addition to an STL licence and would enable the public to submit formal objections. Examples were given from Edinburgh and Badenoch and Strathspey, where such measures have resulted in a reduction in STL numbers. Living Rent is encouraging the Council to require new applications when STL licences expire after three years, to prevent automatic renewals. The group's broader objective is to increase the availability of long-term rental housing and to address issues arising from absentee landlords. The matter is expected to be discussed further at the Inverness City Committee meeting on 3rd of November.</p> <p>Two members of the public attended with Louis but were unable to contribute due to time constraints; their attendance was appreciated.</p> <p>JD to forward Louis' details to BF.</p>
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	Meeting on 20 th August 2025: Proposed as an accurate minute by CM, seconded by BF.
4.	Matters arising	
4a.	Parks	<p>Walker Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swing posts have finally been painted by the community payback team. Asked them about covering the graffiti – they are waiting for delivery of a cleaning rig, and after another project they will take a look at Walker Park. <p>Fraser Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr IM has asked about vehicles parking long-term at the car park, but no further update.

4b.	Crown Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slight delay on closure of the car park because all volunteers need PVGs. Some parents have been taken on a walk around primary, photos of damp and mould. Parent Council have composed a letter to HC about this. Noted that the building is currently graded at a B. BF asks if energy performance survey was done. Cllr MG will look that out. BF will keep us up to date.
4c.	HC updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heard updates on events in Falcon Square, issues with antisocial behaviour, improved CCTV and police presence, and that retail crime is down. Castle will be open end of November, tickets on sale a few weeks before that. Suggested by members that Crown Primary School children could be invited along beforehand, possibly also locals who have dealt with the difficulties associated with the refurbishments. Cllr IB to look into this. Reported that a wall at Godsmans Brae has been damaged, but nobody knows who owns it. Council officers are investigating as far as they can.
4d.	Parking permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re: Union Road complaints about abuse of visitor permits. BF still to send info to Cllr IM re: 'carrot and stick' approach to parking, i.e. lower emission/smaller car means you pay less and possibly could take this to HC.
4e.	Short term lets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previously discussed that it would be useful to get information from licensing and planning in a form that's suitable for CCs to read and understand. Cllr MC was going to enquire about this – no update at this meeting.
4f.	Old High Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General update including info on the title deed and a discussion around insurance. Talk of Macbeth and whether Old High could incorporate this.
4g.	Broad stone cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DM has been unable to speak to the local gardeners, will keep trying. Update from Cllr IM via email: she did contact Graham Tully but unable to help re: history, and no further update from residents at Kingsmills re: whether they have a Factor.
4h.	Bins in city centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bins have improved lately, not a problem now as less busy with tourists – removing from agenda after this meeting. Additional discussion here about gulls – it was felt that the recent meeting wasn't helpful, with no solutions offered. Cllr IB updated that Scottish National Heritage are working with HC on a pilot for the gulls - there have been a range of measures applied to stop nesting.
4i.	Speeding / One way system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's felt that traffic calming is needed on Old Edinburgh Road now, and also on parts of Island Bank Road too. Sleeping policemen a possibility? Cllr MG to report back on this. Recent traffic collisions on Charles Street: Cllr MC to come back on the existing speed data for Old Edinburgh Road, and Argyle and Crown areas.
5.	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported on 14 items of correspondence that did not require specific comment. <p>Of those that did require comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keiti Forbes email about mural trail – BF commented that murals in Aberdeen are lovely and brighten up the spaces. Members are interested to hear more, but specified that should we go ahead, there'd have to be oversight on design, and being 'PG-rated' would be best. Crown Road wall? Macbeth theme? JD to go back to Keiti to invite further discussion. Next Inverness Community Council Forum on the 9th December 2025 at 6pm

		– main agenda item is common good fund. CM and PH have offered to attend this one.
6.	Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25/03511/S36, Kyllachy Wind Farm. A standard message could be submitted for applications like these, i.e. that we're not against developments in principle, but that the people who are going to be impacted by them do not have the time to understand these huge applications, community engagement should be better. • 25/00826/FUL, Fanellan Substation. Don't need to add any further comments following our original comment.
7.	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous balance was £5,931.30. • Expenditure was only £4.75 in bank charges. • New balance is £5,926.55. • No statement received yet for September, CM chasing. • Name has now been changed from Val to Colin.
8.	AOCCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM and CM reported back on recent Inverness Community Council forum. • Notice of annual grant payment being received shortly was sent to us on 03/09 - amount will be £1,069.94. • Diriebught Court community meeting on 04/09 – DM attended. There were 20ish people there to discuss antisocial behaviour, police are doing more. • Email from FM re: dead trees in the park after the storm. Three trees have fallen into the council depot, no damage in the park but will have weakened the tree. Also three dead elm trees on corner, chunks have fallen off into the dog poo area. • Discussion around planning our meeting dates for 2026 as far as we possibly can as this would be preferable for Councillors. The Bowling Club will see if they can accommodate this – JD to make an agenda item and we will discuss it next time.
9.	Date of Next Meeting	Next meeting: Tuesday 2 nd of December (subject to confirmation) at 7pm, Fraser Park Bowling Club. Alternative date option would be Wednesday 3 rd December.