

Minutes of Crown & City Centre Community Council
Wednesday 20th August 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: Fiona MacBeath (FM), Pat Hayden (PH), Colin Mackenzie (CM), Julia Dall (JD), Val Falconer (VF), Bet MacAllister (BM), Donald MacKenzie (DM), Becky Fretwell (BF), Francis Williams (FW)</p> <p>In attendance: Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie (Cllr IM), Cllr Michael Gregson (Cllr MG), Cllr Michael Cameron (Cllr MC) and two members of the public</p>
2.	Apologies	Cllr Ian Brown, Cllr David Gregg, Cllr Kate Maclean, Mike Smith
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	<p>Meeting on 24th June 2025:</p> <p>Proposed as an accurate minute by FM, seconded by VF.</p>
4.	Matters arising	
4a.	Parks	<p>Walker Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One frame has been repainted; another being repainted next week. Tree litter after the storm – amenities team have assured Cllr MC that this will be dealt with. Overflowing litter bin at top of the park has been reported. <p>Fraser Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FM noted that Dara Stewart has been appointed Facilities Manager for HLH for Fraser Park and Pavilion plus other parks. FM to extend invitation to our next meeting. Discussion around vehicles parking long-term at the car park despite the two-hour limit. Cllr IM will ask about this as she's enquired about it previously.
4b.	Crown Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully trialled car park closure. Started gathering volunteers and hope to have enough to continue the afternoons this year. People are less enthusiastic about trialling in the morning, so will continue with afternoons for now and will be reviewed in future.
4c.	HC updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted that the City Committee took place this week and City Vision event, thanks to motion from Cllr IM, where they discussed bus routes amongst many other things. All Common Good Fund grants were approved.
4d.	Parking permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received correspondence from Cllr IM and Cllr DG from a resident of Union Road complaining about the use of visitor permits by AirBnBs – HC confirmed each STL can apply for 4 visitor permits. Cllr IM suggested the Edinburgh system to HC. The response was that the system is fine as it is. However, Broadstone Park residents are very upset about the parking in their area – always full of work vans, plus Union Road cars there too. Union Road residents also complain of unneighbourly parking. BF to send some information to Cllr IM re: 'carrot and stick' approach to parking, i.e. lower emission/smaller car means you pay less. Possibly could take this to HC.

4e.	Short term lets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JD attempted to submit an objection to the Hill Street Certificate of Lawfulness as agreed at last meeting but was unable to do so as it was granted before the deadline. HC confirmed that CCs aren't actually invited to comment, this was an error and will be fixed. Some back and forth with HC re: rules. We suggested that the rules should be changed for places like Highlands where there is a huge overprovision of STLs. No response as yet from HC following our last email. It would be very useful to get some information from licensing and planning in a form that's suitable for CCs to read and understand. Cllr MC has heard of this at other meetings and will enquire. Suggested that DM could also bring the issue up at the upcoming Inverness Community Council Forum.
4f.	Old High Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bid has been accepted, now the group needs to get money and insurance in place. Legal process will take 5-6 weeks, hoping for access over coming months. Hope to get involved in the St Columba Trail. It was suggested that they could get in touch with some television production companies.
4g.	Broad stone cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DM will make contact with the local gardening company for a quote for regular maintenance (every 6 months). CM has cleaned it in the past and offered to do so again. Alternative is that the locals fund it. Cllr IM to email Graham Tully re: the history. Cllr IM to ask residents of Kingsmills Park whether they have a Factor for their area.
4h.	Bins in city centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been raised. BID, HC and waste team were going to discuss. Difficult as it involves commercial contracts. Bin storage is being considered.
4i.	Viewing area on Crown Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult finding the owner of the land. There seem to be volunteers who are happy to do maintenance for now – to be removed from agenda for now.
5.	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr IM – new bench requested for Fraser Park. Contacted council and Men's Shed. Council would have to agree as they'd need to maintain it in future. Men's Shed are looking after 18 benches now. Perhaps speak to Dara Stewart. Noted that there's not much CC can do. Brief overview of buses from Cllr IM – no. 4 and 7 buses withdrawn. Setting up the no. 100 which will cover same and do more, but only for 6 months - temporary solution to see how successful it'll be. Gordon Terrace – would be good to know when the road closure will end. Old Mill Road – Cllr IM went to meeting last night. Majority of residents wanted double yellow lines all the way down. Community Council convention on 12th August. 60-something CCs represented, 11 MPs and MSPs, all of them signed an agreement re: current applications being held until there's a plan. May get taken up at Holyrood. Point was made that many of the battery storage applications were speculative in nature – has been suggested that overall picture could be made clearer by clarifying the intention for those applications. Highland Caravan and Campsites Association – seeking support re: lack of enforcement for the parking scheme. Discussed new O2 radio tower proposed for Raigmore area. Ardconnel St resident in touch about the lighting and noise at the Castle site – put in touch with HC.
6.	Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council response on East Longman Hydrogen Facility Consultation – response formulated strongly urging HC to consider community wealth

		<p>building in this proposal. Response submitted via email on 07/07, will report back with any updates. Thanks to BF and FW for their input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25/02497/FUL, annex in garden at 17 Argyle Street – neutral comment submitted, asking that HC considers attaching a condition to this application restricting the use of the proposed garden annex to ancillary accommodation for the main dwelling only and not for STL. • 24/05281/FUL, erection of STL unit on land south of 9B Auldcastle Road has been rejected – we submitted an objection to this in March 2025. • 25/02590/FUL, erection of extension at 23 Bellfield Park – neutral comment submitted re: parking.
7.	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous balance was £6,018.80. • Expenditure was £87.50, made up of: Bowling Club hire (£30); Acorn Signs for Walker Park (£48); Bank service charges (£9.50). • New balance is £5,931.30. • Noted that Colin can't access anything yet within Bank of Scotland as new treasurer – working towards this.
8.	AOCCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding cars on Old Edinburgh Road reported. Cllr MC asked for exact address and so he can request a speed survey. • Traffic collisions on Charles Street: there was a recent three-car collision, and this happens regularly. It's suggested that a one-way system around whole of Hill area could prevent this. Would it be possible to also have a speed survey around Argyle and Crown? Cllr MC will ask, and they have some data that is still valid for the area. Noted that ultimately this will be a planning issue. Suggested that we create a proposal for one-way system to put to HC. • Annual submission made – hope to hear about annual grant soon. • Concerning STL loophole for Ardconnel Terrace – some houses there were set to be residential, but they may be turned into STLs. Felt that if they applied for this now, they would never be given planning permission, should be highlighted to HC. • Ross Court resident present to discuss two issues for his road, (i) lack of gritting, and (ii) bins. Cllr MC will ask on his behalf. Cllr IM suggested that they apply for assisted bin collection, and that they can request a grit bin. • Noted that consultation on the Post Office opens today. • HC website revamp – can we bring it up at CC forum? DM to bring up at meeting if possible.
9.	Date of Next Meeting	Next meeting: Wednesday 8 th October, 7pm, Fraser Park Bowling Club.