

# Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

**Present:** Audrey Sinclair, Ellanne Fraser, Martin Fraser, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae (part - until 9:30), Wilfar Matheson (part - until 9:30).

**1) Apologies:** Jann MacRae

**2) March's minutes.**

Martin Fraser objected to the Sentence "Martin is too busy to work on restoring the power line to the old TV repeater." after some discussion Martin asked that the minutes be altered to read "Martin is not able to work on restoring the power line to the old TV repeater." March's minutes will be altered accordingly. Subject to this change March's minutes were accepted, proposed by Neil and seconded by Mary.

Copies of minutes are on our website at:-

[www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934](http://www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934)

Email [CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk) if you would like to be put on the circulation list.

**3) Secretary's report**

**Communications received – March 2013.**

Email - Weekly Highland Council Planning list. Mary has made sure that we do now receive both planning lists.

**Closed**

**Communications received – March 2013 - April 2013.**

Email - Weekly Highland Council Planning list – distributed to CC

Email - Monthly SLCVO e-bulletin – distributed

Notice Board - Kishorn Ports Open evening Strathcarron - 18th April 6-8.30pm. (See item 24)

Post – John Muir Trust 2013 Leaflet & Posters for distribution - Completed

Post - Highland Council Notice Board poster for A890 open day Lochcarron 27th April 1-5pm.

Post - Scottish Water map of Kyle of Lochalsh WTW.

Post - ICO receipt for Data Protection renew- Completed.

Email - URS Business survey form originally sent to Lochcarron Business Assoc -Distributed. (See item 8)

Telephone - Renee - to ask Tilhill to notify us of the presence of stalkers on the Fernaig Hill. (See item 10)

Email - Chris MacDonald re- road washed away near Strome Jetty. (See item 7)

Email - Tilhill re - Wild fire. Completed.

Email - Robbie Bain re - Wester Ross Alliance / Cape Wrath Trail - distributed

Email - NHS Meeting at Dornie Hall 26th April 7.00pm. (See item 19)

Email - Robbie Bain - Public Meeting options appraisal for A890 Stromeferry Bypass - distributed.

Email - Bill Gillespie - Procurement and sites for benches (see item 20).

Email - Margaret Arscott - Details about stalkers and signage (see item 10).

By Hand - Paper Report + CD -Draft URS Stromeferry Appraisal Draft 2, April 2013 + A3 Paper report Appendix A - Drawings

Post - Scottish Water - Taste of Water Supply

Post - Highland Council - Review of Polling Stations 2013/2014

Chatting - Archie MacRae - Another set of goal posts and nets.

**Communications received by the chairman.**

Email - Request for Police to attend our CC meetings. This was deferred to a later meeting as we had a very long agenda for April. We will invite the liaison officer to a future meeting with a shorter agenda. Please let us know if there are any issues that you would like raised.

**Action: Neil**

Carers Network Bulletin, passed to Mary

If anyone would like copies any of the above documents please contact Mary at [CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk) or 01599 577 296.

#### 4) Treasurer's report

Opening Balance	£ 4,725.39
Expenditure this period	£ 865.38
Income this period	£ 0.45 (this year's grant is pending our AGM)
Closing Balance	£ 3,860.01

##### Expenditure this period:-

Data protection Act	- £ 35.00
Subscription to SLCVO	- £ 15.00
Broadband equipment	- £ 805.83
Hire of the hall for broadband meeting	- £ 10.00

##### Income this period:-

Interest from bank	- £ 0.45
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Mary passed copies of documents covering our subscription for the data protection act to Wilfar.  
Phil passed copies of invoices for the broadband equipment and hall rental to Wilfar.

We have paid our subscription to Scotways twice as a standing order was already in place. Wilfar to cancel the standing order and inform Scotways to treat the overpayment as next year's subscription. No progress this month.

**Action: Wilfar**

#### 5) Distribution of minutes

No response from the Hall committee, regarding maintaining their one circulation list. Phil chased Jack on the 7<sup>th</sup> April and will chase Jack again.

**Action: Phil**

#### 6) Notice board for Strome Ferry

The email survey of residents of Strome Ferry resulted in a majority in favour of the board being down by the jetty.

**Action: Neil**

#### 7) TEC Services

Lack of gritting on the Strome Ferry hill, this has been put this in the diary section of the minutes.

**Closed**

#### Disruption on the A890 caused by resurfacing work

A link to the Scottish roadworks website <http://www.roadworksscotland.org/> has been put on our website

**Closed**

Spreadsheet ref 1 - Braeintra road, Sandy will check the amount of surface water during a heavy down pour to see if anything else can be done.

Spreadsheet ref 2 - filling the verges between Achmore & Plockton, Sandy reports that more work is scheduled on this stretch of road, when complete we will update the spreadsheet accordingly.

Spreadsheet ref 3 - Braeintra road, we understand this is completed and are waiting for Sandy to confirm that no further work is planned on this stretch of road.

In all the above cases the spreadsheet has been updated, loaded to our website and a copy sent to Sandy. We will continue to liaise with Sandy.

**Action: Phil**

Chris MacDonald contacted the HC regarding the state of the road near the Strome Ferry slip; this has been reported to Sandy and emergency repair work has already started. Dawn raised an issue regarding the state of the Braeintra road further up from the area already repaired; we will report this and add it to the spreadsheet.

**Action: Dawn, Phil**

Efficiency of council road workers, after discussing this with members of TEC services Martin has decided to drop this item.

**Closed**

The road fault spreadsheet can be found by clicking [here](#)-

### **8) TEC Services – A890 reroute**

Mary has emailed the HC for a meeting in Achmore. We asked Audrey to press for a meeting in Achmore.

**Action: Neil, Mary, Audrey**

URS conducting a survey with Lochcarron Business Group (LBG) without a similar exercise being done for Strome Ferry and Achmore. Mary obtained copies of the questionnaire and circulated them via email. It would appear that this is not the only example of LBG being made a special case. We will query this with Neil Gillies.

**Action: Mary, Audrey**

### **9) Scottish Water - Low pressure / no supply in Strome Ferry, Emergency procedures.**

We have finally received a map showing the layout of the mains.

**Closed**

### **Damage to surfaces in the Square and Achbeg Crescent**

No progress this month.

**Action Wilfar**

### **10) Tilhill**

We discussed the hill fire and the following points were noted. The Fire Service (FS) recommend that landowners install fire beaters at strategic points, but do not hesitate to call the FS if anything gets out of control. Health and safety dictate that the FS will not attempt to work on the hill to extinguish fires unless life or property is threatened; their brief is to monitor and control the spread of the fire. The FS cannot prevent people from going onto the hill if there is a fire but their duty of care then means that they may be forced to go onto the hill themselves. At the meeting it was stated that some people could have become trapped on the hill as escape routes through gates were not possible as they were locked, we will take this up with Tilhill. The CC would like to thank everyone; FS and locals who helped monitor and control the fire.

**Action: Mary**

Renee Gibson has asked us to ensure Tilhill notify us in advance of the presence of stalkers on the hill. Mary has spoken to Tilhill and is awaiting further information from Tilhill. Margaret Arscott has background information.

**Action: Mary**

We decided to look into the FS recommendations for notifications of intention to light fires in more details.

**Action: Dawn, Mary**

## **11) Broadband**

Power to the old TV repeater; all the problems have been indentified and spares have been obtained. With help from Mary, Neil, Joe, Hamish and Phil the old cable was rerouted. New cable & joints have been purchased in installed. Thanks to the Morrison family for allowing us to dig up their garden and use their power for testing. Thanks to Jim Coomber for testing old cables and identifying problems. Power has now been restored and tested and appears OK.

All the Ubiquiti kit has been delivered, set up, configured, tested and is working well. A link has been tested from Fernaig to the hill using Nanobridges (the things with dishes that will connect us to a faster BT exchange) at 70 Mbps transmit & receive i.e. a total bandwidth of 140Mbps. A link has been tested from Fernaig to the hill using Nanostations (the things that will connect households) at 35 Mbps transmit & receive i.e. a total of 70 Mbps. The limiting section of the link is 35Mbps “download”, well in excess of the proposed minimum of 5Mbps and on target to run at 20Mbps as proposed in the feasibility study.

There continue to be problems with the bandwidth of donors in Plockton for our demonstration; we will continue to monitor their bandwidth.

**Action: Neil**

We are still waiting for a response from Community Broadband Scotland regarding contact details of the advisor to be based in Auchtertyre. No change this month.

Elsbeth Underhill, Andy Bone and Dave Mocket have all very kindly volunteered to help.

The Broadband Steering Group (BSG) has been set up and had its first meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April; the minutes were distributed by email and have been loaded to the website.

Ofcom license; No progress this month

**Action: Phil**

The latest information on the broadband project can be found at:-

[www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827](http://www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827)

## **12) Defibrillator for local emergencies**

Mary and Phil spoke to Faye in Dornie and we will follow the way they did things. I.e. book the training session and once the kit is on site get an electrician to wire it up. We looked at the box holding the equipment at Dornie shop and it is approx 22” x 14” x 10” and positioned at an average person eye level so that 'green' light to show it is ready for use is easy to see. We will discuss the best location with our hall committee and will organise a training session after the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Action: Mary**

## **13) Fernaig Trust**

Neil gave us an update from the last FT meeting. The FT is not happy that information is being disseminated prior to their minutes being approved, and they do not want to circulate draft (unapproved minutes). The latest approved minutes available to the CC are from their meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January. After some discussion it was decided we should ask the FT and the Hall committee to provide us with a brief written synopsis of their latest meeting for us to include in the CC minutes.

**Action: Neil**

#### **14) Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park.**

Audrey has arranged for all the local CCs to sign our letter and it has been given to the Dr. Clark at the HC, we will monitor progress.

**Action: Audrey**

**Skip;** Dawn reported that the HC would only provide a skip free of charge for a beach clean. If we wanted a skip for any other use then we would have to fund it ourselves at a cost well in excess of £100. Dawn spoke to Margaret Arscott and thought that a village tidy operation would probably suffice. The HC will provide all equipment needed for this but do not provide a skip, all rubbish must be packed into black bags. We will organize a village clean up day.

**Action: Dawn**

#### **15) How to deal with licensing issues**

David Inglis arrived as planned prior to the CC meeting; a separate note will be produced regarding this topic.

**Action: Mary**

#### **16) Update from our Councilor, Highland Council budget reductions**

Audrey has had a relatively quiet month; most work has been attending planning committee meetings. The budget cut exercise is now complete; there will be a 3% reduction across the board. Dawn asked if there was any news on the future of local primary schools as concerns had been raised in the community, Audrey replied that some time there has been an embargo on closing rural schools and this will continue for the foreseeable future.

#### **17) Capital grant funding from Sport Scotland**

No progress this month.

**Action: Wilfar**

#### **18) Highland Senior Citizen's Network**

No progress this month.

**Action: Jann**

#### **19) NHS Review of Hospitals in the area**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> March we met with Kate Earnshaw to discuss the review of hospitals in the area. Mary produced notes of the meeting and these were circulated to Audrey and members of the CC. Audrey then queried whether the last paragraph of the notes reflected the views of all the members of the CC who attended the meeting. Subsequent to Audrey's email Martin said did not agree with the last paragraph. "In conclusion, we were left with the distinct feeling that this project was all about the NHS and for the NHS, and that inpatients, outpatients and their visitors who use the hospital services were a secondary consideration for this project; as it was predominately about meeting modern standards and making life easier for those within the NHS."

Mary explained the procedure she used to check everyone was happy with her notes. She circulated them to everyone on the 7<sup>th</sup> April asking for comments by the 10<sup>th</sup> and chased for replies on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. By the 18<sup>th</sup> the only person who had not replied was Martin, as no one asked for any changes the notes were distributed to Audrey, Kate Earnshaw and all members of the CC. Martin was away when they were circulated on the 7<sup>th</sup> and did not read the email sent on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Martin only responded when he read Audrey's email on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

After extensive discussion it was agreed by all those present, with the exception of Martin, that "the paragraph" did not need to be amended and the notes will be distributed without change.

There was then a further discussion about the aims and goals of the project. We were able to benefit from further input from Audrey and Mary. Mary had attended another briefing at Dornie and sought information from other CCs that had attended discussions that were lead by other members of the NHS team.

In light of this additional information we concluded that the project did have merit and that there would be value in us talking to others working on the project. We welcome the chance to **participate** in the project and we will continue to monitor progress.

**Action: Mary**

## **20) Provisions of benches**

We have a received a request from Bill Gillespie to install four benches at different locations. We will see if the Forestry would like to donate them to the CC.

**Action: Dawn**

## **21) Provision of more goal posts and nets for the green**

Whilst chatting to Archie MacRae and explaining the purpose of the CC Mary asked Archie what the CC could do for the younger folk. Archie asked for better shinty facilities. We will see what equipment is available for school playing fields.

**Action: Dawn**

## **22) Secretaries fee**

There is normally a provision for £250 in the budget to compensate the secretary and Mary has asked that this money be donated to the broadband project this year.

**Action: Wilfar, Phil**

## **23) Storage of CC records**

Mary suggested that we buy a filing cabinet to store archived CC material in the hall so everyone can have access to it. It would appear space has already been made available for CC archives, we will check this with the hall committee.

**Action: Mary**

## **24) Kishorn Port**

Mary attended the meeting at Strathcarron. Planning permission is being sought to allow the dock to be refurbished. There is the potential for the creation of up to 3,000 jobs building and maintaining off shore wind generator platforms. The owners are also looking for details of any memorabilia anyone may have from the Kishorn's Ninian platform building days, if you have anything from that period please contact Mary.

## **25) AOB.**

CC projects for 2013, this was deferred.

Condition of Achmore sewage system, deferred

## **26) Calendar**

August / September, prepare for winter roads, gritting stocks, gritting schedule for Strome Ferry hill.

November, MOD support fund for schools

## **27) Next meeting.**

As various members of the CC will be away at the end of May the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall. The AGM will take place immediately before the next meeting at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 10:25pm