

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 25th March 2020 by telephone and email.

1 Present by telephone and email & Apologies.

Present: Mary MacBeth, Dawn Lupton, Neil MacRae, Kath Smith, Gill Harrington, Ann Gillespie, Helen Robertson
Apologises: Biz Campbell

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes of the 26th February were approved by Kath and seconded by Helen.

3 Matters Arising

Nothing

4 Communications received

HC - Highland Council: HC WS - Highland Council Website: SG - Scottish Government

[Further discussion during meeting.](#)

Email - Carolyn Smith – HC – Stromeferry Bypass A890

Email – Jackie Walker – HC – Stromeferry Hall Booking for A890

[Email – Walker & Smith – postponing meeting and cancelling hall booking](#)

Email – Car Park Conversation – HC - Charging for Parking in Kyle

Email –Robbie Bain - Community Resilience Guidance

Email – Robbie Bain - SLCVO - Community Call Project

Email – Robbie Bain - COVID-19

For information only – no discussion

Email - Weekly - Maureen Mackenzie - Planning Information.

Email – Ad Hoc – K MacLean – CC minutes from other Ward 5 Councils

Emails – many between CC members

5 Treasurer's report

Treasurer Report as of 25th Mar

Opening balance	£3,962.25
Expenditure	-
Income	£0.00
Closing Balance	£3,962.25

Unrepresented Cheques

Hall hire for 2019 £40.00

Dawn has produced the annual accounts from April 2019 to March 2020 and she will get them audited before forwarding to Robbie Bain so that we can get our 2020 grant.

Dawn has spoken to the Hall Committee to ask why the cheque has not been presented.

Action: Hall Committee to get back to Dawn and let her know when the cheque will be cashed.

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6 Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

6.1.1 Defibrillator – Not discussed

In 2019 we discussed getting a defibrillator for Stromeferry. Claudia and Neil have been scouting for a suitable location with electric power. There is an unused Red Telephone box at Strome but it does not have an electricity supply. It has been suggested to Claudia that the Railway shelter may be a suitable location so she has agreed to follow up.

We discussed the fund raising method that Lucky2BHere use to provide defibrillators and this reminded us that we have not completed the fund raising for the Achmore defibrillator; so this will now become a joint fund raiser.

We discussed the need for more Defibrillator training.

As Kath works in Portree she volunteered to return the old Achmore defibrillator box, as Mary has not does so yet.

Action: Claudia to get in touch with the Network Rail to see if they will host a defibrillator. Or, if anyone else is willing to host or have ideas for a defibrillator location in Stromeferry, will they please contact Claudia.

Action: Mary to organise and publish dates for training.

Action: Mary to pass defibrillator box to Kath.

6.1.2 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The next meeting is to be held by video conference on the 25th March and is dedicated to finding out what local preparations are being done to help everyone through the COV-ID19 period. A Lochalsh development officer has been employed to carry out the research for the Collaboration project.

Action: Mary to dial in to meeting on 25th March and contribute to the ongoing process.

6.1.3 Path Access at Stromeferry – Not discussed

Donald Kennedy, Access Officer based in Portree attended our August CC meeting at our request, and we discussed the locked gate which stops people accessing the beach area at Stromeferry. As promised he contacted Mr Boston @ nigel@grosa.co.uk on the 2nd September 2019, in which he suggested an unlocked pedestrian side gate as a possible solution, so that Mr Boston could keep the main gate across the track next to his yard locked. Mr Boston did not reply.

Donald then sent a recorded delivery letter to his business address threatening enforcement action but it was returned by Royal Mail. Donald promised to try and establish his home address, so he could send another recorded delivery letter.

Donald emailed in December to update us on his efforts to make contact with Mr Boston and to let us know that he was retiring from the Highland Council on the 22nd December. Donald told us that the new Access Officer who would be replacing him will be fully apprised of our issue.

We will pursue this topic with the new Access Officer.

Action: Kath will work with Helen and Mary on this topic till a satisfactory solution is obtained, and if anyone has any contact details for Mr Boston could they please send them to Mary or Gill.

6.1.4 The Safety concrete block fence at Ardnarff. Ref Number FS130640243 – Not Discussed

In August 2019 Gill had a meeting with Kate Forbes MSP re the safety barriers. These barriers were put up as a temporary measure some years ago as the safety fence behind the barriers is damage. On the 25th Feb 2020, Kate Forbes' office received the following response from Highland Council, quoted below.

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We have no current plans for this road such as widening or resurfacing. The road network programme which would consider whether to resurface this road is reviewed annually and roads are assessed for their strategic importance. There are too many roads that need resurfacing, and too small a budget.

The concrete barriers are there to protect drivers and prevent them from leaving the road and entering the railway. They are temporary whilst the safety fence is being repaired.

The roads team are aware of the condition of this road and carry out maintenance as necessary. Potholes can be reported on the Highland Council website under the “Report a Problem” tab.

Biz our councillor has been diligently pursuing this issue with the Highland Council and she told us that provision has been made in the 2020/2021 Highland Council barriers budget for work to be undertaken to remove the barriers.

Action: We asked Biz to pursue this yet again with HC and clarify the situation.

Other road and bridge problems reported in 2018 and 2019 have been reported and are recorded in Appendix A and there has been no response from Highland Council

6.1.5 Fernaig Railway Bridge works by Network rail.

All the remaining kit – portacabins, fencing and rocks have been removed. The planned scour work cannot be completed at the moment due to the high water levels. No rescheduled dates yet

Action: Mary to keep in touch with Network Rail

6.1.6 Under 18’s joining Community Councils – Not discussed

As agreed at our initial meeting for the new CC in November we discussed the changes introduced to CC guidance post a review, and one of the new initiatives was to collaborate with schools to find 16 to 18 year old who would be interested in joining their CCs. Gill had a discussion with the Plockton High School rector to see who would be eligible to join us. The result was we have no age eligible school attending youths who can join us at the moment.

Action: Gill to keep in touch with Plockton High school

6.1.7 TESCO Deliveries

Helen has emailed Tesco to ask them to do home deliveries in our area.

Action: Helen to keep in touch with Tesco.

6.1.8 Dog Output bins – Not discussed

Gill had a conversation with Colin McAndrew, Fernaig Trust about the CC seeing if we can obtain red bins for dogs’ ‘output’ from the Highland Council. They would be located at the beginning and end of the Achmore – Braeintra path. Then we would have to sort out how they will be emptied.

Action: Biz to check if the Highland Council still provides the dog ‘output’ bins.

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6.1.9 Bus shelter Strome ferry – Not discussed

In 2019 Biz requested a bus shelter and in 2020 Biz will ask again for the provision of a bus shelter for Strome ferry.

Action: Biz to ask again for a bus shelter for the school kids from Strome ferry.

6.1.10 The CC Facebook page and generic email – Not Discussed

We had a very lively discussion on this topic and decided that we should dedicate some time at a meeting to determine what, how and when we are going to use Facebook and how we will manage our content and make sure it aligns with the National Community Council Guidance that we adhere to and our collective responsibilities as Community Councillors.

The CC agreed to establish a generic Gmail email address so that we all receive CC materials and we will publish this email address once we have tested it amongst ourselves.

Action: Mary to agendise this topic and Kath will lead the discussion on the use of Facebook.

Action: Mary to set up email and pass address and other required information to other CC members and test we can all receive and send information using this CC email address.

6.1.11 AOB Local – Bits & Pieces

The new bench has been delivered and put together and will be put in place one fine day. It looks substantial and is comfy to sit on. The bench that was positioned by the cattle grid at Achmore turn off, has been put in the bus shelter. The area around the bus shelter has been tidied up

Action: Mary to organise getting another bench as agreed.

The Strome ferry and Achmore CC website has been updated and contains all the minutes up to Nov 2019 plus all the contact numbers, websites links for reporting stuff to HC. Minutes for 2020 will be deposited on the web soon.

Action: Mary to update CC website with 2020 minutes.

Neil will log the details about the lack of surface at Strome ferry Railway Bridge into HC system and pass the reference number to Mary.

Action: Neil obtain HC fault number for this issue

7 Updates from Regional & National Organisations (As and when issues arise)

7.1.1 NHS

Our questions and responses to Kyle Surgery.

As we noted in our February minutes we posed further questions on 3rd March to the Kyle surgery mainly relating to the clinical aspects of the surgery, as Vicky had promptly and comprehensively provided the answered all the questions asked about the management and administration of the surgery. We attach the further questions we asked plus the very detailed response we have received from Dr McKellar on behalf of herself, Dr Boyd, Dr James, Dr Unwin.

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In our 'thank you' response to the Kyle Surgery the Community Council let the surgery know that our questions arose a) from our desire to learn about the day to day workings of our surgery, the role of the receptionists, relationship of practitioner/patient and the governance of the surgery b) to have our communities' concerns and comments addressed and at **no time was our Community Council asked by an individual to act on their behalf and communicate with the Kyle surgery.**

Action: Gill to forward our 'thank you' response to the surgery.

COV-ID19

There is a lot of work being done by Highland Council with Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO), Community Councils and other groups. This mainly consists of planning and setting up a helpline, website, humanitarian centres etc and the once procedures and processes are finalised we will publish to all. Dawn and Helen will be the CC's points of contact for our community with support from a WhatsApp support group as per Helen's email earlier this week.

Action: CC to keep up with policy developments and community support.

7.1.2 Tilhill

- Nothing to report

7.1.3 Highland Council

Community Transport Schemes

Helen has talked to the South West Ross community car scheme group and it is organised on strict postcode districts. Transport in Lochalsh is a topic which will be discussed by the Lochalsh Collaboration group so we will participate with the Collaboration group and remove from our minutes.

Draft charging proposals for the off-street car parking policy in Kyle.

In October 2019, the Council agreed a new policy to consider the introduction of charging in off-street car parks. There are several reasons for this new policy:

- The public have told the Council that we should focus on income generation in order to protect services and jobs.
- There is a need to find solutions for tourist congestion/traffic management
- Investment is needed in local infrastructure e.g. pot holes/gullies

Due to the documents being marked confidential they will not be attached to the minutes

The HC have decided to suspend the next stage of the car parking project (public consultation).

Action: Mary to complete survey form by 30th March.

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7.1.4 Police & Fire - C/F not discussed and due to COVID - 19 may not be an issue this year.

Georgie Grimson wrote to the CC asking if we could do anything about the speed the motorbikes do coming down the A890 brae and along the straight heading towards Achmore. Most at the meeting agreed with Georgie that the noise and the speed of the bikes are dangerous and disruptive to our neighbourhood. We also felt that with the tourist boom the traffic through Achmore has increased and some driver do not slow down whilst travelling thru the village. At the meeting we discussed some of the unpleasant toilet habits of our visitors who think that hedges are for urinating against.

Action: Mary will email our local police and have a chat about incidents and invite them to our CC meeting where ever that is.

7.1.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

Nothing to report

8 Update from our Councillor

Biz is on holiday.

9 Updates from Local Groups

9.1 Broadband

Update from CMNet by Phil Game

Bad weather has again prevented progress on external jobs.

The software that will automate the configuration of subscribers' equipment is nearing completion.

Our ISP, Zen, has reduced charges by 20%.

Installation of the new line in Achmore hall - The sockets have been wired up to the mains. Openreach installed the new telephone line last week. We received the new router from Zen and this has been configured and installed. Openreach are scheduled to upgrade the telephone line to broadband today (25th March) and Zen are scheduled to activate the line tomorrow. Once this is complete we will need to leave the line on test for at least a week to check stability and speed. We can then look at connecting CMNet to the new line if COVID 19 restrictions allow us to do the work.

COVID 19 - Usage of the system is increasing rapidly, no doubt due to more people being at home. We are now regularly seeing the system hit maximum capacity for several minutes at a time. We have reduced the maximum download bandwidth to make sure that the system is balanced for the maximum number of users - although this will mean large downloads will be noticeably longer. There is more scope to tune the system further should the need arise. We also have spare capacity in Lochcarron which we can bring into use - however this line has poor upload speed in comparison to Plockton and so we will move selective low quota subscribers across should the need arise.

If you are a subscriber to CMNet you can see the usage of the system here:-<http://192.168.200.134/graphs/iface/ether3>

There are more details on the website:-www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

9.2 Fernaig Trust

Update from Fernaig Trust by Colin MacAndrew.

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Nothing from the trust, simply monitoring the situation closely.

9.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall

Update for the Stromeferry and Achmore Hall from Martin Irving.

Due to covid 19, the planned ceilidh has been cancelled and the quiz night postponed. All regular events have been cancelled. Private bookings have also been cancelled. The hall has therefore been closed until further notice.

10 AOB

11 Calendar

Annual wreath laying

This year the Stromeferry and Achmore CC will lay a wreath.

Action: Gill to organise the wreath purchase and laying for Remembrance 2020.

12 Next Meetings

29th April Wednesday

27th May – this will be our AGM meeting + CC meeting

13 Formal close of meeting

Last email communication Wednesday 25th March 2020.

Appendix A

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
Problems reported				
Problem Number	Date reported	Status	Reported By	Action
Braeintra Road - FS89625130	26-Sep-18	Open	Margaret Arscott	Awaiting a response from HC
Ascaig Bridge - FS110394966	21-Mar-19	Open	Mary MacBeth	Awaiting a response from HC
Achmore Bridge - FS118275075	10-May-19	Open	Mary MacBeth	Awaiting a response from HC
Surface of railway Bridge Stromeferry	23-Mar-19	Awaiting HC problem no	Neil MacRae	Obtain a HC number

Highland Council Actions				
Topic	Date requested	Raised By	Passed to Councillor	Action by Highland Council
Bus shelter at Stromeferry	27-Mar-19	Claudia	27-Mar-19	Awaiting response

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	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
Outstanding Issues				
Topic	Date Requested	Raised by	Passed to	Comment
Defibrillator for Stromeferry	Feb-19	Claudia & Neil	Claudia & Neil	Open
Benches	April 2019	All	Mary	1 bench ordered
Return Achmore old Defrib box to Portree	May 2019	Mary	Mary	Will do next time I go to Portree or pass to Kath

Approved