

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 24th February 2021 @ 7.30pm

1 Present. Microsoft Teams Meeting all connected at 7.32pm

Present: Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae, Kath Smith, Dawn Lupton, Biz Campbell HC Councillor

Members of the public: Becky Milne, The Glen & Mhairi MacRae, Stromeferry

Apologues: Ann Gillespie, Gill Harrington, Helen Robertson

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 25th November 2020 meeting were approved by Kath and seconded by Dawn.

3 Matters Arising

The CC members met to have a working session to discuss some issues around Gritting needs for Stromeferry. This meeting concluded that Dawn and Kath would survey the bin locations in Stromeferry and contact MacKenzie to either switch some bins to the upper part of the Stromeferry brae or to provide two more bins to be located between the Strome Woods entrance and the A890. Post the meeting MacKenzie said he would deliver two more bins for the top part of the road as and when possible. Mary told Becky that the Bin for the Glen would have to be located near the A890 of the Glen Road and would be delivered on the same terms – as and when.

Gill responded to the emails that Biz forwarded to the CC covering grit bins and other topics.

4 Communications received

TD – means to be discuss; NNTD – no need to discuss

If anyone would like a to receive a copy of any correspondence then please contact the secretary.

TD – means to be discussed; NNTD – no need to discuss

Email - Weekly - Maureen MacKenzie - Planning Information - checked.

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

Email – Ad Hoc – Emails between CC members on agenda items, verifying minutes etc.

Email – 3 Dec - Colin MC Andrew - Joint Work Produces New Guide for Campervan Waste Disposal Facilities

Email – 9 Dec - Siobhan Bullions - Scottish Open Government Online Conference

Email - 11 Dec – Policy HC - Supporting your communities - distributed

Email – 22 Dec – Policy HC - The importance of asking for help - distributed

Emails – 20 Dec – CC – Advance information about Lochalsh Collaboration Zoom video in January- complete

Email – 5 Jan 2021 – G Harrington – Grit bins need refilling

Email – 6 Jan – Policy HC - Community Resilience Group Update January 2021- distributed

Email – 6 Jan – Dot Ferguson - Events - COSS Introduction to Community Asset Transfer webinars - distributed

Email – 7 Jan – Dot Ferguson - Highland Council: Supporting our Winter Gritting and COVID Response Efforts –

Email – 8 Jan – M Sutherland HC - FW: Highland Council: Supporting our Winter Gritting and COVID Response Efforts - complete

Email – 8 Jan – Policy HC - Community Resilience Group Update 8 January 2021 – distributed

Email – 9 Jan – Policy HC - Fwd: Inclusion Scotland event and survey – distributed

Email – 12 Jan – Dot Ferguson - Community Council Complimentary Places for 6th Annual Scottish Transport Conference

Email – 13 Jan – M Sutherland & A Bone – Winter resilience kit and distribution of it. - complete

Email – 14 Jan – HQ Planning Technicians – Consultee Access Planning consultations - complete

Email – 15 Jan – CC & Biz Campbell – Response to HC re boundary changes - complete

Email - 15 to 27th Jan – SCDS, Lochalsh Collaboration - Facilitation planning emails – lots of them - complete

Email – 15 Jan – Policy HC - Community Resilience Group Update 15-1-21 - distributed

Email – 15 Jan – Policy HC - Wester Ross and Dingwall Community Resilience meeting

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Email - 16 Jan – MM – Fwd: Consultee Access for Planning Consultations – registered, complete
Email – 22 Jan – Policy HC - Community Resilience Group Briefing 22-1-21 - distributed
Email – 25/26th Jan – HC Roads – Grit, grit and more grit, bins no bins – being processed
Email - 25 Jan – CC – Prep meeting for Zoom Collaboration Call - complete
Email – 26 Feb – Dot Ferguson - FW: National Planning Framework 4 - Position Statement: Community Discussion Workshops (w/b 1 Feb)
Email – 26 Jan – M MacRae - Re: Highland Council Winter Resilience – being processed
Email – 28 Jan – M MacRae - Re: Highland Council Winter Resilience – being processed
Email – 29 Jan – Biz Campbell – Winter Grit Bins – being processed
Email – 29 Jan – Dot Ferguson - FW: Community Resilience Group Briefing 29-1-21- distributed
Email – 29 Jan – Dot Ferguson - FW: Infrastructure Support Fund – NHI – distributed
Email – 1 Feb – CC & Dot Ferguson – Working session Guidance – complete
Email – 4 Feb – Dot Ferguson - WRSL - waste and public toilet arrangements - distributed
Email – 5 Feb – Policy HC - Community Resilience Group Briefing 5-2-21 – distributed
Email – 8 Feb – Dot Ferguson - FW: Police Scotland: Police Scotland seeking views on the use of Body Worn Video – distributed
Email – 8 – 15 Feb – CC, Biz Campbell, M Sutherland – Winter Resilience working session – held
Email - 10 – 12 Feb – MM, N MacRae, M Irving, F MacKenzie –Location for Lochalsh Collaborates banner – complete
Email – 12 Feb – Policy HC - Community Resilience Group Briefing 12-2-21 – distributed
Email - 14 Feb – CC – Stromeferry and Achmore Community Website – to be discussed
Email – 15 Feb – CC – Note for Winter Resilience working session – to be concluded
Email – 16 Feb – Dot Ferguson - MEETING RE WASTE AND PUBLIC TOILETS ARRANGEMENTS - THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2021 – 10.30am
Email – 16 Feb – Policy 6 - Fwd: Wester Ross and Dingwall Community Resilience meeting - distributed
Email - 17 Feb – Lenka Svorcova - NPF4 Engagement - PAS presentation – distributed
Email – 18 Feb – Dot Ferguson - WRSL - SSE Emergency Outage
Email – 19 Feb – M MacRae & B Milne – attendance at CC meeting
Email – 25 Feb – Information Commissioner - Data Protection fee - Reminder to renew ICO:00015940360

Mary commented that there are a lot of national & regional documents being directed to Community Councils for us to pass comments on and action upon. So for example, The National Planning Framework (NPF) is a long-term plan for Scotland that sets out where development and infrastructure is needed to support sustainable and inclusive growth. The current framework - [NPF3](#) - was published in 2014 and the Scottish Government has now begun a process of review and preparation of a new framework - NPF4. This is a substantial piece of work which will influence how communities are designed and developed throughout Scotland for years to come. The NPF4 calls for ideas document is a 220 page PDF which covers people, housing, waste, health, work, energy, mineral extraction, air quality, coastal planning, flooding and on it goes. There is little or no guidance or advice to support the level of knowledge that is required to intelligently contribute to these forums; so that small communities are not disadvantaged. Also Community Councils are voluntary bodies and there are many local issues to deal with as well as regional topics before we get to the national stage. Yes communities want to contribute but they need assistance, and if Community Councils are being asked to take on all these extra functions what is the role of our paid elected representative within our councils, and governments' and the paid workforce at the Highland Council. Each year the grant given to Community Councils barely covers the cost of their insurance and meeting room fees, apart from during the COVID when we conducted business online.

Action: Mary asked Biz to take this up at Council meetings and establish what assistance is going to be provided to Community Councils so that our areas do not miss out on key issues that are being discussed now and will impact our area in the future.

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Treasurer's Report

The Balance at the bank at 24/02/2021 is £3,724.82 including interest of .47p received in December 2020. A cheque for £35 has been written and not yet cashed, so the new balance will be £3,689.82. In November 2020 there was a suggestion put forward to look at replacing the table/bench on the Fernaig Shore which is now dilapidated. We all agreed to look at this option and Dawn has started researching prices.

Action: Dawn to check prices of table/benches made of recycled materials which can 'stand up/sit down' in our weather.

Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

4.1 Defibrillator

Kath's rota system for the defibrillator at Achmore Hall has a team of seven and is working well. No problems reported with the defibrillator. Kath has ordered and received the new pads for the Defibrillator as the current sets expire in April 2021. The two sets of pads cost £70.00. Kath has paid for this so will reclaim from the CC. Martin and Karen Irving hold the spare set of pads. Mary will keep the old pads and return along with the previous set of pads + old box

Action: Kath to upgrade defibrillator pads and give spare set to Martin.

Mary has the old defibrillator box and batteries and will return them to Lucky2BHere.

Action: Post COVID Mary to return old equipment to Lucky2BeHere

Potential home for a Stromeferry Defibrillator is the phone box. Gill has obtained all the necessary documentation from BT on how to adopt a phone box. The adopting community has to apply for the necessary consent to retain a phone box. BT will disconnect the box from it's network and remove equipment. If the power is still available BT will pay for the supply of power to the adopted box. The adopt community has to purchase the box for £1 to be legally compliant. We delayed deciding which body should own the adopt box. Gill is still working with BT on power supply for this box.

Action: Gill to continue obtaining the necessary information from BT re power.

We are aware that we need to do fund raising for the Achmore defibrillator and we concluded that we will keep thinking about this till we are able to meet again and then we can organise a proper funding session.

Action: All CC members to think about how to raise funds for defibrillator

We discussed Defibrillator training and to look for online courses as physical courses cannot happening due to COVID.

Action: Dawn to get information about the online courses that she knows about.

4.2 Planning

Nothing to report

4.3 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

On the 25th January 2021 the Lochalsh Group held the 1st of the Collaboration's virtual road shows, and we had an excellent turnout with 38 people from the village joining, plus Biz our Highland Councillor and two other Community council chair persons. This meeting was facilitated by Mick Dyer and his excellent team from Scottish Community Development Program, Susan Walker our development officer, Karen MacRae administrator and media wiz from the KLCT Fiona Welling Manager KLCT and Jo Ford from SLCVO. The current Newsletter and paper copy of the Community survey are in Achmore and being hand delivered. If possible please complete the survey online.

The A4 frame located by the Bus Stop in Achmore is being used to advertise the Window Wonderland Festival and the art packs which have been distributed. This frame will also be used to advertise and to remind us all to complete our survey forms. The banner to further remind us to complete our survey forms will be attached to Neil's field gate by the hall.

Action: Everyone please fill in your survey forms either online or complete the paper.

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Action: Mary & Neil to fix banner to the gate

4.4 Path Access at Stromeferry

The gate remains unpadlocked which is great news and we will continue to monitor the situation.

4.5 The Safety concrete block fence at Ardnarff. Ref Number FS130640243 – no progress. This is our No 1 priority Biz has received some positive news for our Community Council on the concrete block situation.

It has been acknowledged that the concrete blocks were a temporary solution that has extended to a number of years now, but due to budget restrictions it has not been possible up until now to replace the safety fencing and therefore the concrete blocks have remained in place.

Due to funds being made available to Roads Investment Fund, these works can now be progressed as a Ward priority. Iain's Structures Technician is due to visit the site in the next few weeks to measure the safety fences with a view to replacing them. Part of this process will be a discussion with Network Rail. Although the safety fences remain our assets it's important that we install the appropriate type of safety fence

Action: Biz and CC to monitor progress and to keep focusing on this issue till it is resolved.

4.6 Local Infrastructure problems

We agreed with Mackenzie that we will tell everyone to continue using Highland Council problem reporting system for the time being. It can be found using this link <https://www.highland.gov.uk/report> and then pass the report number to Mary along with a brief description of the problems being reported. The CC do not get a report from this system we are dependent on the originator describing the problem along with supplying the reference.

Action: Mary to touch base with Mack re: cattle grid clearing. Some ditches and Strome grit bins have been dealt with.

4.7 Stromeferry and Achmore Community website.

The four groups who currently use the Spanglefish free version for their information are agreed that we need to have a presence on the Web and that more space is needed so that minutes etc. can be loaded. To make this happen now we will take out a £29.95 subscription with Spanglefish which it was decided the CC will organise and pay for this year. This will give us all time to determine how to devolve sections and ownership to each group for keeping their own data current and share the responsibility for the Strome and Achmore internet presence. The CC has an urgent need to get their 2020 minutes loaded.

Action: Mary to talk to Lizzie to take over the login and password and find out how to establish devolving Spanglefish sections to each group for them to manage and keep current.

4.8 Bench

We all agreed that the bench should be sited in the Spring, so will be on the Agenda of our 31st March meeting.

4.9 Recycling Bins

There are no recycling facilities near our CC area so we decided that this is a service we urgently need and we will make it part of the services we will ask for via the Lochalsh Collaboration questionnaire.

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4.10 The Strome Salmon Fish farm.

The CC emailed all in the community and asked for resident to forward their questions or concerns. We received a list of interesting questions from a Stromeferry resident and Kath has indicated how the Highland Council Planning consultation has responded to each question raised; as per the attached document. That left two remaining topics a) have the company considered organic fish farming as opposite to the current situation where chemicals are used to control situations, whereas if the farming was organics, these chemicals would not be required and thus reduce polluting the loch. As far as the CC is concerned organic farming is a fish farm business policy so not within our remit, but we understand the need to prevent pollution. b) The other question was concerning the CC's relationship with the Scottish Salmon company and this is something the CC wishes to peruse and we will take steps to develop a relationship once COVID restrictions are lifted.

Another suggestion sent to the CC suggested the possibility of soliciting funds from the Fish Company to spend on improving things in the community, such as refurbishing the Phone box in Strome. The CC felt that until we have developed a relationship with the Company it is inappropriate to approach them for money.

Action: Mary to distribute the HC Planning document plus Kath's paper.

Action: Once COVID restrictions are lifted the CC will restart it's communications with the Fish Farm.

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

5.1 NHS

- See AOB - Broadford Hospital

5.2 Tilhill

- Nothing to report

5.3 Highland Council

- Nothing further to report

5.4 Police & Fire

- The survey - Police wearing body cameras was circulated to all on the CC list for completion.

5.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

- Stromeferry experienced a water cut on the 14th Feb, but it was fixed very quickly.

6 Update from our Councillor

Biz told us that she has attended a lot of meetings to assist with construction of the Highland Council budget for 2020/2021. There have also been a lot of discussions held to determine how to safely get all the young people back to school. Biz also told us that the Company who owns and manages the Kishorn Yard have applied for planning permission to extend the Dry dock.

7 Updates from Local Groups

7.1 CMNet CIC Broadband

Here is a brief summary of progress since the last update for the CC:-

After a long battle with RBS we finally have full access to our bank account and have just one overdue account to settle. COVID 19 - The increased restrictions that were introduced in December have put a stop to all new installations at the moment, there are twelve installations pending. As we cannot progress installations we have concentrated our efforts on

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software development to improve systems performance reporting and to make it easier to replace damaged units by automating the cloning of units.

Careful tuning of frequency and transmission power has reduced the incidents of false RADAR events from most units with the exception of the new access points on the Strome Ferry side of Creag Mhaol which need more work.

Usage of the system continues to grow and although there is no immediate capacity problem we have started to look to what options are available as experience has shown us that the lead times for new lines can be several months.

We have had two problems with the Plockton router which were fixed by powering the unit off and on. There were multiple problems with the Achmore link starting on the 30th January, lasting for several weeks and possibly not yet resolved. The Achmore problem was internal to Plusnet / BT / Openreach and affected many (if not all) connections through the Achmore fibre cabinet. Due to CMNet's network design the problems in Plockton and Achmore had very limited affect on CMNet as we were able to switch subscribers away from the fault and use one of our alternate gateways thus bypassing the problem. We are still waiting for Plusnet to confirm that the Achmore fault has been fixed.

The website:- www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827 is now full and we are looking at our options to increase capacity.

Phil Game, CMNet CIC, Achmore & Strome Ferry Community Broadband System

7.2 Fernaig Trust

Nothing to report from the Trust this month.

Colin MacAndrew

7.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Hall

The hall committee, in particular Martin and Karen, are going through and completing all the paperwork etc that is required so that the hall can be used as a polling station in May 2021 for Scottish Government elections. And this time the hall has to cater for COVID safety rules which compound the amount of paperwork to be completed.

Martin Irving

8 AOB

Mhairi MacRae raised a very important point about the level of technology and services that are to be provided or not, when the new Broadford Hospital is opened and in use. So far our understanding is that there are no facilities or technologies being implemented for scanning patients such as a CT scanner and those previous services such as endoscopies, colonoscopies etc are not going to be part of the health services delivered to SW Ross, Lochalsh and Skye from the new hospital. Biz will contact the NHS on our behalf to get the latest update for us and if the NHS response is not adequate Biz will contact Kate Forbes. We also asked Biz to raise this topic with other CCs in Lochalsh and to encourage all to comment on this lack of NHS services when completing their Lochalsh Collaborate survey.

Pre September 2015 Stromeferry and Achmore CC participated in all the consultation meetings and work groups which took place to do with the physical design of the hospital and more importantly what suite of services were to be provided and what technology was to be provided. If what we are hearing now is accurate then this falls short of what was requested and argued for in the consultation phase.

Action: Biz to contact NHS to get an update on the services, catering facilities and technologies that will be available in the new Broadford hospital

We asked Biz to bring this concern to the attention of other Lochalsh CCs.

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9 Calendar

10 Next Meetings

By Microsoft Teams – last Wednesday 31st March, 2021.

Formal close of meeting @ 8.32pm

Approved