

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 26th May 2021 @ 8.00pm

1 Present. Microsoft Teams Meeting all connected at 8.00pm

Present: Mary MacBeth, Dawn Lupton, Helen Robertson, Kath Smith, Biz Campbell HC Councillor

Members of the public: Mhairi MacRae, Stromeferry

Apologies: Ann Gillespie, Neil MacRae, Gill Harrington

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 28th April 2021 meeting were approved by Helen seconded by Dawn.

3 Matters Arising

None.

4 Communications received

If anyone would like a to receive a copy of any correspondence then please contact the secretary @ mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com

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

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

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

Email – Weekly – Policy HC - Community Resilience Group Update May 2021- distributed -NNTD

Emails – Various – Broadford Hospital Food & CT Scanner - @ 9.1

Email – 30 April – C Smith – A890 Stromeferry By pass inspections – distributed

Email – 18 May – Dot Ferguson - FW: GO-HI Rural MaaS project - Background Survey

5 Treasurer's Report

The Balance at the bank at 26 May 2021 is £3,531.33. The invoice from Calico for £24.00 to pay for Stromeferry and Achmore domain name has been paid and cheque cleared.

Dawn will get the accounts up to 31st March 2021 audited and submitted to our Ward Manger so that Stromeferry and Achmore CC will receive our grant from the Highland Council for the year 2021/2022. Mary will make all the minutes for 2020/201 available.

Action: Dawn to get accounts audited and sent to D Ferguson and Mary to send March approved minutes.

6 Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

6.1 Defibrillator

Mary now has the old pads, defibrillator box and batteries to return to Lucky2BHere.

Action: Post COVID Mary to return old equipment to Lucky2BeHere

A potential home for a Stromeferry Defibrillator is the phone box. Gill had an interesting call from a pleasant man from BT who will confirm whether BT wants to continue to use this phone box or whether the CC can have it.

Action: Gill is still waiting for BT phone box person to tell her what their plan for the box is.

Another major fund raiser has been undertaken by Kaya Bone who has raised £415.00 for the Achmore Hall Defibrillator by running a half marathon. So a big thanks to Kaya and well done from us all.

In total we have now raised £715.00 towards the current defibrillator and are looking at a target of at least £1,200.

Action: All to contribute to the next funding raising event for the defibrillator located at Achmore Hall.

Gill emailed Mary with the following update - I have now tracked down a man to do the defibrillator training. He lives in Balmacara and has worked with Lucky2BeHere before and says we just need to get in touch with Drew Millar and tell him Mike Shucksmith will do our training and we will get it for free.

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Action: One of the CC members to organise as soon as COVID restrictions allow this sort of gathering.

6.2 Planning

- Nothing to report

6.3 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

A lot of the information from the survey will be published in the next Lochalsh Newsletter. At the Lochalsh Collaboration meeting we had a discussion about some of the results and the need for modern, sustainable housing was a priority for all the CC areas and across the age groups. A survey for the younger folk in the area has been posted on Facebook and other media platforms as it is important for the Lochalsh Collaboration to get input from all age groups. Another result that we had a conversation about were the stats in the Health & Well Being section of the survey which highlighted that during COVID a greater proportion of the younger folk found it much more difficult and that the lock downs affected their mental health in comparison to the 7% of over 70s who indicated that they felt depressed. Further analysis on all the data has to be undertaken and it is important that the data is put in context and then used to develop our Lochalsh and local plans. This information will be useful for other Public bodies when developing their services. The remaining CC – Glenelg, Dornie, Loch Duich and Lochalsh - will be hosting their virtual Zoom meetings within the next few weeks.

Action: Mary to discuss with the Hall committee if room can be found in one of the hall cupboards to store the Poster Board.

6.4 The Safety concrete block fence at Ardnarff. Ref Number FS130640243

In April Biz told our meeting that the blocks will be removed as soon as. And this is the situation in May.

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

6.6 Stromeferry and Achmore Community website.

The Community council minutes for 2021 need to be prepared for loading onto the Website. The question and answer documents which we exchanged with the Kyle Surgery in early 2020 will be loaded into the 'Other' section on the website plus the COVID update that we produced for April 2020 instead of meeting minutes. There has been a request for a local business and accommodation to be added. The CC members need to have a discussion about what to post in the CC section. Mary has to set up Kath as an administrator.

Action: Mary to get the 2021 minutes ready for loading plus other documents & pass Kath her login details.

Action: Mary to contact chair of Hall and Fernaig Trust to ask who will administer their section of the website. Phil administers the CMNet Broadband section.

6.7 Bench

Dawn is researching a replacement picnic table/seating for the Fernaig shore and Mary will obtain benches one for Stromeferry and one for the Achmore cattle grid to replace the bench which was moved to the bus shelter

Action: Dawn to obtain a bench and table set and locate on the Fernaig Shore.

Action: Mary to obtain another two benches and site one by cattle grid and one at a yet to be determined location in Stromeferry.

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

7.1 NHS

The campaign to support obtaining a CT scanner for the new Broadford hospital is ongoing and all of the Lochalsh & other SW Ross CC's have forwarded their support to Hamish Fraser, Chair Broadford and Strath CC. Hamish is awaiting some

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responses from Skye CC's. Biz and Hamish will continue to work on this campaign and keep the NHS focused on our needs. Mhairi emailed Kate Forbes office in March this year.

Actions: Biz and Hamish will continue to work on behalf of all the CC's in obtaining a CT Scanner for the new hospital.

The feedback received about the food could be best described as 'it may contain the necessary nutrients, but it is mostly inedible'. Biz will convey this response to Louise Bussell and ask what she is going to do about improving the food.

Action: Biz will convey the feedback about the hospital food to Louise Bussell.

7.2 Tilhill / Forestry and Land Scotland

There was nothing to report from Tilhil. It was reported to the meeting that the Strome View point is becoming a 'toilet' for camper van and by May before the main tourist season starts the area is disgusting. We noted that the Reraig caravan park is open and that the Auchertyre Farm has set up a facility as per the description on their website

'Due to limited infrastructure in the area for overnight stops for motorhomes, we would like to offer you a safe off road space to park up for the night on part of our farm. We have facilities for disposing of waste and taking on water, which is available to all, whether you're parking for the night or just passing through'.

We had a discussion about how we can prevent folks just dumping their waste at the Strome view point. We believe the area belongs to Forestry and Land Scotland; so we decided to ask them to a meeting.

Mhairi told the meeting that there is evidence of camp fires being lit in the Strome woods and so far it appears the fire are being built and lit on the forestry track, but this is of concern as we had had little or no rain for the past few weeks so the surrounding area is very dry area is . There was a discussion around the

Action: Mary to ask a Forestry and Land Scotland representative to our July meeting.

7.3 Highland Council

Community Support Co-ordinators - 10 post have been created across Highland: Inverness, Nairn, Aviemore, Lochaber, Skye, Sutherland, Caithness, Ross-shire East, West and Mid (3 posts). They are fixed term posts for 12 months. The main purpose of the role is to co-ordinate and deliver humanitarian and resilience support, building community capacity and resilience through active engagement with a range of bodies including community and public sector organisations. There will be a focus on developing local relationships and networks with community bodies, encouraging participation and involvement, with an emphasis on addressing poverty and recovery. The posts will be part of the Community Support and Ward Management team and although based in one area, will work as part of the wider area-based team to support projects and activity across the broader area.

Action: Mary to ask our ward manager what exactly these folks will do.

Gill's update – Gill wanted to say thanks to the HC for fixing the very pot holed section of road on the Auchertyre Brae. Biz said that she will continue to request more money for more road improvements for other areas of Lochalsh . A long stretch of the road between Balmacara and Kyle has been resurfaced.

£250k has been allocated from the Capital Budget to continue with the annual/biannual Stromeferry Bypass A890 rock face maintenance. This is scheduled for autumn 2021.

7.4 Police & Fire

- Nothing to report

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7.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

- Nothing to report

7.6 Others

- Nothing to report

8 Update from our Councillor

Biz gave us a brief update of the committee she attends – Social Health & Education, Gaelic, Climate change, Planning plus the 7 Lochalsh CC meetings. This month there was nothing explicitly discussed for our area. The other item discussed in details is documented under Tilhill/Forestry and Land Scotland – re camper van waste management.

Biz told us that there has been a liaison group has been established so that the folk in the local areas – fishermen, holiday home owners etc have a forum to discuss issues with the Kishorn port owners regarding the works they are undertaking and what impact this will have on the surrounding area. One of the pieces of work that is being undertaken is the extending of the dry dock into the surrounding hill side.

9 Updates from Local Groups

9.1 CMNet CIC Broadband

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

9.2 Fernaig Trust

Colin MacAndrew

9.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Hall

Martin Irving

10 AOB

Ann Gillespie did not stand for re- election at the AGM on the 26th May. Mhairi MacRae is willing to join the Stromeferry and Achmore CC, so we will follow the CC's co-option process and get Mhairi on board ASAP. A big thanks to Ann for her contribution to the CC and to Mhairi for wishing to joins us. And thanks to Dawn who deputised for Gill and chaired her 1st CC meeting and kept us on message.

11 Calendar

11.1 Monthly Gate Check - The gate to the beach is open at Stromeferry

11.2 Weekly defibrillator rota – All in order

11.3 Post COVID – Relationship building with the Scottish Salmon Fish farm.

12 Next Meetings

By Microsoft Teams or maybe in Achmore Hall the next meeting is scheduled for 28th July 2021 @ 7.30pm. We are not having a CC meeting in June and August.

13 Formal close of meeting @ 8.43pm