

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 30th March 2022 @ 7.30pm

Formal opening of meeting – Chair

Present: Dawn Lupton (chaired meeting), Mary MacBeth, Kath Smith, Neil MacRae
Members of other organisations: Biz Campbell HC Councillor, Becky Milne Forest & Land Scotland (FLS) for 1st part of meeting.
Members of Public: Marion Howat, Claudia Weegen
Apologies: Mhairi Macrae, Gill Harrington (Work related)

1 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 26th January 2022 meeting were approved Dawn and seconded by Neil.

2 Update from Forestry & Land Scotland – Becky Milne

“Becky is the Area Manager for FLS’s Visitor Services team; this is a new post following the recent FLS restructure. Visitor Services manage & support public recreation access to the forest estate. This includes event permissions and liaison over informal access, as well as managing the formally promoted facilities. There are two formal FLS sites in the CC area – Strome Viewpoint & Strome Woods. Strome Woods also falls within the concordat agreement with Ferraig Community Trust, and Becky is hoping to attend the Trust’s meeting next month.

Strome Viewpoint has been listed as a Stay the Night site for 2022, allowing motorhome use of the carpark as a stopover to be more proactively managed. The impact of the Stay the Night scheme on other car park users will be monitored, to try and ensure that tour buses and passing visitors can still access the viewpoint as they usually would. Becky will have a seasonal ranger working with her – hopefully in post by late April. FLS will again work in partnership with the Highland Council & NTS ranger teams, offering the best coverage possible across the area.

The car park at the viewpoint has been resurfaced, and the railings repaired. All of the current primary signs are due to be replaced soon, and Becky has a programme of repairs and maintenance underway across the area.

Strome Woods is currently free of the new tree disease (phytophthora pluvialis) found recently in the forest above Ardnarff. The response to this disease is being led by Scottish Forestry, and it is still an evolving situation. FLS will be in touch with community groups in due course if any major felling work is required in the near future.

Some useful links:

[Stay the night - Forestry and Land Scotland](#)
[Permissions and permits - Forestry and Land Scotland](#)
[Scottish Forestry - Phytophthora pluvialis in Scotland”](#)

3 Treasurer’s report

Opening balance as at 30 th March 2022	£3,231.42
Money In – Including Paid In by HC in error - £354.61	
Interest	.37
Money Out – HC error rectified and cheque written to Hall	£354.61

Available to spend £2,818.06

The cheque for £354.61 to Achmore Hall has yet to be cashed.

Two cheques were written for Mary a) for Calico payment of £28.80 and b) Spanglefish Gold subscription £29.95.

The CC financial year end is 31st March, so Dawn told us she is completing the Annual accounts and will get them audited prior to our AGM in May.

Action: Dawn will complete Accounts year ending processing

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4 Local Items – Update and progress

4.1.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

The response from ScotRail is sounding positive and helpful but no further update this month.

Action: Mhairi and the Strome team to continue with their contacts with ScotRail and Lucky2BeHere.

Action: Mary as secretary to receive copies of information exchanges to file for CC record completeness.

4.1.2 Defibrillator training

Lucky2BeHere have said that they are running online training at the moment; a couple of CC members attended the December training and depending on the feedback received, then the CC will discuss if the CC should organise an online training session for 15 – 20 Stromeferry & Achmore households or publish the Lucky2BeHere contacts and allow households to organise their own training.

Action: Await feedback from December training and again this was not discussed fully and will be on April's agenda

Email feedback post meeting: The online training was OK but it would be better done face to face in the hall

4.1.3 Monthly checks and seals on Defibrillator box

The rota system is working well and other local areas have asked Neil about our rota and checks. The plastic bag holding the auxiliary bits needs replacing and the question was raised about whether the gloves should be replaced or not. The bottom left hand corner of the lid of the box is cracked so a replacement will be sought.

Action: Kath to email Neil our defibrillator weekly and month check list.

Kath to contact Lucky2BeHere to get the box lid replacement.

4.2 Infrastructure

4.2.1 Ditches – Stromeferry – culvert between Meallan & Lochview

This culvert appears to be blocked resulting in the water running down the road on the corner of a steep brae. Next time works are scheduled for this area we will get this checked out.

Action: Mary to keep in touch with Andy – HC to see when this can be rectified.

4.2.2 Ardnarff concrete blocks by roadside

Our councillor Biz wrote a stiff letter to Head of Infrastructure requesting an update and Biz was told that a new contractor had been engaged but no dates given for when the work will commence..

Action: Biz and CC to keep asking for this work to be completed.

4.2.3 A890 – Stromeferry By Pass improvements.

The A890 road from the Strome viewpoint to near the avalanche shelter is in an appalling state – the verges are crumpling, the holes along the verges & the pot holes are getting deeper etc, etc.

Action: Mary & Biz - an update will be sought for April meeting.

4.2.4 Stromeferry and Achmore Community website

The CC has paid for the annual fee for 2022/2023. Helen Robertson is the administrator for the Hall. Mary and Helen will meet to get the Hall section updated. And then the group of administrators – Kath & Mary for CC, Helen for Hall, Phil for CMNet Broadband, Lizzie for Fernaig Trust need to meet to discuss the Stromeferry and Achmore website layout and use.

Action: Mary to organise meetings.

4.3 Community Benches

Stromeferry bench – delivered. Need to buy replacement bench for siting by Achmore Cattle grid.

Action: Mary to organise.

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4.4 Fernaig Shore – picnic area

We discussed this again and all agreed that rather than putting up signage asking people not to do things, like burn their rubbish, that a better approach will be to spread the word about the uniqueness, use and beauty of this area – wildlife, flora, views - via information boards which will include a request to leave the area clean and free of rubbish.

Action – Mary will do more on this topic.

4.5 Food deliveries by supermarkets – TESCO & Morrisons & Asda

There have been considerable efforts made by individuals to get the major supermarkets to deliver to our post codes IV53 8U J - W but so far the supermarkets have not engaged. Mhairi has received a request from residents to raise this topic with the Community Council. Mary called Morrison's head office to ask them what their policy was on home deliveries to our area. Their response was that Morrison's currently do not deliver to our post code but suggested that if our area can demonstrate a high level of demand for a service they would consider our request. To determine the level of demand Mary will email residents asking them if they wish to have grocery deliveries to our area. Could everyone who has contacted the supermarkets about home/'nearby location' delivery please forward their correspondence to Mary to see if the CC can build on what already has been done.

Action: Mary to contact Stromeferry and Achmore residents to determine level of desire to have food deliveries to our area by key supermarkets.

Once Mary receives previous Stromeferry and Achmore resident's communications with supermarkets then Mary will build on the dialogue so far to see what the CC can achieve.

4.6 Planning

Nothing for Stromeferry and Achmore area

4.7 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The writing group – a sub group of the Lochalsh Collaboration have met several times via Zoom discussing the structure and formatting of the Community Plan. At the last full Collaboration Meeting we discussed the Community plan which is coming together and will be published once the final proof has been agreed.

Action: Mary to continue working on plans and attending meetings. Others are also welcome to join the Zoom meetings.

4.8 Dornie CC - Aird Ferry

Aird Ferry quote from poster – "The Aird Ferry Resource Centre in Dornie provides a great environment for older adults to socialise and engage in day time activities. We have experienced NHS staff to make you feel part of a community and will support you where needed. The catchment area is South Skye and Lochalsh.

We aim to provide transport where possible which will be discussed.

We provide:

Staff supported activities Gentle physical activity

Visiting entertainers Reminiscence memories

Hot lunch

Day care support for family members

*There is a charge for day care and meals.

If you are interested (or if you know someone who may benefit) then please

contact the below number and someone will call you back:

Broadford Service Point: 01471 820 502"

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

5.1 Funding Opportunities

Nothing this month

5.2 Tourism

Becky Milne, Forestry and Land Scotland See section 3.

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5.3 Utilities - Scottish Water

Update received on 25th March from Gavin Steel. "Further to our update in January, Martin and his team have been successful in identifying an alternative pump which is available with a reduced lead time to the 6 months previously forecast. In light of this, an order has been placed with the alternative supplier and we now expect that work to install and commission the new pumps at Achmore will be able to begin by the end of next month (April) and should be complete during June.

In the interim, James and his team have continued with the short term actions that we also discussed. I understand work is currently underway to clear small trees and other vegetation in the vicinity of the redundant service reservoir above Stromeferry. This is expected to allow the water main to bypass the old tank within the area of land that the tank currently occupies – and an air valve will also be installed at this location to support the operation of the pumping station. Given the earlier delivery date of the pumps, we are hopeful that the new long term arrangement will be operational before the period of highest demand in mid-summer. However, we have confirmed on site that we would be able to deploy a temporary tank at the top of the short section of track which was built last year, just in case this is required to secure an acceptable level of service in the meantime".

5.4 Update from our Councillor

The elections of councillors to the Highland Council are taking place on the 5th May 2022 for Ward 5 – Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh. Polling Station is Achmore Hall from 7am to 10pm. Biz along with others will be standing for election.

5.4.1 Quality of food on offer in the Broadford Hospital.

After numerous letters and requests to many individuals and organisations to improve the quality of the food we have not achieved a result yet - which is really disappointing. We will move this topic to our calendar section and return to it later in the year

5.4.2 Campaign for a CT scanner for hospital

Mhairi has circulated a draft letter to other CC members to agree. We will continue with our campaigning for a scanner for the new Broadford Hospital.

Action: All CC members to read through Mhairi's letter and provide feedback.

5.4.3 Information cascade by NHS and other health organisations.

Mary emailed Kate Earnshaw concerning the over use of Facebook for broadcasting information about NHS information and local GP surgeries. Kate has forwarded our message to the NHS comm's manager and others who are involved with information cascade and no response has been received from them, so Mary to chase up.

Action: Mary to follow up and make sure we get a response.

6 AOB

Mast at Stromeferry - Towards the end of week beginning the 21st March the residents of High Street, Stromeferry were disturbed by building works. On asking the people doing the work what was happening they were informed that a tower was being built for Network Rail. No prior notification had been provided to the householders who are about 20ft from the site which now is home to an approx. 40m high communications tower.

Claudia Weegen contacted Gill to find out if the Community Council had received any information about this works. The CC has received no information. Gill contacted Biz, our councillor, who elicited the following information from Highland Council Planning.

Information from Highland Council – "Network Rail are installing these kiosks and masts to avoid trains stopping at stations where no one is waiting (eg Achnashellach, Attadale etc .)

In most cases they do not require planning permission as they are permitted development under Class 34, Part 13 of General Permitted Development (Scotland) Order as they fall under the definition of "works by the statutory undertaker on their operational land, required in connection with the movement of traffic by rail" and not excluded by any of the exemptions to Class 34.

We have taken applications in some cases where the exemptions don't apply"

On receiving this information Claudia spoke to Mary who suggested Claudia contact Kate Forbes, our MSP who is holding surgeries on the 7th and 8th April in Skye. Mary told Claudia that the CC will minute her issues and her wish to have this tower moved from a few feet from her home and family. As Network Rail has not provided any information about this communications mast, Claudia is unable

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to determine what health risks are associated with this installation. Claudia told the meeting that she is meeting with Kate Forbes on the 7th April.

Action: Biz our councillor is going to try and obtain a contact at Network Rail to see what information she is able to extract from them to pass to Claudia.

Claudia will meet with Kate Forbes in April.

Biz will ask HC to expand on what they mean by 'We have taken applications in some cases where the exemptions don't apply'.

7 Calendar - reminders and topics to C/F.

Monthly Check Path Access at Stromeferry

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

Defibrillator Checks

Defibrillator Fund Raising

Improve quality of food Broadford Hospital

8 Next Meeting

27th April 2022 at 7.30pm in hall

9 Close of Meeting

Meeting formally closed at 8.45 pm

Updates for Other Community Groups

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons, Helen Robertson

The hall committee did the 100 club drw for March and April.

March

1st - Ellanne Fraser

2nd - Richard Meyers

3rd - Ann Gillespie

April

1st - Georgie Grimson

2nd - Amanda Doran

3rd - Euan Reid

Community Broadband CMNet CIC – Phil Game

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

All the cheques for the New Joiners Premium refund have been distributed.

The additional line in Lochcarron required that ~ 100 metres of cable be laid in a hand dug trench along the side of the shinty pitch.

The telephone line was then installed the following week. For some reason there was then a delay of three weeks before the Plusnet broadband service was activated. When we looked at the stats for the line it was delivering less than 40 Mbps. This was queried with Plusnet who altered the configuration and at the same time asked us to reboot the router to pick up our fixed IP address. We tested the line at 71 Mbps and then, as requested, rebooted the router to pick up the new address which reset the line back to less than 40 Mbps... This was queried with Plusnet; they have asked us to test the line using an alternate router which we regard as a futile exercise as we know the line was delivering 70 + Mbps with the existing router before Plusnet changed the configuration. However we will comply with their request.

One subscriber has been connected in North Strome, one in Ardaneaskan and one in Leacanashie. In Strome Ferry one installation is ready to activate and another is ready to schedule.

Once we have completed the two Strome Ferry installations we will monitor the systems capacity and then decide whether we can install further subscribers before we the new line in Lochcarron comes on stream.

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We have received three new requests to join CMNet.
One subscriber has left CMNet.

See our website for more details:- www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

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CMNet CIC, Achmore & Strome Ferry Community Broadband System

Fernaig Trust - Colin MacAndrew

Communication Received from 30th January 2022

On Agenda – these items will be discussed in the meeting not in this section. NNTD – no need to discuss

Email - Weekly - Maureen MacKenzie - Planning Information – checked - NNTD.
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 February/March - distributed –NNTD
Email - Weekly - Maureen MacKenzie - Planning Information – checked - NNTD.
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 January/February - distributed –NNTD
Email – Weekly – Policy HC - Community Resilience Group Update re Weather Warnings – Storms + dealing with Power Outages SSE January/February - distributed –NNTD
Email – 29 Jan – Police Scotland - sorting out email address with David Mockett
Email – 29 Jan – Hamish Fraser – Broadford Hospital Committee – on agenda
Email – 29 Jan – Marion Howat – feedback on minutes – complete
Email – 29 Jan – Chairs of Community Group – providing updates for minutes – complete
Email – 31 Jan – Gavin Steel – Scottish Water – update for minutes – complete
Email - 31 Jan – Julie Wilemann – Policy – Community Support Coordinator for Ward 5: Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh, as part of her role she is also responsible for Ward 10: Skye & Raasay – distributed
Email – 01 Feb – Highland Council – Compliments – CC thanks to D Cameron- Distributed – complete
Email- Feb - Mary to Dawn - CC expenses- On agenda
Email- 5 Feb - Derek Manson – Policy HC – CC face to face meeting – complete
Email – Feb - Helen Robertson, Lizzie Bird, Jackie Parsons, Phil Game, Kath Smith – Our Website use of Spanglefish software – on agenda
Email – 6 Feb – NHS Highland - NHS Highland update on COVID - distributed
Email -Julie Wileman – 7 Feb - Funding oppurtunies – Historic Scotland, Winter Fund from Youth Scotland – distributed
Email-Julie Wileman – 7 Feb - Community Newsletter – distributed
Email – James Krisp – Plockton & District CC – New housing by Shinty Pitch – distributed – on agenda
Email – Julie Wileman – 9 Feb - February Edition of the Think health Think Nature E- Newsletter
Email – 12 Feb – Mhairi Macrae – request to get Morrison to do home food deliveries – on agenda
Email – 12 Feb – J Krisp - Message from Plockton - re local housing being built by the shinty pitch – distributed – complete
Email – 14 Feb – Policy Highand - Community Resilience groups - Weather warnings - Storm Dudley – distributed
Email – 15 Feb – Derek Manson – Policy - Open University training opportunities for Community Council members (free)- reminder
Email – 16 Feb – Julie Wileman – Policy - : New Highland Council Community Loan Fund – distributed
Email – 17 Feb – Julie Wileman – Policy - Community Resilience Groups - SSEN weather warning update – distributed
Email – 17 Feb – I Jackson -Statutory Consultation on Plockton and Lochcarron GM catchments - Public Meeting - distributed
Email – 17 Feb – M Macrae – Morrison’s delivery route + home delivery – on agenda
Email – 18 Feb – Julie Wileman – Policy - Funding Opportunities – distributed
Email – 21 Feb – Information Commissioner – Annual fee – Treasurer
Email – 20 – 25th Feb – CC members – preparation for Feb meeting – not held
Email - 21 Feb - L Bird - Community Woodlands Association February e-bulletin- distributed
Email – 21 Feb – B Milne – Land & Forestry Scotland (FLS) - Community Council meeting in February – on agenda
Email – 23 Feb – Julie Wileman - Community Food Provision/Reduce Food Waste - distributed

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Email – 24 Feb – Julie Wileman – Policy - STP FUNDING FINDER - FEBRUARY 2022 – distributed

Email – 1 Mar – Spanglefish - Payment – Treasurer

Email – 1 Mar – CAL Admin - PLOCKTON & LOHCARRON GM CONSULTATION – distributed

Email – 4 Mar – Julie Wileman - INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES FUND ROUND 2 – distributed

Email – 4 Mar – Julie Wileman - THTN March Newsletter – distributed

Email – 11 Mar – Spanglefish renewal – complete

Email – 15 Mar – D Ferguson - Community Councils - Visitor Management job opportunity

Email - 17 Mar – Zurich -Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council, if you're planning any events this year, we can help.

Email – 24 Mar – M Macrae -Draft letter to NHS Highland re CT scanner at Broadford – April meeting

Approved