

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 27th April 2022 @ 7.30pm

1 Formal opening of meeting – Chair

Present: Gill Harrington (Chair) Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Mhairi Macrae

Members of other organisations: No one

Members of Public: Claudia Weegen

Apologies: Neil MacRae, Kath Smith (Work related)

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 30th March 2022 meeting were approved by Dawn @ meeting and seconded by Neil via an email post the meeting.

3 Treasurer's report

Opening balance as at 30 th March 2022		£3,231.42
<u>Money In</u>	0.00	
Interest	0.37	
<u>Money Out</u>		
SpangleFish Subscription	£29.95	
Calico fee	£28.80	
ICO	£35.00	
Payment in error – monies repaid to Hall	£354.61	
Closing Balance as at 27 th April 2022		£2,783.06

The CC financial year end is 31st March, and Dawn has completed the accounts and passed them on for checking prior to getting them audited. Accounts will be presented at the AGM on 25th May. We did a quick tally of the annual CC expenses versus grant given to the CC by Highland Council:- Insurance £84, Data protection £35, Hall hire 12 x £10 = £120, Spanglefish subscription, domain name and security= £28.80 + £29.95; so total spend of £297.75 which does not include secretarial expenses. The Highland Council gives our CC a grant of £417.97; so after taking off our fixed cost we have £120.22.

Action: Dawn will get accounts audited for AGM in May.

Mary to bring the lack of funding for our CC to the attention of our Ward Manager plus ask Kenny Maclean if he can converse with other Ward 5 CCs. Mary to ask Kenny what other CCs spend on secretarial fees.

4 Local Items – Update and progress

4.1.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

The response from ScotRail is sounding positive. ScotRail will install and pay the electricity costs for the defibrillator and are willing to use a LUCKY2BeHere defibrillator even although they normally have defibrillators from their own preferred supplier.

Action: Mhairi to get an update from ScotRail for next meeting.

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

4.1.2 Defibrillator training

The feedback from the online training was that it covered all the basic First Aid techniques and then went on to cover the use of the defibrillator. We all agreed that 'real life' training in the hall is best so we will wait till providers are offering this training.

This item will now be moved to calendar section.

Minutes for Strome ferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 27th April 2022 @ 7.30pm

4.1.3 Monthly checks and seals on Defibrillator box

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. Until we get a replacement lid or new box, we decided not to open the box during monthly checks as it may break completely and not close.

Action: Kath to contact Lucky2BeHere to get the box lid replacement and ask if we need to replace the gloves.

4.2 Infrastructure

4.2.1 Ardnarff concrete blocks by roadside

Gill passed on the update she received from Biz and it is as follows:

“9 Feb Discuss works with Network Rail

18 Feb Contractors invited to quote

4 Mar Deadline for return of quotes

11 Mar Award contract

11 Mar Start Temporary Traffic Order and consultation re overnight road closure

6 -17 June Start – end site works (earliest possible date subject to Network Rail and road closure consultation)”

Action: CC to get update from our councillor so we can monitor progress.

4.2.2 A890 – Strome ferry Bypass improvements

The A890 road from the Strome viewpoint to near the avalanche shelter is in an appalling state – some of the verges have been built up only for vehicles to use the verges as passing places; so undoing the good work.

Action: Mary to get an update will be sought for May meeting.

4.2.3 Strome ferry 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. 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 Strome ferry and Achmore website layout and use.

Action: Mary to organise meetings.

4.3 Community Benches

Strome ferry bench – delivered. Need to buy replacement bench to locate by the Achmore Cattle grid.

Action: Mary to organise.

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

An email was sent to all residents in IV53 8U J – W to ask if they want to have supermarkets deliveries to our CC area. This note was also posted on the Community Support WhatsApp and a good number of responses have been received. Thanks to responders.

Whilst we are continuing to garner more local support Mary will contact the supermarkets and ask them what their requirements are so that they can deliver to our area. Once we have this information from the supermarkets then we know what is required from us to make deliveries happen.

Action: Gill will continue to garner support from residents re supermarket deliveries to our area by getting them to email their support to Mary or Dawn.

Mary will contact the supermarkets.

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 27th April 2022 @ 7.30pm

4.6 Mast at Stromeferry station

Claudia told the meeting that she had met with Kate Forbes on the 7th April to discuss this topic. Post her meeting Claudia contacted Kate's office to find out what action Kate's office had taken. Kate's office informed Claudia that she must give them time to work on this issue and to wait for a response from Kate's office.

As the Highland Council elections are taking place on the 5th May we have to await the outcome to determine who will be the councillor for Lochalsh before the work Biz started with Highland Council and Network Rail can be continued. In the meantime Gill asked Claudia to create a log of events, and substantiate what has been communicated about the erection of this mast in Stromeferry.

Action: Claudia to create log and let the CC know what results she gets from Kate Forbes' office.

4.7 Request from Heritage Group Ross & Cromarty for data use

The CC had an email from Phyllis Hannah, secretary of this group saying they would like to include information from our page on the community website. Phyllis has already taken a photo of the wall hanging when she visited the hall on Monday 4th April 2022. Any additions to their webpage will be attributed to the people of Stromeferry and Achmore. Mary circulated this request to the relevant people in the area and has had some feedback.

Action: Mary to email Phyllis and clarify what information she wants to add to their web page.

4.8 Planning

Nothing for Stromeferry and Achmore area

4.9 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The Lochalsh Collaboration group set a closing date of 2nd May for any more changes to the contents of the Community Plan. Post the contents close date the plan will be distributed to all CC and other groups in Lochalsh for their agreement before the Summary, and the Community Plan and other document will be sent for graphic design and printing.

Action: Mary to continue attending meetings. Others are also welcome to join the Zoom meetings.

We had a quick-fire session on what uses could be made of the Community Bus that KLCT have acquired and here are our suggestions:-

Shopping trips to Kyle.

Daily service to Kyle to transport people to and from work (i.e. to get to Kyle for 9am and back after 5pm).

Transporting people to Aird Ferry day centre.

Ad Hoc on demand journey requests

Evening trips to and from events, particularly for the younger sections of the population or the elders with a young approach to life.

Day trips for society groups and events

Church bus

Hire out for private functions to raise funds for maintaining and running the bus.

Action: Mary to pass on to Lochalsh Collaboration.

4.10 Dornie CC - Aird Ferry

There is an open day for Aird Ferry reopening.

"FRIDAY 6th of May

10am to 3:30pm

ALL WELCOME! DROP IN AND SEE THE BUILDING & TALK TO OUR FRIENDLY STAFF ABOUT DAY CARE SERVICES. "Free Hot Drinks and Home Baking"

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

5.1 Funding Opportunities

Nothing this month

5.2 Tourism

6 Update from Forestry & Land Scotland

The Strome View point is now in use according to the plans designed by FLS. Mhairi told the meeting that the gate in Strome Woods has been installed beyond the parking area, so vehicles can no longer go into the depths of Strome woods. Another ranger should be in place soon to assist with 'policing' of Strome View point and Strome woods. There are still vehicles parking on the opposite side of the road to the viewpoint; so this creates the added danger of people crossing the A890. We will get another update in May.

6.1 Utilities - Scottish Water

Some of the Stromeferry residents experienced a water outage on the 21st April 2022, this was reported to Scottish Water and is referred to in the update. Update received on 26th April from Gavin Steel.

"I understand that a contractor is due to be on site today to carry out relatively minor work to bypass the redundant service reservoir (storage tank) above Stromeferry, following on from the clearance of vegetation mentioned in my update last month. We expect that this work may provide some benefit straight away; and it is also needed so that an air valve can be installed as part of the new long term arrangements.

The main project to install and commission new pumps at the old Achmore Water Treatment Works (to maintain reliable supply over to Stromeferry at times of higher demand) is on track, as per our update last month. Work began on site last week to install the new pumps and associated pipework. We expect the pumping station to be ready to enter operation in June.

I understand from the local team that one of the customers has reported reduced water pressure and a period of supply disruption over a recent weekend. James and his team are monitoring the situation in case other action is needed in the interim, but we hope the work taking place today may give some immediate benefit - and we will continue to focus on getting the pumping station into operation as soon as we can."

6.2 Update from our Councillor

Our Councillor was not present so no update. 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 open in Achmore Hall from 7am to 10pm. Biz along with others will be standing for election.

6.3 Campaign for a CT scanner for Broadford hospital

A letter was sent to NHS on the 7th April and the NHS responses received by Mhairi and Kate Forbes' office were not to our satisfaction as the points raised in Mhairi's letter had not been addressed; Gill proposed that we create a sub group with other Community Councils from the whole catchment area for the Broadford Hospital – SW Ross (Torridon, Lochcarron, Applecross), Lochalsh and Skye and progress this topic outside of our CC meetings. Gill, Mary and Mhairi will contribute from our CC and we will make contact with all CCs, individuals, other groups in SW Ross, Lochalsh and Skye to ask them to join/contribute to this campaign.

Mary told the CC meeting of the stakeholders' process that was established by NHS Highland starting in 2013 to determine the best location for a single site hospital on Skye to provide improved and better services, and implement technology to support the delivery of joined up care and services. Mary will find the names and email addresses of the key managers so that we can access the notes from all the meetings; then we can research what was discussed / agreed in 2013/2014 and build on that information to achieve our goal of getting a CT scanner for the Broadford hospital.

Action: Mary to locate her copies of documentation/information from 2013/2014 which will provides us with the contacts of key players so that we can locate the required information to support our ongoing campaign for a CT scanner.

Minutes for Strome Ferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 27th April 2022 @ 7.30pm

6.4 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.

7 AOB

8 Calendar - reminders and topics to C/F.

Monthly Check Path Access at Strome Ferry
Defibrillator Checks
Defibrillator Fund Raising
Improve quality of food Broadford Hospital
Culvert Strome Ferry – between Meallan and Lochview

9 Next Meeting

CC AGM is on the 25th May 2022 7.30pm and our May Community Council meeting will follow.

10 Close of Meeting

Meeting formally closed at 9.45 pm

Updates for Other Community Groups

Strome Ferry and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons, Helen Robertson

“Dear all,

Now that Spring is here and the virus is hopefully receding, the Hall Committee is really happy that events have resumed and the Hall is in use again. We would love to bolster Committee membership to support future fundraising events and general business. The Committee meets once a month for around an hour. We have a chair, bookings organiser, 100 Club administrator and secretary. Currently there are only 7 of us.

We are so lucky to have the hall as a village gathering place and for family events and local meetings. It is really well used for weddings, there was a recent funeral, we have scouts meetings, band practice, crafting and other groups as well as our Hall fundraising events. Pre Covid the quiz nights went really well but the last fundraiser event - a Burns Night in 2020 - was a big success with a great village turnout.

It would be so encouraging to have some new members for fresh ideas and encouragement.

Please consider joining us but also if you'd like to chat to any of us to find out more, call Jackie on 236 or Helen on 322. Or come along to a meeting (currently 1st Tuesday in the month, 7.30) to say hello and get a feel for things with no obligation to join.

helenrobertsonleith@hotmail.com jackiemarigold@gmail.com

Best wishes,

The Hall Committee “

--

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

The April meeting was put back to the start of May because of COVID.

The two outstanding installations in Strome Ferry have been completed. Usage is increasing again so we will monitor the systems capacity carefully before deciding whether we can install further subscribers before the new line in Lochcarron comes on stream.

We haven't had a chance to configure "spare" routers to test the new Lochcarron line. This is likely to be a complete waste of time as the "old" router is just a few days old and was working perfectly well until Plusnet made systems changes. Unfortunately Plusnet are insisting this is done before they will look into the poor speeds we reported.

We are seeing a few sporadic false RADAR events which cause conflicting frequency issues; these are being resolved on a case by case basis.

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 27th April 2022 @ 7.30pm

A considerable effort was required to amend our software in preparation for Gmail's decision to remove the "less secure" access option at the end of May.

The draft annual returns for Companies House and HMRC have been produced and are ready to be ratified prior to submission. See our website for more details:- www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

Fernaig Trust - Colin MacAndrew

Communication Received from 30th March 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

Emails – Many – Supermarket deliveries to IV53 8U.

Email – March/April – CC members – Drafting letter to NHS – letter campaigning for a Scanner Broadford Hospital.

Emails – G Harington, Biz Campbell, Mary Macbeth, Claudia Weeger – Information exchange re Mast @ Stromeferry

Email – Policy HC - SSEN encourages applications for its £1m Resilient Communities Fund" - press release from SSEN – distributed

Email – Information Commissioner’s Office - ICO - Renewal confirmation ICO:00019599893 – complete

Email – Becky Milne – note for CC minutes – complete

Email – Julie Wileman – Policy - FW: STP FUNDING FINDER - MARCH 2022 – distributed

Email - Julie Wileman – Policy - Communications and Resilience COVID Briefing - 30 March 2022 – distributed

Email – Niall Ingall – Day Centre Manager - Posters

Email – 4 Apr - Policy - FW: Strategic Transport Project Review 2 (STPR2) Formal Consultation - Closing Date 15 April 2022 – distributed

Email - 5 Apr – Julie Wileman - FW: Community Led Habitat Restoration – distributed

Email – 6 Apr – Phyllis Hannah - Enquiry from Stromeferry & Achmore website - 06 April 2022 16:42 12627 – on agenda

Email – 7 Apr – K Inman – Mast at Stromeferry – on agenda

Email - 8 Apr – Julie Wileman – Policy - FW: Assistance with reaching out to users of adult mental health and learning disability services – workshop – distributed

Email – 8 Apr – Julie Wileman – Policy - Potential Funding – distributed

Email – 8 – 15 Apr - Community Council - NHS Survey - please take the time out to complete this survey – on agenda

Email – 9 Apr – C Parsons – Update on minutes – complete

Email – 11 Apr – Zurich Insurance - Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council - Your insurance policy is due for renewal – on agenda

Email – 17 Apr – Helen Robertson – Update for hall for April minutes