

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 25th May 2022 @ 8pm

1 Formal opening of meeting – Chair

Present: Gill Harrington (Chair) Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae

Members of other organisations: Biz Campbell

Members of Public: Claudia Weegen (part of meeting)

Apologies: Mhairi Macrae, Kath Smith (exams)

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 25th April 2022 meeting were approved by Dawn and seconded by Gill.

3 Treasurer report and other financials.

Treasurer's report

Opening balance as at 25th April 2022		£2,783.06
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Money In	£0.00	
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Money Out	£0.00	
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Closing Balance as at 23rd May 2022		£2,783.06
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Three expenses claims have been submitted and cheques received but not yet cashed – 1) £259 for Bill's bench to be sited by the Achmore Cattle grid 2) £84 to pay for the Zurich annual CC insurance policy and 3) £24 for Domain naming totalling £367.00, so leaving £2,416.06.

Mary contacted the other CCs in Ward 5 and has received many responses and the going rate for secretarial fees is £250 per year. After a discussion it was agreed that our CC will allocate £250 per year for secretary fees so Mary will submit an expense claim for 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022 to cover secretarial expenses. This will leave £1,666.06 in the CC account.

Mary obtained information from our Ward Manger as to how this grant is calculated as the funding is not covering our annual outgoings. All present agreed that we should highlight the need for more funds to run the CC.

Action: Mary to submit a claim and to continue discussing with HC about the level of grant being provided with a view to having it increased.

4 Local Items – Update and progress

4.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

Alisdair Tennant of Scotrail emailed Mhairi on Tuesday, 17 May, 22 to say that he understands that a Scotrail contractor should complete the electrical installation this week and another of his colleagues will be in touch with Mhairi later in the week to finalise the installation. Mary has asked Mhairi to find out if Lucky2BeHere are in the loop as the electrician needs the defibrillator box in place to be able to connect it to the power supply. Mhairi will get in touch with Lucky2BeHere once more.

Action: Mhairi to get an update from ScotRail and Lucky2BeHere to make sure they are working together and report back to CC members.

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

4.2 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.

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4.3 Infrastructure - roads, verges and Ardnarff blocks.

We had an update from Andy Bone HC on some of the roads works that have been done in our area in the last quarter. The Braeintra road and the road between Achmore village and the bridge has some hot tar "puddle patched" undertaken, and the failed culvert near the Sear's Oak has been fixed and a lot of drainage has been done on the Braeintra road.

The scrub by the Achmore /A890 junction and around this area has been cutback to aid visibility.

The deep potholes at the bell mouth of the Ardnarff road has been filled in, and the latest on the Ardnarff blocks is that the work is pencilled in for August. There is also forestry works planned for the area west of Ardnarff which will take place later this year.

Action: On going updates will be requested particularly on the progress of the removal of the Ardnarff blocks

4.4 Traffic calming

New topic. Helen Robertson contacted the CC to ask if we could check out the feasibility of getting some traffic calming measures for the Achmore village centre. Biz told the meeting we will not get a 20mph zone as there is not a school in the centre. Gill pointed out that the road goes through the village and the hall is on one side with the village green on the other side.

Action: Biz will contact HC and see what can be done.

Helen also asked if there is anything that could be done to reduce the excessive speeds that are being witnessed on the A890. After a discussion we concluded that this is a topic for Police Scotland to regulate and ensure speed limits are adhered too. This is now closed with the CC.

4.5 Strome ferry and Achmore Community website

The CC has paid for the annual fee for 2022/2023 with the security and domain name software along with the annual subscription costing £82.75. 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.

4.6 Community Benches

Achmore bench bought and delivered. Mary will organise assembly and delivery of Bill's bench to its location by the Achmore cattle grid.

We all agreed to have Bill's bench inscribed with 'Take care of Bill's bench 2022'. Ann is happy with this inscription. We then had a discussion about whether this should be a plaque or inscribed into the wood.

Action: Dawn to check out plaques and Neil to talk to someone about inscribing and report back to June meeting.

4.7 Food deliveries by supermarkets – TESCO & Morrisons & Asda

A good response was received from households in our CC survey for supermarket deliveries to our area. The CC will now contact the supermarkets and obtain a named contact and write to them to find out what our area needs to have in place for them to deliver to us. All the CC members have agreed the letter to be sent to the supermarkets. The supermarkets are making it very difficult to obtain the name and contact of a senior person to deal with our request.

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 has started to contact the supermarkets.

4.8 Mast at Strome ferry station

After consulting Biz, who contacted Highland Council, we were able to confirm that Network Rail had followed all the required steps and that the development was legally within their remit. We suggested any further queries should be addressed to Kate Forbes and Claudia should maintain a log to support her opposition to this mast. Mary confirmed at the AGM meeting that Network Rail had not written to the Strome ferry and Achmore CC about this mast at Strome ferry. Topic is now closed with the CC.

4.9 Request from Heritage Group Ross & Cromarty for data use

Mary emailed Phyllis Hannah, secretary of this group asking her what information she was particularly interested in. The hall has no objections to this group using their information. If there is no further communication this topic will be closed.

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4.10 Planning

Nothing for Stromeferry and Achmore area

4.11 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The Lochalsh Collaboration plan has been distributed and a closing date of 2nd May was set as the latest date 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.

The new 'Lochalsh Loves Local' - Coordinator, Eilidh Munro, started work with the KLCT and once she has settled into her post Eilidh will start working on how to coordinate the use for the minibus.

Eilidh will also be starting a drive to get a name for the minibus and to find volunteer drivers, so if anyone wants to volunteer could you contact Eilidh @ eilidh.munro@lochalsh.uk . Also contact Eilidh with your suggestions for a bus name.

4.12 Dornie CC - Aird Ferry

Aird Ferry had an open day on Friday 6th May 2022 which was well attended and the service is now in operation. This topic is now closed with the CC.

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

Forestry & Land Scotland Visitor Services update – May 2022 provided by Becky Milne FLS.

“Our Seasonal Ranger, Rachael, has now started her job with us. She has been out getting to know the sites, and talking to visitors. Rachael and I are working closely with the Highland Council ranger team, and the local NTS rangers, to make sure we are sharing the same messages with visitors about responsible access. It is also proving very useful to share information around the teams about any issues encountered, so that we can tackle these effectively and build up a bigger picture of visitor pressures across the local area. Visitors are continuing to enjoy the Stay the Night scheme at Strome Viewpoint, and so far there has been very little litter or other mess. When we do our evening site checks, we are asking new arrivals to move on if there are already 4 vans intending to stay. By the morning, however, there are often several additional vans parked up. With most of the local campsites reporting that they are already full, all of the ranger teams are finding a high number of motorhomes camping in unofficial roadside locations. It is clear that further capacity for motorhome overnight stops is needed all across our area; the Highland Council Access Officers are currently looking at ways to address this”.

A gate has now been installed at the far end of the Strome Woods carpark, preventing members of the public from driving down into the woods along the old harvesting track. Pedestrian access is unaffected.

Contact details:

Becky becky.milne@forestryandland.gov.scot

Rachael rachael.hunter@forestryandland.gov.scot”

6.1 Utilities - Scottish Water

Below is May's update from Gavin Steel, Scottish Water.

“The project at the old Achmore Water Treatment Works is progressing well – the new pumps have been installed and the associated electrical work is now complete. The tie-in of the new infrastructure to the water network is expected to be carried out this week – installing the final pipework to connect it to the operational water main, while initially keeping the new infrastructure isolated.

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The work that then remains to be done is the final commissioning of the pumps – there is a process which is used for all new drinking water infrastructure, which involves flushing chlorinated water through the new pipes and equipment to ensure they are clean before entering service. A comprehensive water quality sampling process is then carried out to make sure everything is as it should be – and this typically takes around 2 weeks. In parallel with this work, the telemetry at the site will also be commissioned to ensure that the pumping station is communicating successfully with our central control centre.

We expect all commissioning to be complete and the new pumping station to be fully up and running by mid to late June.

Please just let me know if there are any questions that I can help with in the meantime – but hopefully the final work outlined above will be complete by your next meeting and will resolve the issue that customers in Strome ferry have been experiencing”.

6.2 Update from our Councillor

Biz Campbell has been elected as one of the Councillors for our area and at time of our meeting no Highland Council meetings of the newly elected councillors had taken place.

6.3 Campaign for a CT scanner for Broadford hospital

Mary located and circulated to other CC members the key documents that were published in 2014 to kick off the process of redesigning NHS services for SW Ross, Lochalsh, and Skye which would determine the location for the one new hospital that was deemed essential to this redesign. This information clearly states that new technologies, including a CT scanner plus more and better services were essential to improve services required by the population of the area.

Action: Gill suggested that we need to get a sub group formed covering SW Ross, Lochalsh and Skye to redouble our efforts to get a scanner for the hospital.

7 AOB

7.1 CC protocols.

We had a discussion about how our CC members deal with communications pertaining to CC issues. It was agreed that going forward all CC communications will be sent out by the secretary using the email lodged with HC. Biz told us that this is what is expected of CCs. Individual members of the CC can pursue issues/topics in their own right but they must let the other CC members know in advance and we all need to remember that we are individuals and members of the CC.

Action: Gill to convey this message to all at the next CC meeting

7.2 CC recruits

Gill has had a conversation with Ann Gillespie about returning to the Community Council so Mary will sort out what we need to do to complete Ann’s return to the CC. All CC members (Mary, Gill, Dawn, Neil) present at the meeting supported Ann’s return

Action: Mary to sort out paperwork for Ann’s return

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
Fernaig Shore – picnic area

9 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 29th June, 2022 at 7.30pm in Achmore Hall.

10 Close of Meeting

Meeting formally closed at 9.34 pm

Updates for Other Community Groups

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons, Helen Robertson

No update this month.

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

We configured a couple of "spare" routers to test the new Lochcarron line. As expected this was a complete waste of time as the results were exactly the same as the "old" router. We called Plusnet to give them the results and after long silent interlude interrupted only by a few "I'm sorry to keep you waiting - it shouldn't be much longer now" we were told that the problem was an internal configuration error by Plusnet / BT.

Nobody was surprised; the configuration error was corrected and speeds are now as expected around 70 Mbps.

As usage has now increased to the point of saturating the existing lines on occasion at peak times of the day the new Lochcarron line will be brought online before we install more subscribers.

We are still seeing a few sporadic false RADAR events.

The annual returns for Companies House and HMRC have been produced, ratified and submitted.

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

Fernaig Trust - Colin MacAndrew

The Trust has decided after months of debate to dispose of the Old Forest Office, and to accept an offer made by Forestry and Land Scotland. They will demolish it to create a compound area for parking, materials and storage. The sale will help to place the Trust in a strong financial position for future development in coming years.

Membership of the Trust has lapsed somewhat in recent years and a new system will come into operation. Directors propose that Membership will be:

- Automatic as a result of a rental or lease agreement with a tenant (smallholdings, allotments). These being the 'active' Trust individuals in the community.
- Directors on election (this confirmed on OSCR website – "Directors or Trustees are Members")
- A 'community membership' would be available to anyone else in the community who wishes it. (How this will be organised to be elaborated)
- A 'legacy' member to anyone who took up Life Membership some years ago
- There will be no annual fee and a register created.
- Voting rights are restricted to categories above.
- This comes into immediate effect but will require to be ratified at the next AGM in December.

Directors agreed to go ahead with an 'Annual Review' of Trust land with a view to identifying urgent repairs or actions needed; longer term desirable actions to inform a workplan; and options for development or improvement (such as a pond, more tree planting). Particular attention would be paid to fencing needs.

The new tree planting (in 2018) at the hayfield boundary has put on strong growth, with almost 100% success, and will soon act as another effective shelterbelt.

Colin McAndrew, Chair, FCT

Communication Received from 27th April, 2022

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

Email - Weekly - Highland Council - 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 April/May - distributed –NNTD
Email – Ad Hoc – K MacLean – CC minutes from other Ward 5 Councils - NNTD
Email – Weekly – Policy HC - Community Resilience Group Update
Emails – Many – Supermarket deliveries to IV53 8U N – W.
Email – Becky Milne – note for CC minutes – complete
Email – Julie Wileman – Policy - FUNDING oppurtunities – distributed
Email - Julie Wileman – Policy - Communications and Resilience COVID Briefing – May – distributed
Email – Niall Ingall – Day Centre Manager – Open Day iino. – distributed.
Email – 17 May – Zurich Insurance - Strome ferry and Achmore Community Council - Your insurance policy is due for renewal – paid agenda
Email – 17 Apr – Helen Robertson – Update for hall for April minutes.
Email – M Howat – sign up receive CC information – complete
| Email – 10 May - Summer Garden Buildings Order: SGB_MACBEM_97040_1651531417 - complete
Email – 4 May – M Macrae - Feedback from Strome & Achmore Hall Committee meeting – complete
Email - 9 May - D Biss - Tesco Dingwall – noted.
Email – 10 May – J Wileman - Think Health Think Nature May Newsletter – distributed
Email – 10 May – J Wileman - Carers' Union - initial meeting
Email – 11 May – M Macrae - Fwd: Fw: concern 13243 : FAO Chief Executive Pam Dudek & Chief Officer Louise Bussell:
Provision for a CT scanner at New Broadford Hospital, Skye? – on agenda
Emails – 20 May – M Macrae Emails about funding .