

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 29th June 2022 @ 7.30pm

1 Formal opening of meeting at 7.37pm – Chair

Present: Gill Harrington (Chair) Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae, Kath Smith, Mhairi Macrae, Ann Gillespie

Members of other organisations: David Mockett, Police Scotland till 8.10pm.

Members of Public: Claudia Weegen, Duncan Gibson from 7.45pm

Apologies: Biz Campbell Highland Councillor

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

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

3 Police Scotland – David Mockett

David gave us an overview of the area that he and the other police units cover - Skye, Lochalsh, east to Achnasheen and west to Kinlochewe from bases in Kyle and Portree. It is the police's role to apply the laws that govern how we use our roads and the HC's responsibility to provide the infrastructure, signage etc. to make our roads useable and safe to drive on.

The CC invited David to this meeting as we had two issues for discussion.

The first issue - traffic calming in the village and what the Police can do to assist. David informed us that he will pass on the need for police patrols to visit and be visible in our village at various time throughout the day. Times will vary to take into account the periods when the schools are on holiday and when the school term starts again. We will ask the HC to conduct a traffic survey (as there has been an increase in the traffic through the village since the last survey) and the results of this survey will determine what other traffic calming measures the HC in discussion with us may implement.

Action: Mary to discuss traffic calming and survey with Biz.

The second item was what could be done to reduce the speeds that are being witnessed on the A890 and A832. David agreed with our summation from our last meeting that it was a police issue to ensure that speed limits are adhered too. The topic of speeding motor bikes was mentioned and David informed us that the police have monitored bike speeds near Lochcarron and of the hundreds that were monitored approx. two were found to be doing more than the speed limit. We all felt that with bikes the noise and movement of the bikes creates the mirage of speed. Again David took our points on board and will inform his unit to patrol our area as much as they can with the resources that they have available. No more action is required from the CC at the moment.

4 Treasurer report and other financials.

Treasurer's report

Opening balance as at 25th April 2022 £2,783.06

Money In £0.00

Money Out £259 + £84 + £24 £367.00

Closing Balance as at 23rd May 2022 £2,416.06

One expense claim was submitted for three years of secretarial expenses and a cheque was written for £750.00. After this cheque is presented then the balance of the CC bank account will be £1,666.06.

5 Local Items – Update and progress

5.1 Co-option of an additional member

Ann Gillespie was voted back onto the CC by all members eligible to vote. We now have a CC membership of 7. 5 members and 2 co-opted members. Our CC can have 8 members.

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5.2 Defibrillator Stromeferry

Mhairi has contacted ScotRail again and once more has been passed onto someone else within the organisation, so no more progress has been made on getting a defibrillator for Stromeferry. Mhairi copied in Lucky2BHere in her communications to ScotRail. Ross Cowie of Lucky2BHere has told Mhairi that there is a world shortage of defibrillators at the moment and as yet they have not confirmed if they will provide a defibrillator for Stromeferry. After some discussion we all agreed that it would be easier to ask ScotRail if they could supply the box and the defibrillator and to clarify with this were possible and what they would expect from the CC. For example, would the CC have to pay for new batteries and pads going forward and would we have to do the weekly, monthly checks or would ScotRail be willing to pay for and undertake all the post installation upkeep of the defibrillator.

Action: Mhairi to get an update from ScotRail and obtain a defibrillator for Stromeferry.

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

5.3 Monthly checks and seals on Achmore Defibrillator box

The bottom left hand corner of the lid of the box is cracked so a replacement will be sought. Kath has been corresponding with Lucky2BeHere and will endeavour to get a new lid or box as soon as possible. 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 replaced.

5.4 Infrastructure - roads, verges and Ardnarff blocks.

Here is the latest information that is available about the removal of the barriers at Ardnarff on the A890.

“NOTICE OF NIGHT WORKS ON THE BYPASS (to replace barriers) WITH TRAFFIC LIGHTS - starting 8th August for 2 weeks

The Highland Council will be carrying out works to replace the Road Restraint System on the A890 at Stromeferry, these works will be carried out under Temporary Traffic Lights at night for two weeks starting on the 8th August 2022 between the hours of 20.00 hrs and 0600 hrs. The road will remain open but delays are expected and these will be kept to a minimum, emergency vehicle and pedestrian access will be maintained at all times, the works are to be carried out by Simpson Highway and Civil Contractors Ltd on behalf the Highland Council”.

New items have been reported directly to the CC and these will be passed to A Bone, HC Roads department. The cattle grid gate on the Braeintra road – Achmore end - has been mangled, and the cattle grid on the Fernaig Road has grass growing out of it so it needs clearing.

Action: Mary to pass issues to A Bone.

The sign post marking the route from the Fernaig cattle grid to the raised plateau is falling over. As we do not know which department at HC to contact we will ask Becky for assistance.

Action: Mary to contact Becky to see if she can assist us.

5.5 Stromeferry and Achmore Community website

Mary and Helen met on Wednesday 29th June and Helen is now a level 2 Spanglefish administrator with edit access to all the pages on the website that relate to the Community Hall. Helen has updated all the relevant sections. This action is now closed.

5.6 Food deliveries by supermarkets – TESCO & Morrisons & Asda

The initial responses from the supermarkets to our CC letter appeared promising but since that initial contact the supermarkets have been less forth coming, so more calls and emails will be made to the supermarkets until we get the desired outcome. So no progress since last month.

Action: Mary to continue her contact with the supermarkets.

5.7 Planning

Nothing for Stromeferry and Achmore area

5.8 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The Lochalsh Collaboration new electric bus needs a name so Eilidh eilidh.munro@lochalsh.uk is inviting all to name the bus with a prize being awarded for the winning name. The closing date for naming the bus is the 14th July.

Action: Mary to forward new bus uses to Eilidh.

The content of Lochalsh Collaboration Plan is complete and the official launch date for the plan is the 24th September 2022 in Dornie Hall. The physical document is being design and printed at the moment and as soon as it is ready it will be distributed electronically and some paper copies will be available. Prior to the launch date of the 24th September members of the Lochalsh group will be present at local events to chat about the contents of the Lochalsh Collaboration Community plan.

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

6.1 Funding Opportunities

Information received by the CC about a path maintenance fund was passed to the Fernaig Community Trust.

6.2 Forestry & Land Scotland

We received a brief update from Becky - "I don't have any particular updates for this month on our local sites; all is ticking over fine for now, and looking forward to welcoming a few more visitors when the Summer holidays start.

We have arranged some volunteer work days elsewhere in Wester Ross, in collaboration with the Highland Council access team. If there is any local interest in doing something similar in Strome Woods to improve the path network there, we'd be happy to set this up". Contact details:

Becky becky.milne@forestryandland.gov.scot

Rachael rachael.hunter@forestryandland.gov.scot

This month the CC has not received any complaints about parking in areas not suitable for overnight stays. At the meeting we noted that when the viewpoint has its quota of parked up vehicles it leaves little space for people to congregated and take in the panorama, so we decided to have a chat to Becky to see if a dedicated area could be marked out for the sight seers. We will also check that the bank by the viewpoint is being kept clean.

Action: Mary to contact Becky re: suggestion of dedicated area for viewers.

There was a discussion about the fallen trees in Strome Woods which are blocking some of the existing trails and the role of the concordat. Mary will contact Becky to clarify what she means by volunteer work days.

Action: Mary to contact Becky and Lizzie.

6.3 Utilities - Scottish Water

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

"The latest update from the team is that we are running slightly behind where we hoped to be, but they now expect the new pumping station to be fully operational early next month. The element that has taken longer than we previously hoped is the commissioning of the new telemetry for the site, which will ensure the infrastructure can be monitored and the new pumps can be operated remotely whenever they are needed.

In the meantime, work has already been carried out to bypass the old service reservoir above Stromeferry and we think this should have already provided some benefit (and will continue to do so in combination with the new pumping station).

I don't want to tempt fate given all the confounding factors that can arise at the moment, but I would certainly hope to have good news for you by the time of your next meeting. I will let you know as soon as I hear the pumps are operating and very much appreciate members' and customers' patience while we've been working to get this resolved".

Mhairi reported that the household at the top of Strome hill had experienced one outage this month.

Action: Mary to pass outage information to Gavin

6.4 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

We received the strategic plan for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service which was rather vague and abstract. The most interesting section was the one which included the incident statistics. We all agreed that the emphasis should be on providing training and information to prevent the need for calls to the Fire and Rescue service. Duncan told the meeting that there is as now a full time fire officer in Kyle.

Action: Respond to strategic plan by required date.

7 Update from our Councillor

Biz Campbell was unable to be at our meeting.

8 AOB

8.1 Funding for a footpath Strome to Achmore by A890.

Mhairi has received information from Julie Wileman about path funding and obtained the contacts for a person in North Skye who has implemented a path by the side of a Highland Council road. The key point of the discussion was to find out if planning would be required for a path if it was to be constructed next to the A890 on HC land. Mary made it clear to the meeting that she will converse with Biz on this topic as well as receiving information from Mhairi and will contact Highland Council accordingly. This activity will be acted on but it is in the queue as there are many other ongoing activities that require action.

There was also a discussion about a path over the hill between Strome and Achmore. This path would be on private land and as stated in previous minutes that if this route is to be considered then a conversation with the owner of the land is the first action and respect for landowner's property is paramount. Mary made it clear that we all have the 'right to roam' which is part of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act introduced in 2003 but with this right comes responsibility and respect for private property. Mary informed the meeting that the landowner who owns the land between Strome and Achmore (right side of road from Strome to Achmore) has been and continues to be hugely supportive of our CC area and supports our projects.

Action: Once Mary has all the necessary information from all contributors, including Mhairi, she will write to HC.

8.2 Campaign for a CT scanner for Broadford hospital

Gill asked Mhairi if she had received any more communications on this topic. Mhairi told us that none of the three questions that she asked in her letter of 7th April had been answered despite receiving letters in response from three different individuals. After some debate it was agreed the formation of a sub group, as Gill suggested at the April meeting was the best approach to take this topic forward and should be put on the August agenda. In the meantime we need to focus on getting existing items finished before constantly adding more topics to our agenda. At the meeting it was stressed that we have quite a few ongoing topics that we need to conclude such as Supermarket deliveries (started in May and proving frustrating), ScotRail hosting a defibrillator for Strome (started in September 2021 and some progress), traffic calming for the village (started in May/June and needs action now), liaising with Scottish Water to monitor progress (started in August 2021 and nearly complete), benches to be made up and sited.

Plus as Gill rightly pointed out that the holiday period is starting, there is no CC meeting in July, and many of the people we need to contact for the scanner campaign will be on holiday. This group needs strong representation from all the Community Councils in SW Ross, Lochalsh and Skye and if it is formed it will most likely meet virtually to campaign for a scanner. Mary pointed out to the meeting that further discussion about a scanner for Broadford Hospital has to build on the notes from the Skye and Lochalsh Single Site hospital meeting which took place in February 2013. A copy of page of the notes from this meeting is included at end of minutes.

Action: This topic will be put on our August agenda for discussion.

8.3 AOB from the members of the public at meeting.

Duncan Gibson asked that the scrub on the verges by the Braeintra junction onto the A890 to be cut back and that this needs to be done ASAP

Action: Mary to pass to Andy.

Claudia Weegen was going to ask about a Strome to Achmore path but that had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

8.4 Observations from other groups May updates.

It was observed from the 25th May 2022 minutes that the update from the FCT mentioned that the Trust had decided to accept an offer made by the Forestry and Land Scotland for the Old Forest Office. As two members of the FCT were at the CC meeting we asked for an update, no further information was forthcoming.

8.5 Alcohol Focus Scotland - Alcohol Licensing Toolkit

Mary distributed the documentation to CC members but forgot to put this item on the agenda so we will carry it forward to another meeting. Post the meeting Mary has emailed the person concerned to find out if a response later this year is acceptable.

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9 Calendar - reminders and topics to C/F.

Monthly Check Path Access at Stromeferry
Defibrillator Checks
Defibrillator Fund Raising
Improve quality of food Broadford Hospital
Culvert Stromeferry – between Meallan and Lochview
Fernaig Shore – picnic area
Achmore bench
Alcohol Focus Scotland

10 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 31st August, 2022 at 7.30pm in Achmore Hall.

11 Close of Meeting

Meeting formally closed at 9.30 pm

Skye and Lochalsh Single Site Hospital Working Group – 19 Feb 2013 Workshop No 1 Single Site Hospital Services

Attendees:

Dr Paul Davidson, Rural Practitioner/Clinical Director (facilitator)
Dr Charles Crichton, GP Portree Medical Practice
Dr Leo Murray, Lead Clinician, MMH
Dr Wil Nel, Rural Practitioner and Endoscopist, MMH
S/N Christine Barwick, Acting CN Theatres, MMH
Maimie Thomson, Head of Engagement, NHS Highland

The group discussed the following aspects of clinical care which should be considered as applicable to all age groups:

Acute Care

- Outpatient
 - Ambulatory care (minor illness/injury)
 - Primary care OOH (including a visiting service)
 - A+E level care (minor to major trauma)
 - Stabilisation and transfer service (including escorted transfers)
 - Custody and minor forensic service for Northern Constabulary
 - Assessment of psychiatric patients (liaison with MHO/New Craigs)
 - Advice/assistance for Midwifery Patients
- Inpatient
 - Non-operative surgical assessment and inpatient care
 - Medical assessment and inpatient care
 - Paediatric assessment and short term care (liaison with Raigmore)
 - Support for community midwifery unit (incl. Neonatal resus)
 - Place of safety for acute psychiatric evaluation

Elective Care

- Outpatient
 - Visiting consultant/service area for various clinics
 - Local clinics (fracture, minor ops, substance misuse, alcohol, pre-op assessment, review)
 - Chemotherapy (nurse led, doctor supported)
 - Physiotherapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Midwifery (antenatal/post delivery)
 - Dietician
 - Community Nurse/GP liaison
- Inpatient
 - Step down from Raigmore/Other
 - Pre/Post investigation
 - Palliative care
 - Rehabilitation/Re-enablement
 - Longer duration chemotherapy
 - Alcohol detoxification

The group acknowledged that to provide the above the following diagnostics would be required:

- X-ray facilities – suitable for A+E care (CT scanner becoming essential)
- Ultrasound (weekday service)
- Near patient testing / lab services
- Diagnostic scope (UGIE/Colonoscopy/Flexible Cystoscopy)
- Suitable diagnostic provision for A+E including slit lamp/A+E ultrasound

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Updates for Other Community Groups

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons, Chair. Helen Robertson, Secretary.

Helen is now the Community Hall administrator for the hall pages on the Stromeferry and Achmore website. The Hall Committee will be seeking permission from everyone in 100 club to hold their name and email address on 100 club records. Helen will approach everyone individually about this.

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

We have been able to monitor the new Lochcarron line remotely and it is now consistently delivering the expected speeds. Plusnet have agreed to refund a portion of the charges in compensation for their configuration error. However the poor weather has prevented us making further progress bringing the new line into service.

The annual returns for Companies House and HMRC have been accepted without amendment.

CMNet is on target to produce a surplus of ~£4,000 this year. We will use this year's surplus to upgrade some units to the latest technology and again refund some of the New Joiner's Premium. Next year's tariff will also be amended to reduce the surplus next year; our target is a surplus of £1,000 for contingencies. All the changes will be reviewed and finalised at our July meeting.

We are still seeing a few sporadic false RADAR events and will amend our software to better detect and eliminate conflicts.

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

Fernaig Trust - Colin MacAndrew - Chair

The Trust will shortly be organising a Work party to carry out various maintenance tasks along the footpaths, and will be advertising this asking for volunteers to help.

Communication Received from 26th May 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 - distributed –NNTD

Emails – Many – Supermarket deliveries to IV53 8U.

Email – Julie Wileman – Policy and funding May/June 2022 – distributed

Email – 26 May - Julie Wileman – Policy - FW: STP FUNDING FINDER - MAY 2022 – distributed

Email – 30 May – Dot Ferguson - Strategic Plan Consultation Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – on agenda

Email – 30 May – Julie Wileman – Policy - information on changes to food support to groups – distributed

Email – 31 May – Gill Harrington – CC - An update from the Wester Ross UNESCO Biosphere – distributed

Email – 1 June – Zurich Insurance - Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council, here's how to contact us over the Jubilee weekend

Email – 7 June – KLCT - Lochalsh Loves Local Campaign - Promoting Local Businesses & Naming Our Community Minibus – on agenda

Email - 8 June – Julie Wileman - Community Paths Grants Fund - Now Open – sent to FCT

Email – 16 June – Julie Wileman - Highland Climate Festival - distributed

Email – 13 June – A Gibson and H Robertson – Traffic calming and driving issue A890 & A832 – on agenda

Email – 21 June – Dot Ferguson - Alcohol Focus Scotland - Alcohol Licensing Toolkit – on agenda

Email – 22 June – M Howat – request for minutes – complete.

Email – 23 June – G Steel – Scottish Water – Update for CC on Stromeferry Water supply – on agenda.

Email – 29 June – B Milne FLS – update for CC – on agenda