

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting –25th January 2023 @ 7.30pm

1 Formal opening of meeting at 7.30pm – Chair

Present: Gill Harrington (Chair), Mary MacBeth, Ann Gillespie, Dawn Lupton

Members of other organisations: None.

Members of Public: Claudia Weegen

Apologies: Mhairi Macrae, Neil MacRae, Kath Smith, Biz Campbell Council HC.

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 28th November 2022 meeting were approved by Dawn and seconded by Ann

3 Matters arising.

None

4 Treasurers Report

Treasurers Report 25 th January 2023		
Opening Balance		£2,010.19
Expenditure		
	Hall - reissued	£40.00
	Wreath	£34.18
	Plaque	£26.99
Income		
	Interest	£2.74
Closing Balance		£1,911.76
Unpresented Cheques		
	Hall hire for 2022	£120.00
	Host World software (Mary)	£28.80
		£1,762.96

5 Local Items – Update and progress

5.1 Defibrillators

5.1.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

Mary sent a request to the Scottish Salmon Company asking if their Community Funding department are willing to provide some funds towards the Stromeferry defibrillator. We will also contact other local bodies for funding.

Action: Mary on behalf of CC to approach organisations and ask for a donation.

At the last meeting Kath highlighted that we need to be doing annual fund raisers to have enough money set aside to buy new consumables e.g. pads and batteries etc as required so that the defibrillator/s are kept in a 'ready to use state'. As

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the defibrillators are for the benefit of all residents the CC are requesting the help of all individuals to raise funds to pay for defibrillators and to maintain the defibrillators. [Information provided post meeting - We need to be setting aside about £150 per year per defibrillator for new batteries, pads, box lids or anything else that is required such as payment for hall use and a donation for training]

Action: All in the community to raise funds for the defibrillators. Kath will lead on the events the CC organise to raise funds.

5.1.2 Monthly checks and seals on Achmore Defibrillator box

The monthly checks are ongoing. The current pads are due for renewal in April/May 2023 and the blue gloves have been replaced.

Action: Ongoing checks using the monthly rota.

5.1.3 Defibrillator Training.

The CC surveyed the community and received 22 responses from people who wish to have Defibrillator training. Gill will discuss with Scottish Ambulance and find out when they are available and how many people can attend per session. Mary will help Gill with organising the training sessions.

Action: Mary to find out evenings that hall is prebooked for meetings etc and assists Gill with setting up training sessions. Gill to liaise with Scottish Ambulance service.

5.2 Infrastructure - roads, verges and Ardnarff blocks.

5.2.1 Cattle grid gates at Achmore end of Braeintra road

Andy Bone's team will replace the drop in side fences on the grids Achmore (nrA890) and Braeintra (Duncraig road/Braeintra junction)

Action: Mary will get an update.

5.2.2 Ardnarff Blocks

The blocks have been removed and a safety barrier has been installed. The old blocks are currently being 'stored' in the ditch across from the barriers. The roads team will remove the blocks as soon as they have the right equipment made available to them.

Action: Mary to get update on block removal.

5.2.3 Policy on Braeintra Road

The CC has received a couple of emails asking about the status of the Braeintra Road. It has been reported that after days of the main roads being black the Braeintra road was still a sheet of ice, preventing oil deliveries etc. Residents appreciate that the main roads are more important. It was also noted that there is a lot of loose gravel at the top end of the Braeintra road. The CC discussed the amount of maintenance that the HC roads department has to undertake due to the adverse impact of the freezing weather on our infrastructure.

Action: Mary will contact A Bone and Biz as to what the winter weather policy is towards non main roads.

There was also a request to reduce light pollution In Achmore. This is a tricky subject as some people want good street lighting at night and others want less of it, so this is being passed to HC. There was also a discussion about the rigs 'parked' in the loch creating light pollution.

Action: Mary to discuss with Biz the HC's and Kishorn port's policy on reducing light pollution.

5.3 Path by the A890 between Strome ferry and Achmore

The Community Interest survey to gauge the level of support for a path by the A890 between Strome ferry and Achmore has closed. The CC received 21 positive responses in reply to the 3 questions included in the survey. In addition 3 households sent in statements in support of a path. The survey was distributed to all in our CC area by email. The next step is to forward the results of the survey to the path officer in Portree and get his guidance of what happens next. If

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the HC Access department believe there is enough support for a path then the CC will hand this over to others in the area to take forward. This is not a project that can be undertaken by the CC.

Action: Mary to forward Community Interest results to HC Access officer.

5.4 Storing Community Council documents

In 2023 members of previous and the current CCs need to get together and look through all the CC documents/information from about 1992 and decide what to keep, how to store it and manage a CC archive. Mary has been liaising with Lizzie (FCT) about the CC and FCT sharing a 4 drawer filing cabinet. Mary has asked Jackie (Hall) if the 4 drawer cabinet can be stored in the hall. Jackie to consult with Hall Committee. The CC and FCT will be responsible for managing their cabinet and contents. The CC will ask our Ward manager if there is any way we could have some of the items digitally stored with the originals being held locally.

Action: Mary to continue to organise with all concerned.

5.5 Strome ferry and Achmore Website and Minutes.

5.5.1 Company ownership

As of the 16th December 2022, all services provided by Calico Internet Limited have been acquired by web hosting provider Hostworld Internet Limited. Hostworld is a small hosting business which currently offers web hosting and virtual server services in the UK. The existing business has grown steadily over the years through acquisitions and organic growth with the original roots of the business dating back to 1998, just 4 years after Calico was originally founded. The business is owned by Darren Summers who lives in Scotland. Darren feels that their latest acquisition of Calico UK is an excellent fit and look forward to building upon the great work that has led to this point in time through the support given by the Calico team.

5.5.2 Administration of the Strome ferry and Achmore Website software and content responsibility.

Currently the Community Council are paying the fees for the security and software from Hostworld for the website which is about £58 per year and hold the level 1 administration position which is currently held by Mary. All the data and other content loaded onto the Website **are undertaken by and are the responsibly of the four level 2 administrations** who represent the Fernaig Trust, CMNet CIC, Strome and Achmore Community Hall and the Community Council. The data management for each of the group sections is **delegated** to:- Lizzie Bird for the Fernaig Trust. Helen Robertson for the Hall, Phil Game for the CMNet CIC , Kath Smith and Mary MacBeth for the CC section.

In the past the Skye and Lochalsh Community Voluntary organisation (SLCVO) had an excellent instructive online toolkit which gave comprehensive advice on how to hold meeting, take minutes etc. These toolkits are no longer available but the SLCVO provided the CC with the following alternative links.

The links are :- <https://scvo.scot/support/running-your-organisation/governance/meetings> and this link that gives more detail about minute taking: - <https://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information/taking-minutes/>.

5.6 Planning

No planning applications for our area.

5.7 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The Lochalsh Collaboration Group (LCG) held their 1st meeting of 2023 on the 19th January 2023. The LCG are still awaiting the Scottish Government's decision about funding for the Lochalsh Development officer for another 3 years. The Hamish McBus routes are being development and 3 volunteers have come forward to drive the bus. More information and publicity will be forthcoming.

There was quite a discussion about the lack of dentistry services being provided in Lochalsh. Maggie Bryne Chair of LCG has written to NHS Highland asking for a comprehensive dentistry to be provided. Glenelg CC wish to have all the CCs in Lochalsh request a comprehensive dentistry service to be provided for all residents of our area.

Action: Mary will coordinate our CCs response.

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

6.1 Highland Council

The CC have written to P Waite HC Outdoor Access and Long Distance Route manager expressing our thanks to the HC rangers for the excellent work they did in our area in 2022 and requesting their presence in Lochalsh in 2023 and beyond. Hogwart morphed into ragwort and we had a discussion about the dangers and best way to manage this plant. The one area of concern was growth of ragwort along the road verges where it is now becoming more prevalent.

Action: Mary to ask Biz what is the HC policy on controlling Ragwort.

6.2 Funding Opportunities

Monthly lists have been distributed.

6.3 Forestry & Land Scotland

Nothing to report this month.

6.4 Campaign for a CT scanner for Broadford hospital

Mary will email Hamish Fraser, Broadford and ask for an update.

6.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

This is the latest update from Scottish Water.

'I'm pleased to be able to confirm that the pumping station at Achmore was commissioned successfully on 14th December and is now operational.

I understand there is likely to be some activity at the pumping station over the course of January, monitoring its initial period of operation and fine-tuning the pressure settings for the pumps to start and stop. However, the pumps are available and should be able to prevent the kind of disruption residents in Stromeferry have experienced, especially in recent summers at times of high demand for water in the wider area.

I am very grateful for the patience of affected customers and the Community Council as I appreciate this has taken significantly longer to achieve than we originally hoped.'

Action: This topic is completed and can now be closed.

7 Update from our Councillor

Biz was not at the meeting.

8 AOB

Winter resilience.

Action: Dawn to check how we register volunteers.

9 Calendar - reminders and topics to C/F.

Monthly Check Path Access at Stromeferry

Defibrillator Checks using rota - Achmore

Culvert Stromeferry – between Meallan and Lochview

Locate Achmore bench

CC funds received from HC

10 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 29th March 2023 at 7.30pm in Achmore Hall. No meeting in February 2023.

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11 Close of Meeting

Meeting formally closed at 8.45pm

Updates for Other Community Groups

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons

We had our AGM December 7th 2022 and the following committee was elected:

Chair - Jackie Parsons

Secretary - Helen Robertson

Treasurer - Mhairi Macrae

Booking Secretary - Angie Gibson

Other committee members:

Kate Bulloch, Marion Howat, Patti Heaviside, Ellanne Fraser, Susan Waddell, Renee Gibson

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month and anyone is welcome to join us.

Hall maintenance is always high on the agenda so any help there is always welcome; the same goes for fundraising. We are also working to take forward the idea of hosting a repair cafe so will be looking for help with that in the future.

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

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

We are waiting for the 60 GHz license to come through from Ofcom so we can upgrade the link to Achmore Hall.

One out of the current batch of five new installations is waiting to be scheduled.

We have had requests for 2 new connections.

We exceeded usage of 10 Terabytes a month for the first time in December.

Discussions continue with The Achmore Hall committee for internet access in the hall.

There are a few New Joiner's Premium rebates left to issue, most have now been distributed.

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

Fernaig Community Trust - Colin MacAndrew, Lizzie Bird

Communication Received from 1st December 2022 till 25th January 2023

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

Email – Julie Wileman – Policy and funding January 2023 – distributed

Email – Julie Wileman – Cost of Living Support - distributed

Email – Jackie Parsons – Policy on Website use plus minutes – On agenda

Email – Philip Waite – Ranger report – distributed , agenda

Email – Mark Crowe - Community Council: Footpath Stromeferry and Achmore – on agenda

Email – Gavin Steel – Scottish Water - Update please for Stromeferry and Achmore – on agenda

Email – Eilidh Muncro - Hamish Macbus - Community Shopping Trips – on agenda

Email - Quick book - Payment confirmation: Invoice #1587-(Hostworld Internet Ltd t/a Calico UK) - complete

Email - Policy HC- Resilience Group - Met Office Amber Snow Warning Issued – distributed

Email – HostWorld - Invoice 1587 from Hostworld Internet Limited, t/a Calico UK – complete

Email – Catherine Bailey - Website Update Request - 10 January 2023 08:05 12627 – replied.

Email – Dot Ferguson - Highland Resilience Network - Winter Readiness - distributed

Email – Mick Doyle - RE: Rural Fuel Poverty Exploratory Seminar – meeting attended

Email – Kath Smith - Wording for Defib funding – on agenda

Emails – Many – Feedback on Path survey - on agenda

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Email - M Irvine – Roads and grids – replied to - on agenda

Email - G Grimson – State off /policy on Braeintra road – on agenda

Emails – Julie Wileman - FW: West Highland Hospitality/Pathway to Care Course – distributed

Emails – Calico Support - Important: Calico UK acquired by Hostworld Internet Limited – distributed, on agenda

Emails – Angela Platt - Syke, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Highland Cares Launch Tomorrow - 17.1.23

Email _ SLCVO - Community council: SLCVO Tool kits - complete

Approved