

Achmore and Strome-ferry Community Council

Draft Minutes for Meeting 30/04/2024 19:30pm held at Achmore Hall

Attendees - Claudia Weegen, Dawn Lupton, Joe Grimson, John Taylor, Josie Meyer, Lynn McLaughlin and Mhairi Macrae. Members of other organisations Biz Campbell.

Members of Public present - Paul Garner

Meeting opened by Joe at 19:30pm

Minutes of previous meeting approved by Mhairi and seconded by Joe. Dawn noted Bank balance error to be corrected.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer updated balance due to error in last meetings minutes, actual balance was £1506.06. The balance is now £1471.06 after £35 was paid to Data Protection. Outgoings this month £84 to Zurich and also the Community Councils proportion of the Domain. Paid by Dawn who will claim reimbursement from Mary as banking still not finalised. Neil to be removed as signatory for bank account but Mary left on to cover the switchover to Joe and Mhairi. New balance is now £1381.06.

Matters Arising

Query raised by Dawn about minutes being forwarded to Highland Council Email confirmed by Biz as ccsupport-WestandMid@highland.gov.uk. Mhairi queried the number of minutes required by Highland Council before Grant can be released. Biz advised us to check with Ward Manager if in doubt due to possible shortfall while council not formed. Mhairi will check.

AGM

John Queried need for AGM as this is a new council which has not been in place for a year yet. It was decided to hold an AGM and the date was set for June the 25th. The community will be informed via the Website.

Dates for future meetings

It was agreed to have future meetings, apart from May, on the last Tuesday of the month going forward.

Mhairi mentioned that we only need to hold 6 meetings plus the AGM per year according to Highland Council guidelines. It was agreed to not hold meetings in July or December for 2024, further discussion will be held nearer to 2025 to review this going forward.

Chairman's Report on Kate Forbes and Lochalsh Collaboration Meetings

Joe and Biz attended 2 meetings recently one with Kate Forbes in Inverinate and one via Zoom for the Lochalsh Collaboration.

- The Lochalsh Leisure Centre was a main topic of discussion to review repairs or rebuild and whether or not Kinlochshiel Shinty club would combine to build a joint venue. The insurance company has approved the repair work to go ahead but the Leisure centre committee are still reviewing the situation. Paul Wood is the new Chairman of the Leisure Centre committee.
- Another issue raised was the problem with Dentistry in the area. This was noted but is apparently a nationwide issue which is proving difficult to solve. No information on when any improvement may happen.
- Also discussed was the maintenance of the footpath from The Glebe to Inverinate. Dornie would like a footpath from Dornie via Ardelve to Nostie, this is ongoing.
- Affordable housing was discussed and the Glenelg development of 4 homes has been approved.
- The proposed work to replace cables on Skye was mentioned at the meetings and Paul informed us of the difference between over ground and underground cables. This work is not likely to cover Achmore or Strome-Ferry.

Collaboration Meeting

- The Local Place Plan was mentioned which was made using the surveys carried out during Covid. The plan is not yet available and Biz mentioned that the Council are unlikely to have funds to act on the plans.
- The Community Mini bus has 3 regular days now from Kyle to Plockton. The possibility of a service covering Achmore was discussed but no definite agreements made on follow up.
- Plockton Primary School's move to the High School was discussed at the meeting due to several queries from parents of children attending, however the move is likely to be permanent as all children surveyed were positive about the new facilities. Dawn mentioned to Biz about the Nursery school children as they are still based in the old building. Biz thought this was likely not going to continue long-term but she will check.

Dornie Community Council raised the issue of the empty building, Graeme House. The building is abandoned and has been broken into. Biz informed us they have been approved to carry out a feasibility survey and have been issued a budget of £20,000. The community would need 75% to agree on any idea for a plan to be approved.

Joe said that was all the information from the meetings.

Housing Survey

The Lochalsh Housing Survey was updated by Mhairi. No further updates on the number of surveys completed but it was discussed and the questions were found to be quite misleading which may have put people off. The closing date has now passed.

Scottish Water

Main problem is the water pressure which drops during busy periods resulting in loss of water to Strome-Ferry. Update email from Gavin Steele confirms it has not moved on from previous update which was that both the principal and the reserve back up pumps in Achmore will now kick in when pressure drops which should increase the pressure to keep Strome-Ferry supplied.

Salmon Farm

It was agreed that the presentation should happen at the start of the meeting on Wednesday 29th May. It was thought 30 minutes would be appropriate. Loch Long Salmon and Simply Blue are the companies concerned. There was a discussion of the impact on Strome-Ferry if the plans were approved due to noise pollution and traffic issues. Biz briefly explained process of the planning process. It was agreed to wait and see what they have to say. Mhairi will email them the time and date of meeting.

Update as of 3/5/24 the salmon farm representatives are not now attending in May so the next meeting will now be Tuesday the 28th instead of Wednesday the 29th May.

Defibrillator

Kath Smith would like to hand back the organising of the Rota for monthly checks on the Defibrillator. She is happy to remain as a volunteer checker with existing people including Dawn and Mhairi. Claudia offered to take over the Rota and Joe and Josie are happy to be added as volunteers. John thought his wife may be happy to volunteer also. A request will be sent out to the community to ask for more helpers. The check is done by one volunteer weekly for a month and a reminder is sent out by Rota organiser (Claudia).

The Defibrillator is not yet registered on "The Circuit" so Mhairi will look to get this done and Joe will speak with Lucky2BHere for advice. The cost of pads and batteries was raised by Dawn as it is a large outgoing for the Community Council.

The fitting of a Defibrillator at Strome-Ferry is ongoing and Mhairi is waiting to hear from Scotrail who will install and maintain a defibrillator at the station if their funding is awarded this year. This would mean that the Community Council could step aside from organising a rota and maintaining the Stromeferry defibrillator. Funding for a defibrillator (but not ongoing maintenance costs) has been awarded as a grant by Lochcarron Fish farm, Bakkafrost and the previous CC provided Bakkafrost with the bank details of Lucky2BHere but a machine has not as yet been purchased while we await word from Scotrail. If Scotrail are successful in getting their defibrillator funding this year Bakkafrost will need to be informed. It was agreed to wait until August before deciding on planned action to give Scotrail time to hear about their funding. Mhairi will continue to keep in touch with Scot rail for updates.

Any Other Business

Mhairi has completed a survey from Highland Council regarding Information and how we want to be kept informed. It is in the shared email so others can complete too.

Biz informed us that all the Highland Council meetings can be accessed via the website.

The date of the next meeting is set for the 29th of May in Achmore Hall at 19:00pm to allow time for the fish farm presentation.

Meeting closed by Joe at 20:40pm.