

# Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 27th November 2019 @ 7.30pm.

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Those present opened the meeting at 7.32pm.

## 1 Present & Apologies.

Present: Helen Robertson, Mary MacBeth, Dawn Lupton, Neil MacRae, Kath Smith, Gill Harrington

Apologises: Ann Gillespie

Not present: Biz Campbell due to an unexpected event.

## 2 Elect office bearers for new Community

Chair	Gill Harrington	Proposed	Mary MacBeth	Seconded	Helen Robertson
Secretary	Mary MacBeth	Proposed	Neil MacRae	Seconded	Dawn Lupton
Treasurer	Dawn Lupton	Proposed	Mary MacBeth	Seconded	Neil MacRae

So we now have a committee of 7 – Gill Harrington (chair) Dawn Lupton (treasurer) Mary MacBeth (secretary).

We went through The Highland Council - Community Council Constitution and focused on the key sections such as Objectives, Role and Responsibilities, Voting Rights, Meetings etc and Gill as chair signed the constitution and Neil and Kath signed as members.

We had a discussion about how best to disseminate information about our Community Council meetings and other things we are doing and decided that we should use social media and set up a Facebook book page, and continue using emails, notice boards and the Stromeferry and Achmore website.

The review of Community Councils undertaken and completed earlier this year now encourages 16 to 18 year olds to join their Community Councils. Quoted from the Highland Council “Each Community Council is able to appoint two youth members between the ages of 16-18. Youth members must live within the Community Council area. The appointment shall be made in liaison with the local High School and Youth Work Service. These members shall be in addition to the total membership of each Community Council but will be considered as full members of the Community Council. They will have full voting rights, with the exception of co-option and be appointed for a two year term.”

Our new Community has a good mix of people who are also members of the other groups in our Community – Neil is a member of the Fernaig Trust and CMNet, Mary is a member of CMNet, and Helen is a member of the Hall Committee.

We agreed to set up a generic Community Council email address which will be managed by the secretary; so that we can all receive emails without the chair and secretary having to forward information.

Action: Mary to establish generic emailing

Action: Kath to set up our Facebook page, populate it and be our group owner.

Action: Mary to forward to our signed Constitution to our Ward Manager – Robbie Bain

Action: Gill to follow up Youth membership with the High School.

Action: Mary to get website information up to date plus lodged all minutes.

## 3 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 were approved by Dawn and seconded by Helen.

## 4 Matters Arising

Nothing

## 5 Communications received

HC - Highland Council: HC WS - Highland Council Website: SG - Scottish Government

Further discussion during meeting.

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Email - Oct – Safety Fence at Ardnarff. Biz Campbell - see agenda item 8.1.5

Email – Oct – Glass recycling - Dawn see agenda item 8.1.7

Email – Sep – Phase 2 consultation on BT’s proposals to remove 110 public call boxes across Highland –Mary - 9.1.6

Emails - Sep/Oct - Keep Elderly Day Care in Lochalsh at Aird Ferry Resource Centre –Biz - NHS 9.1.1

[For information only – no discussion](#)

Email - Weekly - Maureen Mackenzie - Planning Information.

Email – Ad Hoc – K MacLean – CC minutes from other Ward 5 Councils

Email – Nov – Result of 2019 Highland Quality Awards

Email – Nov – Lizzie Bird Fernaig Trust AGM 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 @ 7.30pm

Email – Oct - Subject: Stromeferry & Achmore Community Council - Election 2019 – S Shaw

Email – Oct - Extending CC election dates

Emails – Early Oct – All about nominations and CC election dates

Emails – Sep – Invitation to Poverty Alliance Community Alliance Conversation about Child Poverty

Emails – Sep – Stromeferry A890 bypass road works

## 6 Treasurer’s report

### Treasurer Report as of 1st Oct

<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>£3,633.31</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£90</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>418.44</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>£3,961.75</b>

### Unrepresented Cheques

<b>Hall hire</b>	<b>£40.00</b>
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Meeting held 27.11.19

## 7 Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

### 7.1.1 Defibrillator

If anyone in the community wants to contribute towards the defibrillator then they can do so via the Lucky2BeHere website. [www.lucky2bhere.org](http://www.lucky2bhere.org)

Defibrillator checked and in working order. We discussed the need for more Defibrillator training.

**Action: Mary to organise and publish dates**

### 7.1.2 Planning Kyle PO

The proposed sale of the shop and Post Office in Kyle has fallen through so the current owners are still continuing with the business and hoping to sell in the future. There has been a commitment from Royal Mail to there being a Post Office in Kyle. No further information available at the moment.

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## 7.1.3 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The next meeting was to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December but has now been cancelled. This group consists of all the CCs and other group in Lochalsh who are working with Jo from the Kyle and Lochalsh Development Trust and Mike from Scottish Communities Development Centre (SCDC) to develop community plans from the bottom up. This group has obtained funding from the Investing in Communities Fund.

## 7.1.4 Path Access at Strome ferry

Donald Kennedy attended our August meeting and volunteered to write to the owner of the yard at Strome ferry to bring to their attention the need to allow access to the beach at Strome ferry for all. So far we have had no feedback from Donald.

Action: Helen to get in touch with Donald for feedback.

Action: Mary to forward previous emails on this topic to Gill & Kath.

## 7.1.5 Safety concrete block fence at Ardnarff

In preparation for an October CC meeting Biz had emailed Tracy Urry of Highland Council informing her of the complaints that she has received from the community about the near accidents that they have experienced due to the location of the safety barriers. These barriers were put up as a temporary measure some years ago as the safety fence behind the barriers is damaged. As Biz was not at the meeting Gill will email Biz for an update and Gill will pursue this item ref number FS130640243 on behalf of the Community Council who unanimously agreed this is our number one transport, roads item.

Action: Gill to contact Biz for an update and to pursue this issue accordingly.

Other road and bridge problems have been reported and are recorded in Appendix A and there has been no response from Highland Council.

## 7.1.6 Fernaig Railway Bridge works by Network rail.

Network Railway had authorised AMECO to carry out works to secure the foundations of the stone railway bridge that crosses the river. Network Rail had applied for all the required licences but Flame shells appear to have been overlooked so the works have been delayed till mid l/late January 2020. Mary will request AMECO to let us know when they will be returning and if possible give us dates when they will be moving heavy equipment up and down the Fernaig Road.

There was a brief discussion about the costs that have been incurred to set up the Compound and bring in all the equipment only to remove it two weeks later. Dawn wants to find out more about the location of the Flame Shells so Mary will pass on a Network Rail contact.

Mary declared an Interest and did not participate in the discussion other than to talk about Flame Shells.

Action: Mary to get information from AMECO/Network rail in advance and notify all Fernaig road users of traffic days.

Action: Kath to put this information on our Facebook group page and garner opinion on Flame Shells and their 'cost impact' on the holding up of Network Rail working to the bridge.

## 7.1.7 Glass Recycling

Dawn notified the Highland Council that our bins were full and they were duly emptied 2 days later.

Thank you. Dawn.

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

### 8.1.1 NHS

We continued our discussion about inviting the Kyle Practice Manager – Vicky Clark will come to one of our Community Council meetings. We are aiming to ask Vicky to attend our CC meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020. In the meantime we agreed to meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> February to prepare for our intended meeting with Vicky.

Action: Helen will have a conversation with Vicky to see if she will come to our CC meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> Feb and if not what dates she can make or who else could attend.

Action: Mary to circulate the notes taken for meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> February.

### 8.1.2 Tilhill

- Nothing to report

### 8.1.3 Highland Council

Community Transport Schemes

Helen will talk to the South West Ross community car scheme group to see how much they can help us or what information they can pass to us.

Action: Helen to make contact with the South West Ross community car scheme group and Biz to contact David Summers to see if he can help us.

### 8.1.4 Police & Fire

Georgie Grimson wrote to the CC asking if we could do anything about the speed the motorbikes do coming down the A890 brae and along the straight heading towards Achmore. Most at the meeting agreed with Georgie that the noise and the speed of the bikes are dangerous and disruptive to our neighbourhood. We also felt that with the tourist boom the traffic through Achmore has increased and some driver do not slow down whilst travelling thru the village. At the meeting we discussed some of the unpleasant toilet habits of our visitors who think that hedges are for urinating against.

Action: Mary will email our local police and have a chat about incidents and invite them to our March CC meeting.

### 8.1.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

Nothing to report

### 8.1.6 VE Day Celebrations.

We discussed this and have decided to open it up to all in the Community to think about ways of marking 75 years since the end of the WW2. Kath will put details our Facebook page and solicit input from others.

Gill attended the Remembrance service this year and felt it would be good to have more community support for this Remembrance. All present expressed their desire to support and remember all the personnel in our services and not to glorify war. We agreed that our Community Council will organise a wreath for Remembrance 2020. The wreath will cost about £30.

Action: Gill to organise the wreath purchase and laying for Remembrance 2020.

Action: Kath to put info on our Facebook page.

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## 8.1.7 BT removal of Public Phone boxes.

Mary completed the online forms to object to the removal of our Phone Box. Our objections have been noted and the final response from BT is copied in below.

### **“Final response by The Highland Council to BT's proposed removal of 110 payphones across the Highland region.**

Regulation set out by Ofcom, the independent regulator, states that local authorities have responsibility to coordinate consultation on proposals to remove public payphones. Following a two-phase public consultation, between 20 August 2019 and 24 October 2019, 163 responses were received. Based on this consultation feedback, the Council has objected to 55 payphones being removed, with a further 6 being adopted by the community.

The detailed response on each individual public payphone can be found in the final [Report to Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee](#) from 7 November 2019. Our Ref is BT No.71

### **What happens next?**

Ofcom states that BT must not bring a proposed removal into effect following written objection to the proposal from the council. This is known as the local veto. If BT disagrees with any of the objections made by us, they will ask to formally review those objections with the local authority and Ofcom will consider the decision on proposed removal”.

## 9 Update from our Councillor

Biz was unable to attend our meeting.

## 10 Updates from Local Groups

### 10.1 Broadband

Update from CMNet by Phil Game

When weather permitted we continued work on the new Creag Mhaol relays. All the new equipment including backup devices has now been installed and is powered up from the mains. The new equipment is being "tuned" to obtain the best mix of frequencies and signal strengths - at times requiring equipment to be swapped for more appropriate units. The scripts that check that the primary unit is working and automatically switch to the backup if it should fail are being adjusted to run at the optimum times and intervals.

The "old" relays have been upgraded and all mains power cable installed in trunking where required so that the power cables can be buried.

Although upgrading the Braeintra access point fixed the signal strength from the access point to subscribers' antenna performance was still poor. Further testing suggested that the link between the Achmore High and Low relays might become a bottleneck when put under stress and these radios were therefore upgraded. This change was only made recently but so far testing shows that Braeintra speeds have now recovered.

System usage continues to grow month on month, the highest monthly total so far was 3.63 TB and the highest daily usage 215.5 GB.

We are still seeing incidents of false RADAR detection and we are mitigating the impact by making sure that units do not jump to an "unsuitable" frequency.

We have started the process to install an additional high speed line in the Achmore hall and are currently waiting for the Highland Council to respond to our request to define an address for the hall.

There are more details on the website:-[www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827](http://www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827)

### 10.2 Fernaig Trust

Update from Fernaig Trust by Colin MacAndrew.

Replacement (more robust) donation boxes have fitted at both entrances to the footpaths

The Fernaig Trust 2019 AGM is on Tuesday 10 December at 7.30pm in the Hall.

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## 10.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall

Update for the Stromeferry and Achmore Hall from Martin Irving.

The 100 club winners:-

First 28, Sanders Gibson, second 47, Martin Fraser and third 55, Mary MacBeth.

The hall keys are now with Martin and Karen Irving at 2 Achbeg Crescent. Martin can be reached on 07816 905705 if there is no one home which is seldom and not for long.

The Hall Committee are planning a village party for Saturday the 21st December starting at about 6pm. Martin is doing a bar but the Big Field Blues Band aren't available this year but Angie will do a flyer for everyone in Achmore/Stromeferry and ask them to bring a musical instrument

The Hall Committee are planning a "neaps, tatties and haggis" pub night for the 26 of January. A very informal Burns night!

## 11 AOB

There was a discuss about the amount of dog output and lack of bins to accommodate the dog poo bags on the path from Achmore to Braeintra and other popular dog walking routes.

**Action: Mary to contact Colin MacAndrew to see if the Fernaig Trust can provide dog poo bins along the Achmore – Braintray pathway.**

## 12 Calendar

- No items logged this month

## 13 Next Meetings

Preparation meeting – re Kyle Surgery 5th Feb, Next CC meeting 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, and then we will aim for the last Wednesday of each month but this will be reviewed at the previous month's meeting.

## 14 Formal close of meeting

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Appendix A

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
Problems reported				
<b>Problem Number</b>	<b>Date reported</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Reported By</b>	<b>Action</b>
Braeintra Road - FS89625130	26-Sep-18	Open	Margaret Arscott	Awaiting a response from HC
Ascaig Bridge - FS110394966	21-Mar-19	Open	Mary MacBeth	Awaiting a response from HC
Achmore Bridge - FS118275075	10-May-19	Open	Mary MacBeth	Awaiting a response from HC

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Surface of railway Bridge Stromeferry	23-Mar-19	Awaiting HC problem no	Neil MacRae	Obtain a HC number
Lack of upright signage at Ardnarff	24-Mar-19	Awaiting HC problem no	Dave Biss	Obtain a HC number

Highland Council Actions				
Topic	Date requested	Raised By	Passed to Councillor	Action by Highland Council
Bus shelter at Stromeferry	27-Mar-19	Claudia	27-Mar-19	Awaiting response
Removal of Achmore Bridge signage	04-Apr-19	Dave Mockett	06-May-19	

	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
Outstanding Issues				
Topic	Date Requested	Raised by	Passed to	Comment
Defibrillator for Stromeferry	Feb-19	Claudia & Neil	Claudia & Neil	Open
Benches	April 2019	All	Mary	To obtain benches
Return Achmore old Defrib box to Portree	May 2019	Mary	Mary	Will do next time I go to Portree