

# Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 26th February 2020 @ 7.30pm.

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Those present opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

## 1 Present & Apologies.

Present: Mary MacBeth, Dawn Lupton, Neil MacRae, Kath Smith, Gill Harrington, Biz Campbell  
Apologies: Ann Gillespie, Helen Robertson,

## 2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> November were approved by Kath and seconded by Neil.

## 3 Matters Arising

Nothing

## 4 Communications received

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

[Further discussion during meeting.](#)

Email - Late Nov – Access to Stromeferry Beach - received by Helen from Donald Kennedy – on agenda at 7.1.4

Email - Jan - Safety Fence at Ardanaff, Biz Campbell - on agenda at 8.1.5 & 7.1.5

Email - Jan - Network Rail – re works at Fernaig – Flame shells - on agenda at 7.1.6

Email -Jan - Keep Elderly Day Care in Lochalsh at Aird Ferry Resource Centre –Biz - NHS 9.1.1

Email - Feb - Various intra CC members re Questions for Kyle surgery – on agenda at NHS 8.1.1.

Email - Feb – Lochalsh Collaboration – on agenda at .7.1.3

Email - Jan/Feb – Ina re roads

## [For information only – no discussion](#)

Email - Weekly - Maureen Mackenzie - Planning Information.

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

## 5 Treasurer's report

Treasurer Report as of 25th FEB

Opening balance	£3,961.75
Expenditure	-
Income	£0.50
Closing Balance	£3,962.25

Unrepresented Cheques

Hall hire for 2019 £40.00

Dawn has spoken to the Hall Committee to ask why the cheque has not been presented.

**Action: Hall Committee to get back to Dawn and let her know when the cheque will be cashed.**

**Action: Dawn to produce Annual CC accounts for April 2019 to March 2020 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

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## 6 Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

### 6.1.1 Defibrillator

In 2019 we discussed getting a defibrillator for Stromeferry. Claudia and Neil have been scouting for a suitable location with electric power. There is an unused Red Telephone box at Strome but it does not have an electricity supply. It has been suggested to Claudia that the Railway shelter may be a suitable location so she has agreed to follow up.

We discussed the fund raising method that Lucky2BHere use to provide defibrillators and this reminded us that we have not completed the fund raising for the Achmore defibrillator; so this will now become a joint fund raiser.

We discussed the need for more Defibrillator training.

As Kath works in Portree she volunteered to return the old Achmore defibrillator box, as Mary has not does so yet.

Action: Claudia to get in touch with the Network Rail to see if they will host a defibrillator. Or, if anyone else is willing to host or have ideas for a defibrillator location in Stromeferry, will they please contact Claudia.

Action: Mary to organise and publish dates for training.

Action: Mary to pass defibrillator box to Kath.

### 6.1.2 Planning Kyle PO

No further information available at the moment.

### 6.1.3 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The next meeting is to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March in Dornie Hall at 7pm. Community groups and community councils in Lochalsh, working as the Lochalsh Collaboration have receiving funding of £109K from the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund to undertake a consultation and develop action plans and take forward projects that would make a difference in their area. A Community Development Officer will be recruited to lead the information gathering which will take the form of interviews, surveys, and drop in sessions hosted by the Collaboration group in local halls this spring.

At our CC meeting concerns were expressed about the amount of money that has been allocated to another piece of work, which may be seen as a 'feasible study' with no guarantee of tangible results for the Lochalsh community. This is of particular concern as other facilities in our Community are not receiving funds and the Highland Council is being requested to make more budget cuts.

The Scottish Government website is the place to go to understand how the Scottish Government is investing in communities; the government's aim is to provide communities with funding to develop the resources and resilience to decide their own aspirations, priorities and solutions. More about this method of funding can be found on the following website <https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/empowering-communities-fund>.

The CC members concluded that it was best for our CC to be involved as this is the way the Scottish Government wants community plans to be developed, along with the local community planning partnership (CPP) and local public providers. More information on community planning partnerships can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/policies/improving-public-services/community-planning>.

Action: Mary to attend meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March and provide our feedback and contribute to the ongoing process.

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## 6.1.4 Path Access at Stromeferry

Donald Kennedy, Access Officer based in Portree attended our August CC meeting at our request, and we discussed the locked gate which stops people accessing the beach area at Stromeferry. As promised he contacted Mr Boston @ [nigel@grosa.co.uk](mailto:nigel@grosa.co.uk) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019, in which he suggested an unlocked pedestrian side gate as a possible solution, so that Mr Boston could keep the main gate across the track next to his yard locked. Mr Boston did not reply.

Donald then sent a recorded delivery letter to his business address threatening enforcement action but it was returned by Royal Mail. Donald promised to try and establish his home address, so he could send another recorded delivery letter.

Donald emailed in December to update us on his efforts to make contact with Mr Boston and to let us know that he was retiring from the Highland Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Donald told us that the new Access Officer who would be replacing him will be fully appraised of our issue.

We will pursue this topic with the new Access Officer.

Action: Kath will work with Helen and Mary on this topic till a satisfactory solution is obtained, and if anyone has any contact details for Mr Boston could they please send them to Mary or Gill.

Action: Mary to forward all the information she has on this topic to Kath, cc Gill and Helen.

## 6.1.5 The Safety concrete block fence at Ardnarff. Ref Number FS130640243

In August 2019 Gill had a meeting with Kate Forbes MSP re the safety barriers. These barriers were put up as a temporary measure some years ago as the safety fence behind the barriers is damaged. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020, Kate Forbes' office received the following response from Highland Council, quoted below.

*We have no current plans for this road such as widening or resurfacing. The road network programme which would consider whether to resurface this road is reviewed annually and roads are assessed for their strategic importance. There are too many roads that need resurfacing, and too small a budget.*

*The concrete barriers are there to protect drivers and prevent them from leaving the road and entering the railway. They are temporary whilst the safety fence is being repaired.*

*The roads team are aware of the condition of this road and carry out maintenance as necessary. Potholes can be reported on the Highland Council website under the "Report a Problem" tab.*

Biz our councillor has been diligently pursuing this issue with the Highland Council and she told us that provision has been made in the 2020/2021 Highland Council barriers budget for work to be undertaken to remove the barriers.

Action: We asked Biz to pursue this yet again with HC and clarify the situation.

Other road and bridge problems reported in 2018 and 2019 have been reported and are recorded in Appendix A and there has been no response from Highland Council

## 6.1.6 Fernaig Railway Bridge works by Network rail.

The Network Railway scour prevention on the bridge at the River Fernaig have been temporarily suspended due to delays in receiving a Marine Licence which enables work to take place in the water. Initially network Railway thought the delay might be due to the presence of the Flame Shell beds but in retrospect it is thought that the delay may be due to staff shortages/sickness at Marine Scotland. As the machinery was on hire it was returned to the supplier to avoid unnecessary spend, while no work was taking place.

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Information about flames shells can be gleaned from the SNH website <https://www.nature.scot/landscapes-and-habitats/habitat-types/coast-and-seas/marine-habitats/flame-shell-beds>

In addition to the scour works Network Rail has scheduled work on the bridge past the end of the Portachuilin. The investigative works for this job were carried out on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb from 4am till midday. All households along the Portachuilin strip were notified of Network Rail's plans in advance and thanks to the householder for providing access through a field. The actual work to this bridge is currently scheduled to take place in August 2020.

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

## 6.1.7 Glass Recycling

Heh! Something completed.

## 6.1.8 Under 18's joining Community Councils.

As agreed at our initial meeting for the new CC in November we discussed the changes introduced to CC guidance post a review, and one of the new initiatives was to collaborate with schools to find 16 to 18 year old who would be interested in joining their CCs. Gill had a discussion with the Plockton High School rector to see who would be eligible to join us. The result was we have no age eligible school attending youths who can join us at the moment.

Action: Gill to keep in touch with Plockton High school

## 6.1.9 TESCO Deliveries

We discussed this at the CC, in response to a message from the Hall Committee to Helen. So far the only information we received on this topic is that the Hall Committee are happy to allow the Tesco driver to use the hall toilets if required. The CC support TESCO coming to Achmore to delivery but without more detailed information we do not know why this is being brought to our attention.

Action: Will the initiator of this initiative please provide background information to Mary, so that the CC can determine what our involvement should be, if any.

## 6.1.10 Dog Output bins

Gill had a conversation with Colin McAndrew, Fernaig Trust about the CC seeing if we can obtain red bins for dogs' 'output' from the Highland Council. They would be located at the beginning and end of the Achmore – Braeindra path. Then we would have to sort out how they will be emptied.

Action: Biz to check if the Highland Council still provides the dog 'output' bins.

## 6.1.11 Bus shelter Stromeferry

In 2019 Biz requested a bus shelter and in 2020 Biz will ask again for the provision of a bus shelter for Stromeferry.

Action: Biz to ask again for a bus shelter for the school kids from Stromeferry.

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## 6.1.12 The CC Facebook page and generic email

We had a very lively discussion on this topic and decided that we should dedicate some time at a meeting to determine what, how and when we are going to use Facebook and how we will manage our content and make sure it aligns with the National Community Council Guidance that we adhere to and our collective responsibilities as Community Councillors.

The CC agreed to establish a generic Gmail email address so that we all receive CC materials and we will publish this email address once we have tested it amongst ourselves.

Action: Mary to agendise this topic and Kath will lead the discussion on the use of Facebook.

Action: Mary to set up email and pass address and other required information to other CC members and test we can all receive and send information using this CC email address.

## 6.1.13 AOB Local – Bits & Pieces

Lizzie Bird, Fernaig Community Trust has email to tell us all that the Strome Woods, including parking, is closed whilst felling is taking place.

Mary has order one bench online and if it is deemed to be as substantial as described, then one for the Achmore/Braeintra Path will be ordered. The new bench when it arrives will be replacing the bench at the Achmore cattle grid. The bench currently located at the Achmore cattle grid will be put in the bus shelter.

Action: Mary to organise the putting together of new bench and switching it.

Mary will request assistance with updating the Strome ferry and Achmore website to include the latest CC details and minutes.

Action: Mary to update CC website information.

Neil will log the details about the lack of surface at Strome ferry Railway Bridge into HC system and pass the reference number to Mary.

Action: Neil obtain HC fault number for this issue

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

### 7.1.1 NHS

In early Feb the CC members had an ad hoc meeting to finalise our invitation to the Kyle Practice Manager to attend our meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Vicky Clark, Practice manager, requested that we forward her a list of questions rather than her attending the meeting. We produced a set of questions and emailed them to Vicky on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. Vicky acknowledged our email on the 12<sup>th</sup> February and provided us with a comprehensive reply on the 13<sup>th</sup> February. Our set of questions and Vicky's responses are attached.

Our questions were grouped into 3 sections:- 1) Reception & Appointments/Visits 2) Practice/patient relationship and 3) Kyle Surgery Governance/Process and Accountability.

We discuss Vicky's responses at our CC meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb:-

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- Section 1 we were all satisfied with Vicky responses.
- Section 2) there was a few issues that we discussed around practitioner/patient relationship that we wish to explore further.
- Section 3) we discussed this in more detail and concluded that our questions need to distinguish between clinical practice and the managerial practice which Vicky has given us detailed information about.

Action: Gill and Mary to meet early next week and work out the appropriate phraseology to provide feedback/comment on Section 2 and questions to tease out the information we are seeking for Section 3.

## 7.1.2 Tilhill

- Nothing to report

## 7.1.3 Highland Council

### Community Transport Schemes

C/F not discussed on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 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.

## 7.1.4 Police & Fire

C/F not discussed on the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 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.

## 7.1.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

Nothing to report

## 7.1.6 VE Day

C/F not discussed on the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. This will be moved to Calendar Section. This year the Stromeferry and Achmore will lay a wreath.

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

## 8 Update from our Councillor

We had a discussion about the reopened Aird Ferry Resource Centre, Dornie and that a key meeting booked for the 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2pm when many people are at work. A lot of concern has been raised as to the manner in which this meeting has been organised as no direct communications have been made to the Community Councils and other concerned bodies in Lochalsh. The time and place of this meeting was posted on Facebook.

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Biz informed us that at a previous meeting Clare told her audience that Aird Ferry needs to adopt the model used by Howard Doris, Lochcarron and the centre in Ardnamurchan. As is known locally, the Howard Doris model is becoming unsustainable due to lack of funding and is relying more and more on volunteers to keep the facility functioning. Biz told us that key members of Kyle and Dornie CC will attend the meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> March, as she is unable to be there. Biz urged all communities in Lochalsh to attend and think on ways this centre can become a really community hub. We noted this request and will discuss more at our future meetings.

Action: Mary will raise this topic at the next Lochalsh Collaboration group meeting and reiterate Biz's request to us all.  
Action: Mary will email Dornie CC secretary and lend our support.

## 9 Updates from Local Groups

### 9.1 Broadband

Update from CMNet by Phil Game

Most of the mains power cable on Creag Mhaol has been buried but the bad weather has prevented the job being finished.

One of the enclosures on Portchullin raised beach has a seal failure and will have to be replaced before we can proceed with Portchullin installations.

We had a problem with most of the units on the Achmore high relay being spontaneously being reset. This turned out to be "corrosion" of the gold terminals of one device, the problem was resolved once the cable and RJ45 plugs were replaced.

We are still seeing a few incidents of false RADAR detection but have managed to greatly reduce the number by adjusting transmission frequencies on the affected radios and the radios that they can "hear".

Installation of the new line in Achmore hall - we have installed a letter box at the hall so its address can be added to the Post Office's database. Our internal cabinet has been installed and is ready to wire up once that is complete we will order the new line from Zen.

Since the new year we have been ready to install trial subscribers using the new Creag Mhaol relays but the bad weather has meant we have been unable to make much progress.

However good progress has been made on software that will automate the configuration of equipment.

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)

### 9.2 Fernaig Trust

Update from Fernaig Trust by Colin MacAndrew.

1. One holding, field 8a at Braeintra, falls vacant from 1 April. The tenancy is currently being advertised and will be allocated at the Trust's March meeting.
2. A new information noticeboard has been purchased and will be installed at the Achmore entrance to the footpaths.

### 9.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall

Update for the Stromeferry and Achmore Hall from Martin Irving.

February 100 Club winners.

1<sup>st</sup> prize No. 77 – Neil MacRae - £25.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize No. 22 – Jill Charnley - £15

3<sup>rd</sup> prize no. 54 – Phil Game - £10

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Many thanks to all that came to the Burns Night. We made approx. £550 which is just as well as we have had to have another oil delivery which has swallowed most of it!

We are planning a ceilidh possibly early April and a quiz night May or June. All this has to be finalised at the next meeting. Still lots of ongoing maintenance!

## 10 AOB

## 11 Calendar

- No items logged this month

## 12 Next Meetings

25<sup>th</sup> March Wednesday – this meeting will be chaired by Dawn

29<sup>th</sup> April Wednesday

27<sup>th</sup> May – this will be our AGM meeting + CC meeting

## 13 Formal close of meeting

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

## Appendix A

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
Problems reported				
Problem Number	Date reported	Status	Reported By	Action
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
Surface of railway Bridge Stromeferry	23-Mar-19	Awaiting HC problem no	Neil MacRae	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



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	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	1 bench ordered
Return Achmore old Defrib box to Portree	May 2019	Mary	Mary	Will do next time I go to Portree or pass to Kath

APPROVED