

# Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 22nd July 2020 @ 7.30pm

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## 1 Present. Meeting opened at 7.32pm

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

## 2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes of the 25th March 2020 were approved by Dawn and seconded by Kath. In April the CC produced a COVID update. In May we had our AGM by email and in June we did not have a meeting.

## 3 Matters Arising

The CC presented a cheque to the Hall Committee on 2 August 2019 for use of the hall for meetings: so far this cheque has not been present.

**Action:** Dawn to cancel this cheque and ask Hall Committee to produce another invoice so that we can pay for Hall use.

## 4 Communications received

HC - Highland Council: HC WS - Highland Council Website: SG - Scottish Government  
[Further discussion during meeting.](#)

Email - Dot Ferguson – Rural Tourism Infrastructure Funds Round 3

Email – Dot Ferguson – NC500 Signage

Email – Dot Ferguson - CC Contacts after Robbie Bain

Email – Various – Fish Farm issues in Lochcarron

Email – Paul Moore – CC Zurich Insurance

Email – Mackenzie – Notification of closure @ Achnashellach

Email – HQ Planning Technical – Planning Consultations

Email – Mackenzie – Notification of closure High Street Kyle

Email – Robbie Bain – Farewell message

Email – From Blackford to Helen – Re TESCO drops

Email – Various – about COVID - 19

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

Email - Weekly - Maureen Mackenzie - Planning Information.

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

Emails – many between CC members

## 5 Treasurer's report

Treasurer Report as of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Opening balance	£3,962.74
Expenditure	£318.32
Income	£418.45
Closing Balance	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">£4,062.87</span>

### Unrepresented Cheques

Hall hire for 2019            £40.00

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Battery & CC Insurance	£324.00
Caroline MacRae – audit	£25.00
Total	<u>£389.00</u>

That leaves a balance of **£3,673.87**

## 6 Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

### 6.1 Defibrillator

All aspects of the defibrillator at Achmore Hall are up to date and Kath has implemented a monthly rota to cover weekly and monthly checks. The Lucky2BeHere database has been updated to reflect Kath as No 1 contact and Mary as No2 and the battery and pads dates are current.

We discussed further fund raising for the defibrillator and will do stuff next year.

Gill will have a conversation with Claudia to see if she has found a location in Strome with power supply suitable for a defibrillator for Strome. Kath confirmed that the Strome households want a defibrillator.

We will organise more CPR and defibrillator (AEDs) training sessions in the hall once we can get 'up close' again, so in the meantime we agreed to look online for training materials in how to use defibrillators. Neil attended the training in 2013 and is willing to help anyone who needs assistance in accessing and applying the defibrillator..

**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. Gill to contact Claudia.**

**Action: Mary to organise and publish dates for training.**

**Action: Mary to pass defibrillator box to Kath.**

**Action: Gill, Kath to look online for suitable training materials - on how to use a defibrillator.**

### 6.2 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The next meeting is to be held by video conference on 29<sup>th</sup> July and Gill and Dawn will attend. We had a discussion about the funding and workings of this group and Mary made it clear that the Scottish Government has passed Acts such as the one in 2015 to empower and expects communities to create their own plans, and to collaborate with other groups. Jo the current trust development officer is leaving at the end of July so the Trust is recruiting for a Trust manager.

**Action: Gill & Dawn to attend the video conference on the 29<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm.**

### 6.3 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 apprised of our issue.

We will pursue this topic with the new Access Officer.

**Action: Kath will pick this topic up again and contact the new path Officer. Biz will pass the name of the new path Officer to Kath.**

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## 6.4 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. These will now be passed to MacKenzie and we will ask him to a future CC meeting + the damaged parquet of Achnacraig bridge + large pothole on Fernaig Road.

**Action:** Mary to update Mac's spreadsheet and ask him to a meeting

## 6.5 Fernaig Railway Bridge works by Network rail.

Network Railway intend to return on the 1<sup>st</sup> August to work on the small bridge past Portachullin. No dates scheduled to do the scour works at the Fernaig Railway Bridge.

**Action:** Mary to keep in touch with Network Rail & pass info to CC.

## 6.6 TESCO Deliveries

Helen has emailed Tesco to ask them to do home deliveries in our area, now that the major COVID surge has abated we will ask Helen to follow up on this topic to see if we can get TESCO to stop in Achmore.

**Action:** Helen to contact Tesco to see if we can get them to stop in Achmore.

## 6.7 Dog Output bins

Completed bins are in place.

## 6.8 Recycling Bins

There are no recycling facilities near our CC area so we decided that this is a service we urgently need and we will make it part of the services we ask for via the Lochalsh Collaboration community plan development.

In the meantime Gill will contact HC – Morag Greenhill to request a village clean up skip.

**Action:** Gill to contact HC for a village clean up skip.

## 6.9 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.

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

## 6.10 The Strome Salmon Fish farm.

Some of the residents in Strome are reporting issues with the extended Scottish Salmon Fish farm in Loch Carron. The extension of this farm has been ongoing since 2013/2014 and as Stormeferry and Achmore CC was in abeyance so we did not register to be a statutory consultee. Mary contacted Lochcarron CC and got the following reply “The chair had been approached by Mary MacBeth about discharges from the revamped fish farm at Mid Strome. A resident of North Strome has also had concerns. SEPA have done checks. Everything is in order and SEPA are keeping an eye on things.”

Another email received on this topic is from Marine Scotland and states:-

“The licence application in question (07265) is for wellboat discharge at the associated fish farm which was licensed earlier this year under licence number 06843/20/0. The licence application and final licence can be found on our website [here](#). The deposit of treatment agents from wellboats is a marine licensable activity. An application for wellboat discharge at this site has been submitted to the Licensing Operations Team and is under review. The burning of inorganic materials on the shore and thermolicing are not marine licensable activities under section 21 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. If you wish to report any fisheries related activity that you think are suspicious, a form is available on the Marine Scotland website which will be sent to our compliance

colleagues: <http://www.marine.scotland.gov.uk/mscomplaineForms/>”

After much discussion we decided the best way forward was to invite the manager of the Scottish Salmon Fish farm to come to Stromeferry and Achmore and give a presentation about the fish farm and how it is operated.

Action: Mary to contact the manager of the Scottish Salmon Fish Farm manager and invite him to give a presentation with a Q & A session. Mary will inform Lochcarron CC about our way forward. Gill will chair the meeting. The format of the meeting will be discussed once it has been confirmed.

## 6.11 Plaques on the CC bench to be positioned on the Path

This topic arose from a request by a household to put a small plaque on the new yet to be sited CC bench as their beloved dog had passed away. We discussed and agreed that small plaques on the bench would be acceptable in return for a donation to the CC to support the defibrillator. Post the meeting Mary called the householder to update them to be told that they had left a message on Mary’s phone telling her they had found an alternative place for the plaque. So topic closed

We had a discussion about where to locate the bench and decided to give Dawn the marker stick to decide where the CC would like the bench located and Mary will contact Colin MacAndrew to see where the Fernaig Trust would like to locate the bench. Location ideas from the CC were between Achmore River and the river crossing on the path, with a view.

Action: Mary to contact Colin, Fernaig Trust and pass the marker stick to Dawn to mark the CC’s desired location

## 6.12 AOB Local – Bits & Pieces

With the restrictions of movement being lifted there have been visitors to our area who are taking in the beauty of the countryside from Strome viewpoint where there are no toilets; so a track to an “open air cesspit” has developed down the bank from the view point.

Action: Neil agreed to “go, look, smell “ to see the state of affairs and bring it to the attention of Forestry & Land Scotland.

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

### 7.1 NHS

- Nothing to report.

### 7.2 Tilhill

- Nothing to report

### 7.3 Highland Council

Policy Unit 6 of Highland Council have emailed to say that they will no longer be providing food boxes to those who are shielding as the R number is so low. The HC are assuming that Local Voluntary Groups will support their neighbours.

### 7.4 Police & Fire

Georgie Grimson wrote to the CC last year asking if we could do anything about the speed the motorbikes do coming down the A890 brae and along the straight heading towards Achmore. After a discussion we concluded, as this is speed & noise from the A890 public road that this is out with the CC remit. Therefore this topic is closed.

### 7.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

- Nothing to report

## 8 Update from our Councillor

Biz told the meeting that the HC budget is £46M in deficit so far as the HC has lost its income streams e.g parking, planning, , fines etc. No update yet on the Kyle parking post the consultation. Biz's input is included in the other topics that were discussed at the meeting.

## 9 Updates from Local Groups

The local Groups were not asked for input this month as the CC decided to get up to date with what we have to do.

## 10 AOB

None

## 11 Calendar

Annual wreath. This year the Stromeferry and Achmore CC will lay a wreath.

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

## 12 Next Meetings

Last Wednesday in August is the 26<sup>th</sup>.

## 13 Formal close of meeting @ 9.42pm

Appendix A

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
Problems reported				
Problem Number	Date reported	Status	Reported By	Action

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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
	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	Bench to be located
Return Achmore old Defrib box to Portree	May 2019	Mary	Mary	Will do next time I go to Portree or pass to Kath