

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 29th September 2021 @ 7.30pm

1 Present. Microsoft Teams Meeting finally started at 7.45pm with some members having to be connected by WhatsApp as we could not get them connected via Teams

Present: Mary MacBeth, Gill Harrington, Neil MacRae, Mhairi Macrae, Biz Campbell HC Councillor

Members from other Organisations: Roz Birch Highland Councillor Access Ranger.

Members of the public: Marion Howat

Apologies: Dawn Lupton, Kath Smith, post meeting MacKenzie Sutherland Highland Council Roads

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 28th July 2021 meeting were approved by Mhairi and seconded by Neil.

3 Matters Arising

Helen Robertson has resigned from the Community Council so Gill took this opportunity to thank Helen for all the work she has done as a CC chair and member since 2019.

Roz Birch – Access Ranger for Lochalsh, Glenelg and outwards towards Cluanie and easterly towards Strahcarron junction and Lochacron, Applecross.

Roz started her role as access Ranger on 10th May and her remit was to monitor, report and engage with as many visitors as possible. When asked how people reacted to her she told us that 95% of the visitors were positive and were unaware that they were incorrectly parking and stopping over in areas that they should not be using. And there was the remaining 5% who were less easy to deal with but they eventually moved on. From Roz's conversations with visitors it would appear that many people had not undertaken comprehensive research into land use in Scotland and were not familiar with the Scottish Outdoor Access code, so they misunderstood what 'wild camping' means and that right to roam does not give people permission to go wherever they please. It also became clear that a lot of the firms renting vehicles, especially motor homes were not providing their customers with accurate information and there is a lot of misinformation posted on social media sites, picked up from TV programs etc. Tourism and its management is an industry which needs a national approach from governing bodies; so that visitors to Scotland know in advance what they cannot and cannot do. Roz is one of a number of Access rangers employed within Highland region and their findings will feed into future strategies & planning so that going forward visitors are better informed and communities and their surroundings are treated more respectfully.

The NC500 did contribute some additional tourist traffic in our area as visitors cut from the A87 to the A835, but mostly it appears people do the NC500 or Skye with a few combining a Skye trip with the NC500.

Forest and Land Scotland are employing a Visitor Services Manager who will liaise with Community councils and other groups within this area. Gill thanked Roz for the excellent work she has undertaken in our area. Roz left the meeting at this point.

Roz's report for our area will be published with these minutes.

4 Communications received

If anyone would like a to receive a copy of any correspondence then please contact the secretary @

mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com

On Agenda – means it is on the agenda; 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 June/July 2021- distributed -NNTD

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Email – 29 July 21 – M Howat , K Smith, M MacRae - Strome ferry Bench siting – on agenda
Email - 29 July 21 – G Harrington - Makaton Tutor Training funding request – on agenda
Email – 30 July 21 – Roz Birch - Re: Strome ferry and Achmore Community council request for a visit – on agenda
Email – 01 August 21 – R Mockett – Hole in Braeintra Road – on agenda
Email - 02 August 21 – D Ferguson - Scottish Community Council summer newsletter – Free OU courses – NNTD – distributed
Email - 03 August 21 - M Green - Foundation Scotland - Crown Estate Community Capacity Grants Programme – on agenda
Email - 03 August 21 – M MacRae - CT scanner for New Broadford Hospital – Letter from K Forbes office – on agenda
Email - 04 August 21 – C Smith - A890 Strome ferry Bypass – Planned- distributed – on agenda
Email – 10 August 21 – H Robertson – Resignation from CC – noted & complete.
Email - 16 August 21 – D Ferguson - Electric Vehicle Rally of Scotland – distributed
Email – 17 August 21 – D Ferguson – Confirming resignation and who current members are – complete
Email – 17 August 21 – D Ferguson - Community Council meetings – online – distributed - complete
Email – 17 August 21 – S Shaw - Strome ferry & Achmore CC - 2021/22 Annual Grant – on agenda
Email – 18 August 21 – D Ferguson - Transport Scotland - Consultation on Penalty Charge Notices for Parking Enforcement – FYI – distributed – complete
Email – 18 August 21 – D Ferguson - Flood Risk consultation – distributed – complete
Email – 20 August 21 – R Birch – Update on Strome view point and woods – on agenda
Email - 21 August 21 – L Bird - Community Woodlands Association August e-bulletin – distributed
Email – 21 August 21 – F MacKenzie – Strome water information – complete
Email – 25 August 21 – b Campbell – CC meeting – complete -
Email – 26 August 21 - D Ferguson - Grants to make it easier and safer to walk, wheel and cycle for rural communities – distributed
Email – 31 August 21 – M Macbeth/K Smith – Defibrillator – on agenda
Email – 7 September 21 – L Frost - Ward 5 Place Based Funding – on agenda
Email – 7 September 21 – D Ferguson - FW: The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee - Regulations on proposals made by Boundaries Scotland - distributed
Email – 7 September 21 – B Campbell to MacKenzie - Cutting back line of sight at Achmore & Strome ferry – on agenda
Email – 7 September 21 – C Smith - RE: A890 Strome ferry Bypass - Planned maintenance works to start this week – distributed
Email – 7 September 21 – M MacRae - Re: Fwd: Ward 5 Place Based Funding – on agenda
Email – 08 September 21 – L & C Mortimer - Hole in Braeintra road – on agenda
Email – 09 September 21 – Mackenzie Sutherland - RE: Strome ferry & Achmore urgent request - clear Achmore/A890 junction + hole in Braeintra road – on agenda
Email – M Taylor - Communities Housing Trust AGM – 23 September 2021 @ 11am via Zoom – distributed
Email – 16 September – M Macrae – Ward 5 funding ideas – on agenda
Email – 18/19 September - M MacRae & M Howat – Info exchanges with R Birch – on agenda
Email – 17 September – R Birch – Report on Tourist Management since May – on agenda
Email – 20 September - G Harrington – Update from BT on Strome phone box – on agenda
Email – 22 September – A Bone – Braeintra Road potential closure – on agenda
Email – 23 September – A Bone – temporary closure Braeintra Road – on agenda
Email - 23 September – R Birch – Access Ranger visitor report for our area – on agenda
Email _ 23 – September - Mackenzie Sutherland – Request invite to our meeting – on agenda
Email – 24 September – A Bone – Update on Braeintra Road- on agenda
Emails – 29 September – Issues with access to Teams meeting.

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Recycling Bins – on agenda

Email – 8 September 21 – D Lupton – Responses from A Hume

Email – 8 – 14 September – 20 Emails between CC Members

Email – 15 September – Record of M MacBeth’s phone call to A Hume

Telephone call – 15 September – Mary to Andy Hume – note of meeting distributed to CC members.

Email – 23 September – A Hume – Recycle Bins – on agenda

Email – 28 September – A Hume - Recycle Bins – on agenda

Telephone – 28 September – A Hume to Mary – Recycle bins – on agenda

Stromeferry Water and Scottish Water - on agenda

Emails – 29 July 21 – All - Re: Suggested agenda for 10th August - pls action

Emails – 30 July 21 – M MacRae - Fwd: RE: CAS-1535364-D3Q0H Mhairi Macrae Lochview Strome Ferry IV53 8UJ

Email – 01 August 21 – M MacRae - Refund of water charges from Scottish Water – on agenda

Email – 01 August 21 – M Howat/M MacBeth - SW meeting and info - on agenda

Email – 05 August 21 – G Steel - RE: Please respond - Suggested Agenda for meeting - Scottish Water and Stromeferry and Achmore CC. 10th August from 6.30pm.

Emails – 05 – 12 August 21 – G Steel and all CC members – Sorting out meeting agenda and times – complete

Email – 12 – 19 August 21 – G Steel and all CC members – Completing notes from SW meeting 12th Sep – complete

Email – 12 September 21 – M Howat - Questions to be asked of water board at CC meeting – on agenda – October

Email – 15 September 21 – G Steel - Stromeferry water supply update

5 Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Report as of Meeting 29th Sept 2021

Opening balance 28/07/21 £3,506.77

Expenditure

Zurich Insurance, reimbursed to Mary, cheque 000196 £84.00

Income

(Highland CC Grant) 09.08.21 £417.97

Closing balance 28/09/21 £3840.74

Unrepresented Cheques None

Expected Expenditure

Picnic Bench £653.57

6 Local Items and Progress update

6.1 Defibrillator

Mary now has the old pads, defibrillator box and batteries to return to Lucky2BHere. Gill offered to help Mary with returning this equipment to Portree.

Action: Post COVID Mary to return old equipment to Lucky2BeHere

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Neil is on the September rota and Mhairi in October. There are now sticky labels plus pen in the A4 leaflet holder for checkers to apply to the defibrillator box lid on the 1st Monday of each month when the full monthly checks are done. The full monthly checks require that the box is opened; so the seals need to be replaced.

Action: Kath to remind persons on rota to apply new seals, and to sign and date the new seal. A new small self sealing bag is needed to hold the scissors, razor etc.

BT are now keeping the telephone box in Stromeferry [number is 01599 577 249] for their use so we have to look again at other places to house a defibrillator. The location needs to have mains power supply for rge defibrillator box and be easily accessible. It was proposed that the CC ask Network Rail/ Abellio ScotRail if they will host a defibrillator for the community.

Action: Mhairi to contact relevant company and ask if they will host defibrillator.

So far our area has contributed about £1200 to Lucky2BeHere for the Achmore defibrillator so we can now start fund raising for Stromeferry. We had a discussion about fund raising and a few suggestions were put forward.

Action: All – Discuss at next meeting how to raise more funds.

Gill emailed Mary with the following update - I have now tracked down a man to do the defibrillator training. He lives in Balmacara and has worked with Lucky2BeHere before and says we just need to get in touch with Drew Millar and tell him Mike Shucksmith will do our training and we will get it for free. Mary will contact Lucky2BeHere and discuss this training

Action: Mary to contact Lucky2BeHere to discuss this training.

6.2 Planning

Work has started on creating a track into the wood at the top of Braintra.

6.3 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The team is working on the analysis of the Survey data and need until December to finalize all the details. The monthly meetings have started again. It looks like most of the Community Councils have highlighted the need for housing as their highest priority but other topics will cover foot paths and access, so an individual request for the CC to look at paths will be combined with the Collaborations projects.

Mary has the Lochalsh Collaboration A frame/poster board but will discuss with hall about storing it in the hall; so it is readily available for all.

Action: Mary to discuss with the Hall committee if room can be found in one of the hall cupboards to store the Poster Board.

6.4 The Safety concrete block fence at Ardnarff. Ref Number FS130640243

Biz has told us that the Highland Council are having difficulty sourcing materials for this unit of work and until they can source all materials they will not start the job.

Action: Biz to keep us informed of when works will start.

6.5 Stromeferry and Achmore Community website.

The approved Community Council minutes for 2021 have been loaded onto our website. Lizzie Bird is the Fernaig Trust Web administrator, Phil Game for CMNet Community Broadband and the hall has not yet appointed an administrator.

Action: Mary to contact chair of Hall to ask who will administer their section of the website.

6.6 Bench

Dawn has ordered a replacement picnic table/seating for the Fernaig shore but there has been a delay in the delivery of the Picnic Bench for Fernaig shore.

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The CC members have decided that a 5 ft wooden bench will be sited at the Achmore Cattle Grid. The Strome team have been canvassing opinion for the siting of a bench in Stromeferry and the preferred solution is in the Strome Woods. Roz told us before she left the meeting that she may be able to obtain a picnic bench for use in the woods so we will wait to find out what Roz can source for us before purchasing the benches.

Action: Dawn to locate picnic table on the Fernaig Shore.

Action: Mary will await response from Roz before ordering any benches.

6.7 Local Infrastructure

Hole in Braeintra Road - Andy Bone organised with the Community Council to get this sorted. The Braeintra road was temporarily closed on the 23rd Sep and the investigation showed that the culvert had collapsed and the appropriate solution was put in place and the surrounding ditches have been cleared.

Bridges – Braeintra, Achmore, Achnacraig

Cattle Grids – Stromeferry, Fernaig need cleaning

Ditches – Stromeferry

Verges – poor cropping and no line of sight due to over growth

Road surface – Achmore Bridge to Achmore

A890 – Stromeferry By Pass works – The works are continuing according to schedule.

The other topics were not discussed as Mackenzie was not present. This will be C/F to our October meeting.

Action: Mary to C/F to October meeting.

6.8 Local Recycling

Dawn and Mary have been in contact with Andy Hume of Highland Council. A new company has won the contract to empty the glass recycle bins and one of their drivers decided that the location for the bins in Achmore Square was no longer suitable due to overhead cables. So he unilaterally decided to move them:-

- onto a pavement next to a busy road,
- next to a lamp posts,
- by a grass covered play area,
- blocking drivers / cyclists line of sight at the Fernaig road junction,
- opposite our community hall where people park.

Viridor is the company who deal with all recycled glass and they have automated the process of separating glass into the required groupings, by colour, quality etc. so we no longer need separate recycle bins. Therefore we will reduce the number of bins from 3 to 2 so that we can find a place for the bins. In the short term the bins have to be moved; so next Wednesday the CC hope to have an onsite meeting with Highland Council, and the Viridor driver to get the bins moved to their previous location. If the location in the square cannot be a long term home for them then we will have to find another area based on known constraints and drivers need for emptying and replacing the bins.

Action: Mary to meet HC and Viridor driver on Wednesday to try and resolve this issue.

CC members to make sure that there is access to the previous bin location on Wednesday 6th October.

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

7.1 NHS

Biz is awaiting an update from Hamish Fraser on the progress that has been made with the campaign to get a scanner for the new Hospital. We debated what else we as a single CC can achieve. The NHS is aware of the concerns of Skye and Lochalsh and this has been highlighted in a WHFP article. The consensus was that we probably will have to leave this topic for sometime and come back to it.

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Actions: Biz to have one last attempt at getting an update from Hamish Fraser about progress on the scanner.

7.2 Tilhill / Forestry and Land Scotland

Work has started on the woodland near the A890 / Braeintra junction.

7.3 Highland Council

See Roz's report attached with minutes plus discussion under Matters arising.

7.4 Police & Fire

- Nothing to report

7.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

The latest from Scottish Water is that they will not be perusing the fix of locating a temporary tank in Stromeferry. They are now going to reinstate the use of the Achmore water treatment plant to pump water to Stromeferry. We will invite Gavin Steel, Scottish Water to our October meeting.

Action: Mary will contact Gavin and organise Scottish water's attendance at our October meeting.

7.6 Others

- Nothing to report.

8 Update from our Councillor

Biz told the meeting MacKenzie Sutherland is going to be Ward Manager for Caithness & Sutherland. Andy Bone will be the interim replacement for MacKenzie. Biz told us that the Highland Council placement fund has £87K in place which has to be spent by end of March 2022. There is a funding call open till 30th September 2021 which the CC are working on in conjunction with Hall Committee to replace the broken fridge freezer.

9 Updates from Local Groups

9.1 CMNet CIC Broadband

Four new installations have been completed.

The provisional annual accounts have been completed and surplus funds used to refund a portion of the New Joiners Premium.

We have purchased examples of the latest Ubiquiti kit and have run tests from North Strome to Strome Ferry. So far the new units are working well but the rise and fall of the tide is affecting the signal strength. To complete our testing we will switch out the unit in North Strome to make sure we have a fast and reliable link covering the whole of Strome Ferry regardless of the state of the tide before we roll out the service.

There has been a significant growth in usage and we are working towards increasing capacity.

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

Phil Game

9.2 Fernaig Trust

Colin MacAndrew

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9.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Hall

The Hall Committee AGM will be held on November 2nd November, 7.30pm in the hall. We are keen to get new committee members - it is great way to support your village Hall. Plus Helen will be collecting for the Hall One Hundred club for renewal or those wishing to join. It is £12 per year per person and Helen can be contacted on 577322 or one can pay Helen via PayPal helenrobertsonleith@hotmail.com. Cash is also fine, feel free to contact Helen.

One Hundred Club draws

June

1st 42 - Helen Robertson

2nd 67 – Bobby Fraser

3rd 93 – Maxine Connolly

July

1st 101 - John Stuart

2nd 19 - Cridean MacRae

3rd 27 - Renee Gibson

August

1st 53 - Ian Johnstone

2nd 104 - Meryl Kennedy

3rd 33 - Pattie Heaviside

Martin Irving

10 AOB

Due to the difficulties that we experienced with TEAMS last night the CC will now look at alternative software and ask our Ward Manger when we can have actual meetings.

Action: Mary to sort out using Zoom or other software plus find out when we can have actual meetings.

11 Calendar

11.1 Monthly Gate Check - The gate to the beach is open at Stromeferry

11.2 Weekly defibrillator rota – All in order – Neil on rota for September, Mhairi for October.

11.3 Post COVID – Relationship building with the Scottish Salmon Fish farm.

12 Next Meetings

The next meeting will be the 27th October 2021 at 7.30pm.

13 Formal close of meeting @ 9pm