

# Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 27th October 2021 @ 7.30pm

## 1 Present.

Present: Mary MacBeth, Mhairi Macrae, Dawn Lupton, Kath Smith

Members from other Organisations: Biz Campbell HC Independent Councillor

Members of the public: Marion Howat.

Apologies: Gill Harrington, Neil MacRae, Gavin Steel Scottish Water, Andy Bone Highland Council.

## 2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 meeting were approved by Mhairi and seconded by Neil by email.

## 3 Matters Arising

Nothing this month

## 4 Communications received

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

On Agenda – these items will be discussed in the meeting not in this section. 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 September/October - distributed –NNTD

Email – 29/09 – D Lupton – Copy of audited accounts – On agenda

Email – 29/9 – 2/10 – M Irving, M Macrae, M MacBeth – Ward 5 Funding for hall Fridge – On agenda

Email- 3/10 - M Macrae - CT scanner for Broadford (Case Ref: KF11574) – On agenda

Email – 3/10 – R Birch - Presentation to Highland Council – On agenda

Email – 11/10 – D Ferguson - CC complaints procedure – C/F to November

Email – 11/10 – D Ferguson - Advice to Community Councils on Meetings – NNTD

Email – 11/10 – R Birch - Update for Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council - End of Season Actions – On agenda

Email - 17/10 – D Ferguson - Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund – NNTD

Email – 22/10 – D Manson Policy HC - Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme. – on Agenda

Email – 24/10 – C MacAndrew – FCT AGM 8<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.30pm in Hall – NNTD

Email – 25/10 @ 9.01am - D Manson Policy HC - Scottish Community Council Newsletter – distributed – NNTD

Email – 25/10 - D Manson Policy HC - Grant funding to Community Councils to promote cycling – on Agenda.

Email – 25/10 @ 18.10pm - D Manson Policy HC - Scottish Community Council Newsletter – distributed – NNTD

## 5 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Report as of Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021

**Opening balance 28/07/21 £3,840.74**

**Expenditure £32.64 for  
Remembrance Wreath**

**Income .46p interest**

**Closing balance 27/10/21 £3,808.56**

**Expected Expenditure**

**Picnic Bench for shore £653.57**

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## 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**

Martin Irvine is on the November rota. There are now sticky labels plus pen in the A4 leaflet holder for checkers to apply to the defibrillator box lid on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

Marion Howat has written to ScotRail to see if they can host the Stromeferry Defibrillator. ScotRail has responded asking Marion to contact their Community @ ScotRail department. This Marion has duly done. The location needs to have mains power supply for the defibrillator box and be easily accessible.

**Action: Marion to continue communicating with ScotRail.**

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

Nothing to report

### 6.3 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The next meeting is the 28<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm. No members of the CC are available to attend this month's Lochalsh Collaboration meeting.

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. No further update in October.

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

### 6.5 Stromeferry and Achmore Community website.

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 which will be delivered soon.

The CC members have decided to go ahead and look at buying a bench for Stromeferry. If the delivery charge is per bench then the CC will wait and buy an Achmore Cattle grid bench next year, if we cannot get one from Roz Birch.

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The Strome team have decided that the best location is in Strome Woods to replace a bench that was sited there. The Strome team will put the bench in place.

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

Action: Mary will order a bench for Stromeferry & await response from Roz before ordering an Achmore bench.

## 6.7 Local Infrastructure

We had a discussion about the items below and decided that we would prioritise which items we believe need urgent attention.

6.7.1 Hole in Braeintra Road – The HC roads department repaired the culvert and opened up the drain to the west of it Complete.

6.7.2 Bridges – Braeintra, Achmore, Achnacraig - The Highland Stonemason knows about these and it is on his work sheet to attend to them.

Action:- C/F to next meeting

6.7.3 Cattle Grids – Stromeferry, Fernaig need cleaning - The clearing out of the cattle grids will go on a program. The Cattle Grid at the top of the Stromeferry road was reported to Highland Council website 18 months ago as a major problem. Some investigative digging was done to try and find the outlet pipe. This was not completed so cattle grid overflows and the water is cascading down the road damaging the tarmac. As we are coming up to winter there is a possibility this water will freeze and the road will become treacherous. This is now a priority item for the CC.

Action:- Pass this priority piece of work to Andy Bone HC Roads.

6.7.4 Ditches – Stromeferry – Andy will update the HC drainage program to include Stromeferry ditches. Again we discussed this item and concluded that the worst part was the lack of a culvert between Meallan and Lochview on the left side of road going down onto Stromeferry. This is the CC's 2<sup>nd</sup> priority piece of work.

Action:- Pass this priority piece of work to Andy Bone HC Roads

6.7.5 Verges – poor cropping and no line of sight due to over growth - This is referring to the Achmore/A890 junction both on the A890 and the corner of the Achmore road from junction to cattle grid.

Action: - Andy Bone has noted this and is going to establish land ownership as a lot of the scrub/trees are out with council responsibility boundaries.

6.7.6 Road surface – Achmore Bridge to Achmore Square- The HC roads department patched these holes on the 25<sup>th</sup> October with cold tar. This task is complete until the pot holes reappear.

6.7.7 A890 – Stromeferry By Pass works. These remedial works are nearly complete with no reported issues.

## 6.8 Local Recycling

The meeting took place on the 6th October in Achmore to sort out the relocating of the recycle bins for glass. Mary and Neil from our CC, Andy Hume Highland Council and the Biffa (Viridor have been taken over by Biffa) driver were present.

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The driver who attended on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct was not the driver who unilaterally moved our bins on 9th September 2021. This driver was competent and keen to get a workable, safe solution for us - the fillers of the bins - and the Biffa drivers - the emptiers of the bins.

The bins were emptied on the 6th Oct as part of our meeting; so we saw what space is required for parking the lorry and positioning the stabilisers legs and what height clearance is needed to operate the crane safely.

## Current Situation

MM & NM presented the problems the bins were causing us now that they have been put:-

1. on a pavement next to a busy road,
2. next to lamp posts,
3. by a grass covered play area,
4. so as they blocked drivers / cyclists line of sight at the Fernaig road junction,
5. as opposite the bins is the community hall where hall users park: so drivers stopping at the bins end up blocking the road.



So creating many risks for our community and traffic travelling through our village - a high percentage of which is tourist traffic - not familiar with the dangerous situation that the Viridor driver has created.

AH and DS agreed our points above plus the Biffa driver(DS) informed us that their lorries should not be blocking main roads which are used by emergency vehicles, for example ambulances.

## Possible Locations discussed - Area Requirements.

The area needs to have a hardstand for bins, and the lorry stabilising legs that need to be put in place while the bins are being lifted to be emptied and put back in place.

The area needs to be well clear of main roads; so that the bins can be emptied without blocking emergency traffic.

No overhead power lines nearby.

Located as near areas of population as possible

Space for 2 bins as we no longer have to separate our glass items by colour.

## Areas discounted.

By Achmore bridge - no large hardstand and too close to public road.

By Achmore / A890 junction - no large hardstand area, too close to road junction

By Forest and Land Scotland building on Fernaig road - too many overhead power cables.

Lay bye on A890 - too far from centre of our community, close to a very busy section of the A890. Having the bins in this lay bye may lead to having other waste materials dumped here.

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Revisited the location in the square.

The overhead line is a telephone wire.

NM & MM stressed that we want the area to be safe for the Biffa drivers and for us.

If the bins were located in the square and butted up to the cobbled pavement area a space of 24' or 7.3152m is required in front of bins (facing into square) for the lorries to pull in and park parallel to the bins.

This allows the bin lorry to use only the left stabilising leg whilst emptying and replacing the bins.

The overhead cable is no longer an issue if the bins are approached from inside the square and not from the main road.

How to make this work.

This will only work if the driver can pull into the square and park parallel to the bins – area marked red.



If no space is available then the bins will not be emptied.

MM to set up a WhatsApp group including AH, MM, NM, Biffa Manger so that we can get notification of the Biffa lorry schedule; so that the required parking area is available when the bins are to be emptied.

The bins are scheduled to be emptied every 3 weeks, we had a discussion about whether we should WhatsApp to cancel if bins are not full but concluded that we should leave the schedule as it is planned, unless there is an urgent need for lorries to attend overflowing bins in other areas.

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Actions :- MM got mobile numbers to set up WhatsApp group:-

Biffa manager - 07795 604 473, Biffa lorry driver shared mobile - 07717 343 215,

Andy Hume HC - 07901 832 180

Mary and Neil also agreed to be CC reps - we are looking for more CC reps to be included. Post the meeting Dawn has agreed to join the group.

Mary to send her mobile number to Biffa and Andy Hume. Post meeting this has been done.

AH to request HC Portree to remove 3rd bin. Post meeting this has been completed.

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

### 7.1 NHS

Biz told us that the new Broadford Hospital is hoping to open early in 2022. There is apparently a lack of space for equipment at the new hospital. Mhairi had a response from Kate Forbes' office saying she supports the need for a CT scanner and recommended that all the CC write to the NHS Highland plus other organisations. All of the Skye and Lochalsh CCs have already written to Biz and Hamish to say they support the campaign for a scanner. Mhairi will write to the NHS group who were canvassing the Rural Practitioners for their input and ask for an update. The consensus this month, as last month, is that we probably will have to leave this topic for sometime and come back to it; so we will move it to our calendar section of the minutes and revisit in the spring of 2022. In the meantime Mhairi will continue to write to the NHS departments and Kate Forbes' office to keep this topic on their agendas.

Actions: Biz to have one last attempt at getting an update from Hamish Fraser about progress on the scanner and Mhairi to write to the appropriate NHS group.

### 7.2 Tilhill / Forestry and Land Scotland

Nothing to report

### 7.3 Highland Council

7.3.1 Funding Opportunities – Ward 5 Funding opportunities - Mhairi in conjunction with the Hall Committee applied for funding to get a new fridge and freezer for the hall. Biz told the meeting that this application had been passed.

7.3.2 Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme. -The first email we got on this topic arrived on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 and had a deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Here is an extract for the email we received to give you a flavour of what we are expected to complete in less than a week.

*'Hello Community Councils, an opportunity to improve vacant and derelict sites has become available and we would like to ask communities if they can identify sites / projects that would be suitable. It is the Local Authority which makes the bid, but that would be on behalf of the community. To qualify as vacant / derelict land a rough rule of thumb is a site which has lain vacant / derelict for around 15 years – it must have been a previously developed site, and not just green space.'*

*As always there is a tight turnaround, and so responses (to be returned to me please) would be appreciated by end-October, but I realise that doesn't leave a lot of time. I would focus on completing the application form as fully as possible and submitting when you can (while noting deadline), mitigating any potential delays due to us coming back to you for further information, and thereby meeting the deadline.*

*Given the timeframe, I've extracted the below from the guidance document to focus the mind:*

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4.4 The purpose of stage 1 is to establish which project proposals are sufficiently developed to meet the aims and objectives of the fund, and also crucially able to make use of available grant in 2022-23. The Investment Panel will agree which of the project proposals they would like to see in more detail.

4.5 The deadline for stage 1 proposals is 5pm on 12th November 2021. Further information on practical considerations for preparing and submitting your stage 1 proposal is included at Annex A. It includes the template that is required to be completed to demonstrate the proposed project's eligibility, alignment with the aims and objectives of the funding, wider strategic fit, and ability to draw down the requested amount of grant in 2022-23'.

After some discussion we concluded that the deadline precluded us from doing meaningful research but we would fulfil our CC remit and make this information available to our Community as there may be future rounds of funding. The CC will contact our Ward Manager to express our displeasure at having important funding applications drops on us a few days before the closing date for bids

**Action: Mary to draw this to the attention of our Ward manger.**

7.4 **Grant funding to Community Councils to promote cycling**  
C/f to next meeting.

7.5 **Police & Fire**

- Nothing to report

7.6 **Utilities - Scottish Water**

Gavin Steel was unable to attend our meeting but sent the following update

*. 'As was reflected by my last update in mid-September, we had identified an alternative potential solution that was focused on restoring a pumping station at the old Achmore Water Treatment Works. Our initial assessments suggest this is the more promising option and two pieces of work have been promoted in response – one to restore a functioning pump as quickly as possible via a temporary arrangement; and another to carry out permanent work to recommission the pumping station for the long term.*

*I don't yet have an indication of timescales from the project team who will be taking these two pieces of work forward, but the short term project has been designed to make sure we can have a solution in place well ahead of the busier time next year.*

*In the interim, James and the local team are hoping to carry out some work in the near future to renew the connections to the existing water main for the two highest houses in Stromeferry. This work isn't intended to resolve the problem, but it will provide modern connections for the houses and improve our ability to monitor the level of service that the customers are receiving in the future.*

*We hope that in the short term customers are receiving a much more satisfactory level of service, with lower demand in the water network upstream. We would certainly still encourage anyone who is continuing to experience difficulties to report this to us so that we are aware and can offer assistance'.*

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As a CC we appreciate the updates we are receiving by email but it was noted that we wish to have a Scottish Water representative at our next meeting, so if Gavin Steel is not available then we expect one of his colleagues to attend. Obviously the person attending needs to be fully briefed on the issues to do with the lack of water supply to Stromeferry residents. The local Strome residents said that Scottish Water have been in the area looking for the tobbsies for the houses which are located at the top of the hill into Strome.

Action: Mary will contact Gavin Steel and let him know the date of the next meeting which we want him, or a colleague if he is not available, to attend.

## 7.7 Others

- Nothing to report.

## 8 Update from our Councillor

Biz told the meeting that proposal to centralise the Criminal Justice system is out for consultation at the moment. Plus Biz informed the meeting that she is attending a COVID Booster Clinic in Kyleakin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. This was interesting as Mary was told by the NHS hub earlier in the week that no local COVID Booster clinics were being held and the nearest walk in Clinic was Smithson Church in Culloden.

## 9 Updates from Local Groups

### 9.1 CMNet CIC Broadband

We have started to issue cheques for the New Joiners Premium refund; these will only be distributed when subscribers accounts are up to date.

We are waiting for a break in the weather to switch out the unit in North Strome that acts as an access point for Strome Ferry.

Our software is being updated to work with the new "Generation 2" Ubiquiti units purchased using last year's surplus.

Usage continues to increase we are working towards increasing capacity in Lochcarron.

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

Phil Game

### 9.2 Fernaig Trust

Just to let the CC know that the AGM of the Fernaig Trust will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 December in the Hall.

Colin MacAndrew

### 9.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Hall

The hall AGM is on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.30pm in the hall and all are invited to attend as the Hall Committee needs more members. The Hall committee in conjunction with Mhairi have been successful in obtaining funding for a new Fridge and freezer for the hall.

## 10 AOB

Nothing to report

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### 11 Calendar

- 11.1 Monthly Gate Check - The gate to the beach is open at Stromeferry
- 11.2 Weekly defibrillator rota – All in order – Martin Irvine for November
- 11.3 Post COVID – Relationship building with the Scottish Salmon Fish farm.
- 11.4 Campaign for a Scanner for Broadford Hospital ongoing.

### 12 Next Meetings

The next meeting will be the 24th November 2021 at 7.30pm, hopefully in the hall.

### 13 Formal close of meeting @ 8.45pm

Approved