

1 Formal opening of meeting – Chair

Present: Gill Harrington (Chair), Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Kath Smith, Neil MacRae

Members of other organisations: Biz Campbell HC Councillor, Gavin Steel & Martin Mackay Scottish Water for 1st part of meeting.

Members of Public: Marion Howat for 1st part of the meeting.

2 Apologies.

Apologies: Mhairi MacRae – problem getting online via O2 4G

3 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 24th November 2021 meeting were approved Kath seconded by Dawn.

4 Update from Scottish Water

At this point in the meeting Gill invited Gavin Steel from Scottish Water to give us an update on their plans to resolve the water outages experienced by the Stromeferry residents. Gavin told us about the projects that have been raised - one a long term solution which is focusing on restoring the operation of the pumping station at the old Achmore Water Treatment Works - and the second a back up interim solution is being studied.

For the long term solution SW project manager has engaged a contractor. This solution is going to concentrate on getting pumps in place which can monitor the water pressure and detect pressure drops and kick in when required to pump the water to Strome. An issue has arisen with the supply of these SW preferred pumps as there is a short of conductors; so a lead time of 6 months is being talked about. In the meantime other pumps are being looked for which may shorten the lead time. In the meantime all the other prep work that is required is being undertaken. The aim is to get this up and running ASAP but we are looking at 6 month lead time on pumps: SW is looking at a fall back interim solution to get Strome through 2022.

The fall back interim solution would look at getting a bowser water tank in situ at the top of Stromeferry near the old tank. Some works will be undertaken to bypass the current pipe going through the old tank. This would involve an upgrade to the pipes to bypass the tank and this may have the added benefit of improving the water flow as the pipe work inside the tank is made up on many cast iron joints etc. This interim solution will require SW to work with the land owners.

Action: Mary to keep in touch with SW and get progress updates and if necessary invite SW to another CC meeting.

5 Treasurer's report

Opening balance as at 24 th Jan 2022	£3,154.99
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Expenditure Strome Woods bench - £297.00	
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Income – Interest 30 th Dec 0.45p	
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Closing balance as at 24 th Jan 2022	£2,876.44.
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A Cheque for £279.00 was issued for the expenses claim submitted by Mary for the Stromeferry high backed 3 seater bench.

Lizzie Bird has forwarded the invoice from Calicao for £28.80 including vat for Spanglefish website use.

Action: Mary to forward Dawn expenses claim

6 Local Items update and progress

6.1.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

The response from ScotRail is sounding positive and helpful. No more details available as Mhairi was unable to get logged into the Zoom meetings.

Action: Mhairi and the Strome team to continue with their contacts with ScotRail and Lucky2BeHere.

Action: Mary as secretary to get copies of information exchanges to file for CC record completeness.

6.1.2 Defibrillator training

Lucky2BeHere have said that they are running online training at the moment; a couple of CC members attended the December training and depending on the feedback received, then the CC will discuss if the CC should organise an online training session for 15 – 20 Stromeferry & Achmore households or publish the Lucky2BeHere contacts and allow households to organise their own training.

Action: Await feedback from December training and again this was not discussed fully as Mhairi was not present Next month we will determine if the CC should organise a local training session.

6.1.3 Monthly checks and seals on Defibrillator box

The rota system is working well but some sort of weather proof tape is needed to seal the box. The plastic bag holding the auxiliary bits needs replacing and the question was raised about whether the gloves should be replaced or not.

Action: Kath is onto this and sorting out tape etc.

6.2 Infrastructure

6.2.1 Cattle Grids – Stromeferry

The cattle grid at Stromeferry has been cleared and the outlet pipe unblocked; so this is complete and thanks to HC roads.

6.2.2 Ditches – Stromeferry – culvert between Meallan & Lochview & Verges – poor cropping and no line of sight due to over growth

In the past 2 months the HC roads departments have done a considerable amount of ditching, cutting back the verges, clearing up the pavement and roadside in the centre of Achmore, swept part of the Fernaig Road to remove the leaves, etc for our area. This work by our Roads department is very much appreciated. The HC roads budget covers 19 Community Council in Ward 5; so the focus for the next period of time will be on other areas.

6.2.3 Ardnarff concrete blocks by roadside and road end

It was pointed out in the meeting that many infrastructure projects are being undertaken and completed in the Inverness areas which require steel and other building materials to construct and from the press release it is clear that these structures are being built. So when will HC get the materials to construct the safety fence at Ardnarff and remove the blocks?

Action: Biz to contact Iain MacRae Roads department for an update. Andy Bone is also trying to obtain an update for our CC.

6.2.4 A890 – Stromeferry By Pass improvements.

The A890 road from the Strome viewpoint to near the avalanche shelter is in an appalling state – the verges are crumpling, the holes along the verges & the pot holes are getting deeper etc, etc.

The HC Roads department have some works proposed and monies included in their 22/23 budget. This work needs to be put before HC committee to get approval. The team are currently hot tar patching areas of the A890. HC Roads aim to do works on the A890 east of the Stromeferry viewpoint now, before the specialist equipment and focus has to move to other areas within the ward.

Action: Mary to continue to liaise with Andy HC Roads for updates.

6.2.5 Winter Resilience program for our CC area.

Dawn will find out if last year's volunteers are willing to volunteer in 2022 and pass the names to Gill. All CC members present last night volunteered to grit their paths and nearby areas. Gill will collate all the info and complete the HC form and return to ward manger Dot Ferguson Dot.Ferguson@highland.gov.uk

Action: Dawn to get volunteers approval and Gill to forward names to Ward manager.

6.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Community website

The Hall had an AGM on the 7th December 2021. Mary will contact those involved and ask about storing the free standing notice board that belongs to Lochalsh Collaboration but available to all for Community use.

Action: Mary to contact new hall chair.

6.4 Bench for Strome Woods

Stromeferry bench - Becky Milne the LFS Visitor Manager has confirmed that the bench ordered by LFS is a perch bench. The Strome residents wish to have a bench with a back for their area; so the bench purchased last year and stored by Mary will be transported to Strome for siting where required.

Action: Mary to pass bench to Chris/Ewan to transport to Stromeferry. Kath and Mhairi will sort out location for this bench.

Mary will now buy a bench to be placed by the Achmore cattle grid area to replace the bench which was relocated to Bus shelter.

6.5 Terracycle

After a bit of discussion we decided not to take this idea any further. Complete

6.6 Fernaig Shore

We had a discussion as how best to get the message across that the Fernaig shore area where the Picnic bench is located is to be used as a recreational area only and not for the burning rubbish of any sort. We concluded that we would put up a notice indicating how the area is to be used.

Action – Mary with input from Gill will organise a notice.

6.7 Planning

Nothing for Stromeferry and Achmore area

6.8 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The next Lochalsh Collaboration meeting is scheduled for the 31st January 2022 by Zoom at 6.30pm. There have been a couple of Zoom meetings held in January 2022 to discuss the format and layout of our Lochalsh Action plan - an overall plan for Lochalsh and then a plan for each CC area.

For the action plan, could each area discuss in your community council and community trust, where there is one, and make a list of: Things that are already happening in your area to address priorities – e.g. that community groups are already tackling

Update from Susan Walker

Lochalsh Loves Local + Community minibus

Some good news – two funding opportunities came up -KLCT submitted applications for a 1 year, part time coordinator for a Lochalsh Loves Local project – to encourage local purchasing/shopping and sustainable travel by foot, cycle and community transport – and to purchase an electric vehicle to allow us to deliver this. Partly due to the strong evidence of community need for these priorities we have gathered through the community survey we were successful with both funding bids, bringing over £63,000 additional investment in the Lochalsh community.

We are now advertising the 3-day a week Lochalsh Loves Local job and we have just put in an order for a 9-seater electric vehicle. Please see here for more details of the job – and it will be posted to the www.lochalsh.uk website today

How should the community minibus be used?

So please let your community know about the project, and we'd be grateful if you could have a think and consult with your local representatives/community about how you think we should use the new community bus – we might not be able to offer every transport option that the community asks for but will do our best to respond to the highest priority transport needs.

We will also be looking for volunteer drivers.

And we want to launch a challenge to name the community bus. We're hoping it won't be BussyMacBusface. Look out for details in the coming weeks.

Action: Mary to continue working on plans and attending meetings. Others are also welcome to join the Zoom meetings.

6.9 Dornie CC

Last year Dornie Community Council wrote to our CC and asked us to assist them in applying pressure on the NHS and other bodies to get Aird Ferry centre reopened. This Gill duly did on behalf of our CC and Kate Earnshaw passed our concerns to Neil Ingall who has been appointed manager of Aird Ferry. Neil's brief covers Skye and Lochalsh within the NHS Home Care Sector. Gill and Mary had the opportunity to meet up with Neil in Kyle this week and we had an excellent discussion about Aird Ferry, how the job application process was proceeding and what Community facilities are available in Stromeferry and Achmore. Neil is keen to get to know the Lochalsh Communities and work with them going forward.

Action: Mary to send Neil all the information promised.

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

7.1 Funding Opportunities

There are opportunities for grant funding for Community Councils to promote cycling. Mhairi has been having some discussion with HC members, but as Mhairi was unable to log into the meeting we will discuss at our next meeting.

7.2 Tourism

Becky Milne, Forestry and Land Scotland as the Area Visitor Services Manager will attend our February meeting.

7.3 Utilities - Scottish Water

Update at beginning of meeting.

7.4 Update from our Councillor

7.4.1 Quality of food on offer in Broadford Hospital.

This is an ongoing issue and during our CC discussion members told of their experiences of hospital patients not able to eat the food as it was inedible and of family members having to bring food into the hospital for their loved ones.

Action: Biz is going to write to the regional head of NHS to see if the NHS is going to provide wholesome edible food to patients in Broadford Hospital.

7.4.2 Campaign for a CT scanner for hospital

Mhairi had an update from NHS via Kate Forbes' office which provided little detail and no dates. Mhairi will peruse this topic and contact the senior executive again to see if she can get more specific information on NHS Highland's strategy for assessing the need for a CT scanner for Broadford Hospital.

Action: This item will be discussed in detail with Mhairi present at next meeting. In the meantime Mhairi to continue her good work of campaigning for a CT scanner for Broadford Hospital

7.4.3 Booster & 3rd COVID jab clinics for Lochalsh residents and in particular over 70s

Mary emailed Kate Earnshaw concerning the over use of Facebook for broadcasting information about NHS information and local GP surgeries. Kate has forwarded our message to the NHS comm's manager and others who are involved with the vaccines who can take our points on board and perhaps help to clarify things for us for the future.

Action: Mary to follow up and make we get a response.

8 AOB

A big thanks to Mary Jane Campbell and Catherine Wills for coming to Stromeferry and Achmore and going door to door to make sure everyone who wanted their contact details included in the new Plockton and District phone book had the opportunity to be included.

9 Calendar - reminders and topics C/F.

Monthly Check Path Access at Stromeferry

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

Defibrillator Checks

Defibrillator Fund Raising

10 Next Meeting

23th February 2022 at 7.30pm. Location to be determined according to HC advice received.

11 Close of meeting

Meeting formally closed at 8.42 pm

Communication Received from 26th November 2021

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 December/January - distributed –NNTD

Email – Weekly – Policy & Reform – Lynn Frost - FW: Funding Scotland: Funding updates and news – distributed - NNTD

Email – 01/12 – Policy - Connecting Scotland – Final Application Round – closed

Email – 06/12 – Policy & Reform – Lynn Frost - Advice on Community Council Meetings – closed – NNTD

Email – 10/12 – J Parsons & M J Campbell – Plockton & Area Phone book – ongoing - NNTD

Email – 16/12 – Fay Mackenzie/Gill Harrington – X ray machine for Portree Hospital meeting – On agenda

Email – 18/12 – Mary MacBeth – People travelling to Fernaig Shore to burn rubbish – On agenda
Email - 22/12 - Policy & Reform – Lynn Frost - Place-based Investment Programme now open for applications- distributed – NNTD
Email – 29/12 - Policy & Reform - Derek Manson - Communities encouraged to apply for Place Based Investment Programme support – distributed - NNTD
Email – 11/01 - Policy & Reform – Lynn Frost - CAT Training distributed – NNTD
Email – 12/01 – Kate Earnshaw & Neil Ingall – Aird Ferry – On agenda
Email – 15/01 – Mary Jane Campbell – Phone Book – Complete
Email - 17/01 – L Bird – Calico Invoice – On agenda
Email – 23/01 – Policy - D Manson – Advice on how to hold CC meetings – Complete
Email – 24/01 – Becky Milne – LFS – Bench Update – On agenda
Email- 24/01 – HC Roads - A Bone – Updates for our CC meeting – On agenda

Updates for Other Community Groups

Fernaig Trust - Colin MacAndrew

With new restrictions on gatherings in place, no monthly meeting of the Trust took place in January. Meetings will resume from February. Two Trust fields become vacant and available from 1 April. Applications for the tenancies will be advertised shortly.

Stromefery and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons

We held our AGM in December and would like to thank again our outgoing Chair and Secretary; Martin and Karen Irving, for all their hard work and commitment to the village hall over the past few years as well as other folk who have been there and worked hard. Thank you also for everyone who came along. This show of support is really encouraging. Helen Robertson became the new secretary and I became the new chairperson. The rest of the committee members are: Angie Gibson (booking Secretary), Hamish Howat Hurst - treasurer, Renee Gibson, Mhairi MacRae and Ellanne Fraser.

It was decided that it would be good to look at ways to strengthen/ bolster the membership and maybe invite people who might be interested in 'shadowing' hall office bearers if they are not sure what might be involved. We would aim to do this over the next few months, but in the meantime if there is anyone out there who would like to come along to find out a bit more they would be very welcome and absolutely under no pressure. Alternatively they could message me at jackiemarigold@gmail.com

Our first meeting of the year will be this Tuesday 1st Feb at 7.30pm.
Jackie Parsons

Community Broadband CMNet CIC – Phil Game

The fourth and fifth batches of cheques for the New Joiners Premium refund have been distributed; the remaining cheques will be distributed when subscribers' accounts are up to date.

The North Strome unit that acts as an access point for Strome Ferry has now been fully tested and is ready to put into service. We have detected four new access points on the Strome side of Creag Mhaol, these are not under the control of CMNet. This explains why the units that face that direction are experiencing a disproportionate number of false RADAR events. Our software that checks the configuration of our units has been updated to detect and automatically correct any false RADAR events.

We experienced an increase in usage over the holiday period and as a consequence have started the process to install an additional line in Lochcarron.

We contacted Zen to test the existing Lochcarron line as performance had deteriorated; an engineer visited who traced and fixed the problem.

We will proceed with the current batch of installations and then add subscribers in small batches until the new capacity in Lochcarron is available.

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

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Approved