

Minutes for Strome ferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 31st August 2022 @ 7.30pm

1 Formal opening of meeting at 7.38pm – Chair

Present: Gill Harrington (Chair), Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae, Kath Smith, Ann Gillespie

Members of other organisations: Biz Campbell Highland Councillor

Members of Public: No one

Apologies: Dawn Lupton, Mhairi Macrae

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 29th June 2022 meeting were approved by Neil and seconded by Kath.

3 Matters arising.

On behalf of Strome ferry and Achmore Community we wish Jon Don and Fay a continued recovering and we are thinking of you.

CC process update

To make our meetings manageable we will aim for a 1 to 1.5 hour meeting.

All AOB business raised at our meetings will be noted and discussed at the next meeting to allow CC members and others time to think and research topics before taking action. This applies to CC members and members of the public.

If external bodies or individual are invited to a CC meeting then we will aim to allocate them 20 minutes for their update with an additional 10 minutes for Q & A. Then the normal CC meeting length will be decreased accordingly.

All reporting of Highland Council infrastructure problems to be reported using the HC online system. Please do not pass directly to CC. See more details below.

4 Treasurers Report

<u>Treasurers Report 31st Aug 2022</u>		
Opening Balance		£2,416.06
Expenditure		
	Secretarial Fees	£750.00
	Accounts Auditing	£25.00
Income		
	Interest	£0.63
	HC Grant	417.97
Unrepresented Cheques		Nil
Closing Balance		£2,059.66

5 Local Items – Update and progress

5.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

Mhairi provided a written update of the conversation she had with Ross Cowie Lucky2BeHere In August. At the June meeting we all agreed to ask ScotRail if they would provide a location with power and a defibrillator.

From June minutes:-

‘After some discussion we all agreed that it would be easier to have the box and the defibrillator provided by ScotRail and to clarify with ScotRail what input they are expecting from the CC. Will the CC have to pay for new batteries and pads going forward and do we have to do the weekly, monthly checks or are ScotRail willing to pay for and undertake all the post installation upkeep of the defibrillator.’

Action: Mhairi to ask ScotRail if they can provide a location and power plus a defibrillator.

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

5.2 Monthly checks and seals on Achmore Defibrillator box

The monthly checks are ongoing and no new issues reported. Kath has got a new lid for the Achmore Hall defibrillator and we agreed to replace it on Monday at 4pm.

Action: Kath & Mary to fit new lid. Mary will email all to let them know that the defibrillator will go off at 4pm.

5.3 Defibrillator Training.

Gill volunteered to talk to the local paramedics to see if they will provide onsite training in Achmore Hall. Once Gill has obtained some dates we will contact all to organise a training schedule. We discussed offering a donation to the Ambulance Service and agreed we will.

Action: Gill to contact paramedics and Mary will then email all to create an attendance list. We need to find out how to make a contribution.

5.4 Infrastructure - roads, verges and Ardnarff blocks.

Ardnarff Blocks :-

No work has started on the replacement of the blocks. We understood this was scheduled to start 8th August 2022. Biz will now find when this work is to take place. There has been other works undertaken on the A890 Bypass between Ardnarff and the avalanche shelter.

Action: Biz to chase up what is happening to the removal of Ardnarff block works.

Reporting road, bridge problems going forward:-

The CC had an email exchange with Andy Bone Ward 5 Road inspector and we have agreed with immediate effect that all problems are to be reporting using the Highland Council System. Using the HC system means that each problem is issued with a unique number and Andy’s team can obtain the information digitally. The HC system can be found using this link - www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/roadside_problems. The CC will still assist with the chasing up of problems if the reporter does not get a positive outcome.

Action: All please use the Highland Council reporting system for infrastructure problems.

Traffic Calming thru’ the village :-

As requested by Biz from our June meeting HC set up a unit to monitor the traffic through the village for about 2 weeks in August.

Action: Mary to ask Andy about the results.

Cattle grid gate at Achmore end of Braeintra road & Grass growing in the Fernaig Road cattle grid:-

Action: Mary to ask for a further update.

The sign post marking route from Fernaig cattle grid to Portachuillin is falling over:-

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As this is not a Highland Council sign we will inform the person who reported this issue to contact the Fernaig trust.

Action: Mary to contact the reporter and ask them to contact the Fernaig Trust.

Path by the A890 between Stromeferry and Achmore:-

There have been a few discussions at previous CC meeting about a path between Stromeferry and Achmore. At June's meeting it was agreed that Mhairi would write a letter about planning needs for a path by the A890 between Strome and Achmore. Not all members of the CC agreed the contents of the letter when it was circulated.

Gill brought some focus to this topic by saying that we need to start by gauging the level of Community support for a path by the A890. If there is community support for a path by the A890 then the CC will ask Highland Council to provide a path by the A890. If there is not enough support then the CC will do no more on this topic. The CC members present at the meeting all agreed that we are only discussing the path by the A890 and agreed the approach laid out by Gill. It will then be up to individuals in the community to form their own group to take this matter forward if they still wish to.

Action: Mary to email CC members with proposed survey question before emailing all in the community to gauge level of support for this path.

5.5 Food deliveries by supermarkets – TESCO & Morrisons & Asda

Since our June meeting Morrisons have got in touch to say that they are willing to trail a delivery service. We proposed 3 drop off points – Ardnarff, Stromeferry – station and Strome Woods, Achmore – in the square. Morrisons did their own research and opted for using the parking area in the square. They initialled proposed suggested starting the service in Mid September and Angie has offered to help Mary and Morrisons with the marketing of this service.

Action: Mary to continue her contact with the supermarkets and provide Angie with information to broadcast to all in Stromeferry and Achmore.

5.6 Stromeferry CC bench

The FLS team have asked that the CC bench in Strome Woods is relocated. Neil will work with Becky to establish a suitable location for the bench.

Action: Neil to get new location for the CC bench.

5.7 Planning

There was one application to build in Stromeferry.

5.8 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The Lochalsh Collaboration participated at the open day on the Ploc and chatted to attendees about the Lochalsh Community Plan. This Plan is now ready for publishing and the launch is scheduled for the 24th September in Dornie Hall. Further details will be published nearer the time.

Action: Mary to get details of events to be held on the 24th September in Dornie Hall.

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

6.1 Highland Council

The online HC Roads meeting was cancelled in August and rescheduled for 15 September. Mary and Gill are both available and will attend.

Action: Mary & Gill to attend Roads meeting online at 7.30 on 15th Sep.

The CCs have had another request from Highland Council to say how they wish the Council budget to be spent. The deadline for the survey has been extended to 9th Sep. Our CCs priorities:- cost of living with a huge emphasis on fuel costs both for heating our homes and transport, health and social care, better infrastructure, more housing, education etc.

Action: Mary to complete survey on behalf of CC.

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6.2 Funding Opportunities

Information distributed to the appropriate groups plus all CC members.

6.3 Forestry & Land Scotland

The work to improve facilities for visitors to our area is ongoing.

6.4 Campaign for a CT scanner for Broadford hospital

After the June meeting the CC received an update from Hamish Fraser, Chair of Strath and Broadford Community Council and a member of the SW Ross, Lochalsh and Skye NHS redesign group. Hamish confirmed that he had received notifications from SW Ross, Lochalsh and Skye Community Councils supporting the campaign to get a scanner for Broadford Hospital. Hamish said that he understands that the NHS is putting together a business plan for a CT scanner. Hamish says that he brings up the topic of a scanner on a regular basis at these meeting. Biz told the meeting that she knows that Professor Boyd Robertson Chair of NHS Highland and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf are aware of the campaign for a CT scanner. Mhairi has written to Pamela Dudek, Chief executive of NHS Highland and Kate Forbes our MSP bringing the need for a scanner to their attention.

At this point Gill pointed out that if we form another grouping we would be targeting the same executives who are already aware of the need for a CT scanner or their departments are working on a business case. Therefore it makes more sense for individuals to campaign through the existing routes. We all agreed it made better use of everyone's time to adopt this approach.

The CC will not pursue creating another sub group to campaign for a scanner but we will continue to ask for updates on an ad hoc basis

Hamish Fraser can be contacted @ Hamish Fraser broadfordandstrathcomcouncil@gmail.com. Contacts for NHS executives can be obtained from the NHS website and Cabinet Secretaries and MSP's contact can be obtained from the Scottish Government website.

6.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

Below is August's update from Gavin Steel, Scottish Water.

'The pumping station still hasn't entered service – and I can only apologise for the time this final stage is taking. I understand the cleaning activity referred to in my previous update has been completed, but the contractor hasn't had resources available to arrange the re-sampling yet, with a set of clear sample results being the final requirement.

More positively, we aren't aware of significant disruption to residents' water supply during the busiest months of this summer, although the pumping station will improve our confidence that a good level of service can be sustained at times of highest demand. Martin is going to check on resources to get the final work completed and may explore other options to get this done if the original contractor is continuing to have difficulty.'

Action: Mary to get an update next month.

7 Update from our Councillor

Biz told us that the Highland Council budget for 2022/2023 is approx £560m – 60% of this budget is ear marked for Health, Social Care and Education. There is requirement for HC to save £30m this year and some of this will be achieved by staff vacancies not being filled.

8 AOB

Hogwort by the roadsides.

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Action: We asked Biz to establish what is the Highland Council policy on the removal of Hogwort.

9 Calendar - reminders and topics to C/F.

Monthly Check Path Access at Stromeferry
Defibrillator Checks
Defibrillator Fund Raising
Culvert Stromeferry – between Meallan and Lochview
Achmore bench

10 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 28th September at 7.30pm and is **online** as Alcohol Focus Scotland will be presenting.

11 Close of Meeting

Meeting formally closed at 8.36 pm

Updates for Other Community Groups

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons

The Hall Committee are looking into how the village hall might host a repair cafe through Circular Communities Scotland.

CMNet CIC, Achmore & Strome Ferry Community Broadband System – Phil Game

The new Lochcarron gateway has been tested, the connecting radios have been aligned to get the best possible signal and it is now fully operational. The three gateways (Plockton, Achmore and Lochcarron) are now being balanced by volume which entails moving batches of subscribers between gateways. We may need a second exercise to balance usage across the gateways by peak bandwidth demands.

Now the extra capacity is on-line we have started preparations for the next batch of subscriber installations.

Some of this year's surplus will be used to give subscribers a £30 rebate on their New Joiner's premium, the remainder will be used to upgrade equipment.

Next year's tariff, starting on the 1st September will be reduced from £1 per 75 GB to £1 per 150 GB; the standing charge remains the same at £5.

Low volume subscribers who have been with CMNet for 12 months with therefore pay £3.50 a month for 150 GB usage from 1st September.

Our new software is being used to log and trace false RADAR events. Some incidents have been reduced by switching to alternate frequencies in other cases we plan to switch to 60 GHz radios which do not suffer from false RADAR events.

More work is required in this area.

We will work with the Achmore Hall committee to see how best to install broadband access in the hall.

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

Fernaig Trust - Colin MacAndrew

No update this month.

Colin MacAndrew, Chair, FCT

Communications Received from 29th June 2022

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 - distributed –NNTD

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Emails – Many – Supermarket deliveries to IV53 8U.

Email – Julie Wileman – Policy and funding May/June 2022 – distributed

Email – Julie Wileman – Policy and funding July/August 2022 – distributed

Email – A Bone- Sorting out out to report Roads problems – on agenda

Email- Marc Buchanan – Alcohol Focus Scotland – Discussion about tool kit and attending a meeting – on agenda

Email – Hamish Fraser – Info on Redesign of SW Ross, Lochalsh and Skye health Services and scanner – on agenda

Email – C MacAndrew - FCT update

Email – Policy - Period Products Consultation – distributed

Email – Dot Ferguson – WSL online Roads meeting – distributed to CC

Email – Marc Buchanan – Alcohol Scotland Tool kit documentation – distributed.

Email – Becky Milne – Update on FLS work for visitors – distributed

Email – Julie Wileman – Engage Highland - "Have your say Highland" - consultation to seek views on the delivery of area-based funds – on agenda

Email – M Green - Foundation Scotland - Crown Estate Community Capacity Grants Programme – distributed

Email – Places for everyone – CC sign up – complete

Email – Julie Wilemann - EST community transport grant – distributed

Email – Dot Ferguson - CANCELLATION - WRS� CCs - roads meeting – distributed

Email – M MacRae – one new resident signing up – complete

Approved