

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 30th November 2022 @ 7.30pm

1 Formal opening of meeting at 7.38pm – Chair

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

Members of other organisations: Biz Campbell Highland Councillor

Members of Public: Paul Garner

Apologies: Mhairi Macrae

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 28th September 2022 meeting were approved by Neil and seconded by Kath.

3 Matters arising.

CC policy on communications from anonymous sources. The CC discussed this topic and all present concluded that the CC cannot deal with issues/topics raised by anonymous sources. The CC will follow Highland Council's example and ignore such items.

4 Treasurers Report

<u>Treasurers Report 30th Nov 2022</u>	
Opening Balance	£2,059.66
Expenditure	
Defibrillator Box	£50.00
Income	
Interest	£0.53
Closing Balance	£2,010.19
Unrepresented Cheques	
Hall Hire (unrepresented cheque 000182, 2019)	£40.00
Engraved Plaque	£26.99
Wreath	£34.18
Hall hire for 2022	£120.00
	£1,789.02

5 Local Items – Update and progress

5.1 Defibrillators

5.1.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

Scotrail have installed an isolator for defibrillator power on the building at Stromeferry Station. Lucky2BeHere are willing to supply a defibrillator once a donation of approx. £2,000.00 is received. Lucky2BeHere have suggested sourcing funds from organisations such as: - Scottish Salmon, SSE (Resilience fund) and also to set up a crowd funding page. The CC debated this

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approach of asking organisations for donations which was passed by a majority, with one abstention and one member opposing this approach. In the first instance the CC will approach the Scottish Salmon Company, Right Pharmacy and the CO-OP in Kyle.

Action: Mary on behalf of CC to approach organisations and ask for a donation.

Kath highlighted that we need to be doing annual fund raisers to have enough money set aside to buy new consumables e.g. pads and batteries etc as required so that the defibrillator/s are kept in a 'ready to use state'.

Action: Kath to organise events with other CC members in 2023 to raise funds.

5.1.2 Monthly checks and seals on Achmore Defibrillator box

The monthly checks are ongoing. In early October Martin reported that the Rescue Ready light was 4 quarters red. The battery was installed in June 2020 and should have lasted at least 4 years. Kath returned the battery to Lucky2BeHere who have given us a replacement one. The new lid Kath got for the box was replaced in September. The current pads are due for renewal in April 2023 and we will replace the blue gloves.

Action: Ongoing checks using the monthly rota.

5.1.3 Defibrillator Training.

The CC will send out an email to gauge the level of interest there is in Stromeferry and Achmore for Defibrillator training with a view to organising courses to take place early in 2023.

Action: Mary to email all to gauge level of interest in training.

5.2 Infrastructure - roads, verges and Ardnarff blocks.

5.2.1 Traffic Calming thru' the village:-

In the period from 8th August to 19th August the HC roads department measured the traffic flows through Achmore and a summation of the daily figures are set out below. During this period a total of 4827 vehicles were recorded.

- Southbound - there were 2573 vehicles recorded at an average speed of 21mph and a Vector Packet processor (Vpp) 85 (85% behavioural speed) of 26.8 mph. [1147 cars and 1022 bigger cars, vans made up most of the traffic.]
- Northbound - there were 2254 vehicles recorded at an average speed of 22 mph and a Vpp 85 (85% behavioural speed) of 27.1 mph. [1106 cars, and 947 bigger cars, vans made up most of the traffic]

In conclusion the data is saying that the average and the Vpp 85 speed is within the 30mph limit. Therefore the CC members all agreed that this topic is complete.

Completed

5.2.2 Cattle grid gates at Achmore end of Braeintra road

Andy Bone's team will replace the drop in side fences on the grids Achmore (nrA890) and Braeintra (Duncraig road/Braeintra junction)

Action: Mary will get an update.

5.2.3 Grass growing in the Fernaig Road cattle grid:-

The HC cleared the Fernaig cattle grid week beginning 21st November and all the tie down bolts were replaced.

Completed

5.2.4 Verges needing cut back

It was reported that the verges at the A890 and Achmore junction need cutting back to improve line of sight. Andy Bone updated the CC that the Highland Council only commit to cut one pass with the grass cutter/flail head, which is around 1.2m. Highland Council can cut up to 3m back from the edge of the road, as resources allow.

Completed

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5.2.5 Ardnarff Blocks

The blocks have been removed and a safety barrier has been installed. The old blocks are currently being 'stored' in the ditch across from the barriers. The roads team will remove the blocks as soon as they have the right equipment made available to them.

Action: Mary to get update on block removal.

5.2.6 Ward 5 Online roads meeting

Mhairi attended this meeting for our CC, and the notes produced by Julie Wileman (JW) will be sent out with the minutes. It was noted by a few Community Councils that it is important that Iain Moncrieff Road Operations department attends such meetings. Our Community Council pass on our thanks to Andy Bone and his team for the works they have undertaken in our area this year.

Action: Mary to distribute the JW notes with our minutes.

5.3 Path by the A890 between Strome ferry and Achmore

After a discussion with Mark Crowe the following was agreed:-

- Establish and document the level of community support for a path to connect 2 communities so that people can safely walk/ cycle to get from A to B rather than driving. The A890 is an extremely busy road with narrow verges that are difficult to walk on.
- Our HC ward's road person is Andy Bone. Andy, Mark and others as required (but not Donnie MacLeod who is Roads manager for Skye) would access the feasibility of a footpath along by the A890. Any path close to a busy main road needs to be safe and made pleasant to use.
- If there is strong community support for a path to connect the 2 communities then a discussion can be had with Mark who is willing to help put a project together - costings and specification.
- The Community group taking on this project would have to submit the claim to the funding bodies.

Mark also forwarded the CC some questions to include in our 'level of interest' survey and the CC compressed his 5 questions into the 3 below:-

1. Would you be supportive of a proposal to create a footway / cycleway link between the settlements of Achmore and Strome ferry and how often would you likely use it?
2. Do you currently walk /cycle between these two settlements and how often do you do so?
3. If you do not currently walk or cycle between Achmore & Strome ferry, what stops you from doing so?

This topic is currently a CC agenda item and the CC are working on the 'level of interest' survey therefore it is important that all CC members (whether acting as an individual or a CC member) keep the CC group informed of their communications on this topic to minimise duplication of effort and contact with HC departments. Once the 'level of interest' survey is complete and published the CC will hand over this topic for others to pursue

Action: Mary to email the 3 questions above to all residents to gauge level of support for a path.

All CC members to keep the group informed of their discussions on this topic while it is an active CC agenda item.

5.4 Food deliveries by Morrisons.

Morrisons started deliveries on the 30th October, parking in the square every Monday and Thursday from 17.00 to 19.00. The CC sought feedback from Morrisons and received the following update 'The service is running really well from our perspective. The van hasn't yet reached full capacity but the order volumes are good. The van holds a max order volume of 16. Morrisons perspective is we look at the weekly volume and have a target number of orders to make the service profitable for us. That number is 17 orders per week which is being

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achieved, so it's great news for us'. Our village weekly ordering number is about 21 orders out of a possible 32 per week.

The CC also asked Morrisons if there is anything more we can be doing to help them and they responded 'Our driver is very happy with the location and the customers, and said that everyone has been super friendly and really appreciative of the service'.

Thanks to all who have used the service so far and please spread the word so that we maintain this Morrisons service for our Community and surrounding area.

Completed

5.5 Stromeferry CC bench

The FLS team have asked that the CC bench in Strome Woods is relocated to a level area. Neil has now moved the bench and positioned it on the Strome Wood track beyond the parking area. Becky of FLS has agreed this location and FLS will endeavour to keep the trees down so there is a view.

Completed

5.6 Reported locked gate at Fernaig

A local resident reported that a gate at Fernaig was padlock to the Environment Department HC Portree. Mark Crowe contacted the CC to ask if the CC could provide landowner details. Mark's question was answered. The unknown local resident was asked to make themselves known to the landowner once Mark informed them of who owned the land or Gill as chair of CC. At time of the meeting the person was still unknown so the CC cannot pursue topics from anonymous sources.

Topic closed.

5.7 Storing Community Council documents

In 2023 members of previous and the current CCs need to get together and look through all the CC documents/information from 1992 and decide to keep, how to store it and manage a CC archive. The CC will ask our Ward manager if there is any way we could have some of the items digitally stored with the originals being held locally.

Action: Mary to organise in 2023.

5.8 Planning

No planning applications for our area.

5.9 AirdFerry and Lochalsh churches Warmth Banks

The CC has had communications from two sources regarding Warmth Banks this winter. The CC has contacted both groups and said that we are willing to cascade their information to all in Stromeferry and Achmore. The Poster from Aird Ferry has been circulated by email, put on WhatsApp and our local Face Book Page.

Completed

5.10 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The Lochalsh Collaboration met on the 14th November to discuss how to take projects forward after the successful launch on the 24th September in Dornie Hall. Jo Ford, SLCVO will represent our area at CCP and other meeting with national bodies such as NHS etc. Mary asked Jo to bring up the need for a CT scanner for Bradford Hospital and told the meeting that this request for a scanner has the support of all the Lochalsh and Skye CCs. The December newsletters are ready for distribution and on pages 2 & 3 there is information on how the Community Electric Minibus bus is being used and what locals have to do to organise their trips.

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

6.1 Highland Council

The Highland Council Rangers are finished for the season. The CC will write to the 'Ranger access' email address and pass on our thanks to them and state that we believe our area needs to have them return in 2023.

Action: Mary to write an email of thanks and ask to have our rangers back next year.

6.2 Funding Opportunities

Monthly lists have been distributed.

6.3 Forestry & Land Scotland

Again the CC wishes to pass on their thanks to Becky and her team for the work they have done in our area in particular in Strome woods and at the Strome view point. They really have organised these areas so that both visitors and locals can enjoy the views while picnicking.

6.4 Campaign for a CT scanner for Broadford hospital

Mary will email Hamish Fraser, Broadford and ask for an update.

6.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

There was an outage on the 11th November which resulted in some Strome residents having no water for approx. 24 hours and other areas experiencing low water pressure. The latest update from Scottish Water arrived after our CC meeting had started.

'As you know, the final stages of the project at Achmore have taken much longer than we expected or hoped. I understand that, most recently, resources were arranged to carry out the commissioning earlier this month but the work unfortunately had to be cancelled to enable colleagues to support the repair to a burst water main elsewhere in the area. I understand that our contractor was on site last week to make final preparations; and that resources are all arranged for final commissioning to be carried out a week today, Wednesday 7th December. All being well, this should mean the new infrastructure would be fully operational by the end of next week.

I can only apologise, once again, for the time the final stages have taken – and also for not getting this note to you in advance of your meeting.'

Action: Mary to get another update later this month.

7 Update from our Councillor

Biz told the meeting that the Highland Council (HC) Chief Executive Donna Manson has resigned and is moving to a post with Devon County Council. This is a difficult time for the HC to lose their CEO as there are a series of budget reduction meetings scheduled for the 1st Quarter 2023 with a view to reducing the annual budget by £40m. The HC is looking at how it can earn an income from its assets such as the Inverness Town hall which is to become a space which can be hired for events such as weddings.

8 AOB

Winter resilience

Action: Mary to find out the process to follow for 2023.

9 Calendar - reminders and topics to C/F.

Monthly Check Path Access at Strome ferry

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Defibrillator Checks using rota - Achmore
Defibrillator Fund Raising - Stromeferry
Culvert Stromeferry – between Meallan and Lochview
Locate Achmore bench
HC policy on Hogwort by the roadsides.

10 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 25th January 2023 at 7.30pm in Achmore Hall.

11 Close of Meeting

Meeting formally closed at 9.10pm

Updates for Other Community Groups

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons

Our AGM is on **Wednesday 7th December 7.30pm** in the hall. Everyone is welcome to join us...there may be mince pies and mulled wine!

100 Club winners: 1st Susan Waddell, 2nd Ellanne Fraser, 3rd Lizzie Bird

For the first time the hall was required to submit a **Child Protection Policy** as part of the application for a Public Entertainment Licence. This will be available to view on the hall noticeboard (inside the hall entrance) and a copy will need to be signed by any individual or group hiring the hall in future for an event where children are likely to be present.

The village Christmas party will be on **Friday 23rd December at 6pm**. There will be carols, music, food (bring a plate) and games and, of course, a visit by Santa. Everyone is most welcome.

The Bigfield Blues Band are hosting a dance in the hall on **Thursday 29th December 8.00pm**. The hall committee are organising a bar for hall funds. Everyone is welcome

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

Here is a brief summary of progress since the last update for the CC:-

All failed or partially damaged equipment on Creag Mhaol has been replaced. The Achmore high relay has had guy ropes fitted to prevent high winds degrading the signal to Ardaneaskan. With the exception of the link to the Glen all the equipment on Creag Mhaol now has backup devices installed which can be brought into use remotely. The Glen upgrade is pending space becoming available on the Achmore low relay when we upgrade to the link to Achmore Hall. We have amended our hosting agreement with the Achmore Hall to allow the current dish to be replaced with a slightly larger dish which will allow us to install the 60 GHz link. 60 GHz is not subject to false RADAR events and runs at much higher speeds than the current 5 GHz connection. This upgrade will be scheduled to take place after the December / January peak period to minimise disruption over the holidays.

Four out of the current batch of five new installations have been completed.

We exceeded usage of 9 Terabytes a month for the first time in October with a peak of 678 GB in one day (equivalent to ~ 21 TB per month).

The AGM took place in November - all the directors agreed to continue in their current positions. Subject to revision when tax is calculated we made a surplus of ~ £300 for the financial year ending August 2022.

There are a few subscribers' rebates left to dispatch - these are all waiting on subscribers correcting their monthly payments.

The Achmore Hall committee are reviewing the terms offered by CMNet for internet access in the hall.

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

Fernaig Community Trust - Colin MacAndrew, Lizzie Bird

The Fernaig Community Trust is holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM), 7.30 pm Tuesday 13th December 2022, Achmore Village Hall

Communication Received from 28th September 2022 till end of November 2022

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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
Emails – Many – Supermarket deliveries to IV53 8U.
Email – Julie Wileman – Policy and funding September/October/November 2022 – distributed
Email – Julie Wileman – Cost of Living Support - distributed
Email – A Bone- Sorting out to report Roads problems – 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- Julie Wileman – Ward 5 Roads meeting notes - distributed
Email – Jackie Parsons – Hall cheque to be resised
Email – Alan Gemmell – Removal from CC list – complete
Email – Angela Platt – Safeguarding & Community Partnership- Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Consultation events this Thursday
Email – Zurich Insurance – Firework insurance
Email- Angie, Laura Farr - Morrisons deliveries to Achmore - done
Email – S Barker – Query FCT contacts – done
Email – Roz Birch – Ranger Season End – agenda
Email – Policy 6 - Highland Council - 'Our Future Highland' survey – distributed
Email – Mark Crowe - Locked gate on public right of way in Fernaig – on agenda
Email – Mark Crowe - Community Council: Footpath Stromeferry and Achmore – on agenda
Email – Gavin Steel – Scottish Water - Update please for Stromeferry and Achmore – on agenda
Email – Neil MacRae – Stromeferry Bench – on agenda
Email – Lochalsh CC – Warmth Banks – on agenda
Email – Neil Ingall - Airdferry Winter Living Room - on agenda
Email – Angela Platts - SLWR Highland Cares Project Board – meeting 14 February 2023 13:30 – 15:00
Email – A Bone - Follow up on possible footpath Strome – Achmore
Email - G Steel - Scottish Water update – on agenda
Email – Mark Crowe – Strome – Achmore footpath- on agenda
Email – A Bone – Telemetric data for traffic thru Village – on agenda
Email - D Lupton – Treasurers report and other expenses. – on agenda
Email - Dot Ferguson – Confirmation of elected/Coopted CC members - complete