

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting –29th March 2023 @ 7.30pm

1 Formal opening of meeting at 7.30pm – Chair

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

Members of other organisations: Biz Campbell HC

Members of Public: No one

Apologies: Mhairi Macrae

2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 25th January 2023 meeting were approved by Ann and seconded by Dawn

3 Matters arising.

None

4 Treasurers Report

Treasurers Report 29th Mar 2023		
Opening Balance		£2,010.19
Expenditure		
	£	
Community Website, Host World	28.80	
	£	-
	£	-
Income		
Interest	£	-
	£	
Closing Balance	1,882.96	
Unrepresented Cheques		
Hall Hire 2022 Cancelled, £120	£	-
	£	
Hall Hire - to FEB 2022	170.00	
	£	
	1,712.96	

The annual fee of £29.95 for Spanglefish Gold has been paid by the secretary and she will be reimbursed in April.

5 Local Items – Update and progress

5.1 Defibrillators

5.1.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

Mary has got a contact number for the Scottish Salmon Fish which is now owned by Faroese salmon company Bakkafrost.

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

We need to be setting aside about £150 per year per defibrillator for new batteries, pads, box lids or anything else that is required such as payment for hall use and a donation for training. The defibrillators are for the benefit of the whole community and the CC wish to enlist the help of others to assist with the annual fundraising as we need approx. £300 per year for both defibrillators.

Action: All in the community to raise funds for the defibrillators. Kath will lead on the events the CC organise to raise funds. Members of the CC will post the need for community fund raising on the Community WhatsApp group.

5.1.2 Monthly checks and seals on Achmore Defibrillator box

The monthly checks are ongoing. The current pads are due for renewal in April/May 2023 and the blue gloves have been replaced.

Action: Ongoing checks using the monthly rota.

5.1.3 Defibrillator Training.

Gill has spoken to the Scottish Ambulance service about defibrillator training for our CC area.

Action: Mary to find out evenings that hall is pre-booked for meetings etc and assist Gill with setting up training sessions. Gill to liaise with Scottish Ambulance service.

5.2 Infrastructure - roads, verges and Ardnarff blocks.

5.2.1 Cattle grid gates at Achmore end of Braeintra road

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

Action: Mary will get an update.

5.2.2 Ardnarff Blocks

The blocks have been removed and a safety barrier has been installed. The old blocks have been removed so job done.

This is now complete.

5.2.3 Policy on Braeintra Road

The CC has received a couple of emails asking about the status of the Braeintra Road. Biz will pass the HC policy roads documents to Mary to scan to see what the policy is.

Action: Mary will contact A Bone and Biz as to what the winter weather policy is towards non main roads.

There was also a request to reduce light pollution In Achmore. Biz has responded saying that this is something that the council will look at next time the Achmore street lights are due for an upgrade, then this can be done. No dates given.

This is now closed.

5.3 Path by the A890 between Stromeferry and Achmore

The result of the CC's level of interest survey was forwarded to the Access Officer in Portree. Due to budget cuts he is having to take on more work but will work with us as best he can. Mark Crowe will meet with Andy Bone and discuss feasibility of a path by the A890. Once we get the feedback from this meeting the CC will hand over all the information

Minutes for Strome ferry and Achmore CC Meeting –29th March 2023 @ 7.30pm

they have gathered to the team who wish to pursue putting in a path between the communities of Achmore and Strome ferry.

Action: Mary to follow up and then hand over.

5.4 Community Benches – Achmore and Strome ferry

Marion Howat has emailed Becky at FLS to tell her the Strome CC bench has been blown over the bank. Kath will check this out.

Action: Kath will follow up on this topic.

Now spring is in the air 'Bill's bench' can be located by the Achmore / A890 cattle grid. The previous bench at this location is now at the Achmore bus stop.

Action: Mary

5.5 Storing Community Council documents

Lizzie Bird has located a 4 drawer filing cabinet; Jackie Parson Hall Chair has allocated a slot for the cabinet in one of the storage areas in the hall. Lizzie is getting the locking mechanism of the cabinet sorted and she will organise the move of the drawer unit to the hall.

Action: Mary to continue to organise with all concerned.

5.6 Strome ferry and Achmore Website and Minutes.

The annual fee for Spanglefish (Gold), domain name and security costs is £82.75 per year.

There are the 3 bits to the web software

Annual fee (Gold status) due in March is £29.95

Domain name £24 due in April

Security £24 + £4.80 (vat) = £28.80 due in January.

For the last three years the CC has paid the £82.75p per year and prior to that the Fernaig Trust paid £52.80p per year for the Domain name and the Security aspects. The SpangleFish element was free but once all the allocated mbs for storage with the free version was utilised we had to pay for Gold standard to be able to store more documentation. The CC discussed asking the other groups who use the website to contribute to the annual cost of £82.75. The CC secretary is willing to act as the point of contact with Hostworld.

Action: Mary to contact the chairs of the FCT, CMNet, and the Hall and seek their input on how to pay for the website software.

5.7 Planning

No planning applications for our area.

5.8 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The funding for our Lochalsh Development officer finishes at the end of March and the KLCT were not successful in sourcing more funds from the scheme that closed in March 2023. There is another round of funding for this type of opportunities that will come on stream in September. The KLCT are working with Scottish Government Community groups to see what can be done to extend Susan Walker's role for a few more months.

Mick Doyle of Community Development Scotland chaired a meeting of the Lochalsh Collaboration in the Balmacara Hotel on the 10th March to discuss how the group will go forward, what projects to focus on and how if any funds can be acquired. The meeting was well attended with most of the CCs sending a representative, plus some of the Community Development Trusts sending members. Jo Ford from SLCVO was unable to get to Balmacara but appeared by Zoom which was good as Jo is a major link for our communities to the 3rd sector and governmental bodies. Susan Walker got a well deserved round of applause for all the work she has done for Lochalsh over the last 3 years and in particular her efforts to support the area during COVID times.

Action: Mary will continue to keep up with happenings for the Lochalsh Collaboration.

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting –29th March 2023 @ 7.30pm

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

6.1 Highland Council

Eradicating ragwort: This topic generated quite a lot of exchanges but no definite ruling on Ragwort in public locations and on road verges. It is up to the users of fields to remove ragwort.

This topic is now closed

6.2 Funding Opportunities

Monthly lists have been distributed. Biz printed the funding opportunities for April and passed it on at the meeting. Mary told Biz that the CC get electronic copies and they are distributed to all CC members.

6.3 Forestry & Land Scotland

Removal of old caravan dumped in lay-by off the A890 between Viewpoint and Ardnraff is being attended to by Becky Mine FLS.

The CC has been provided with an update on the diseased trees and it now no longer requires clear felling. The diseased trees will be felled and removed as necessary.

Action: Becky to get caravan moved and keep Gill in the loop.

6.4 NHS & Campaign for a CT scanner for Broadford hospital

The CC discussed the lack of dentistry services in Lochalsh and decided that our CC should write to the NHS area manager expressing our concerns and asking for a resolution.

Mary will write to NHS area manager.

6.5 Utilities - Scottish Water & SEPA

SEPA send out a customer survey which had to be completed by the 17th March. Mary and Gill met and completed as best we could.

This is now complete.

7 Update from our Councillor

The HC have had to make savings for the 2023/2024 budget. Biz attended the HC Ward 5 roads meeting on Monday 27th March. There is some money available to fix some of the roads in our Ward, and work has started to resurface the section of the A890 between Achnasheen and Achnashellach.

8 AOB

Nothing this month

9 Calendar - reminders and topics to C/F.

Monthly Check Path Access at Stromeferry

Defibrillator Checks using rota - Achmore

Culvert Stromeferry – between Meallan and Lochview

Locate Achmore bench

CC funds received from HC

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting –29th March 2023 @ 7.30pm

10 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 26th April 2023 at 7.30pm in Achmore Hall. Our May meeting will be our AGM followed by regular monthly meeting.

11 Close of Meeting

Meeting formally closed at 8.30pm

Updates for Other Community Groups

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons

A big thank you to all who came out to support the Quiz Night. A great night was had by all and it raised around £380 for hall funds. The hall has recently become aware of funding to improve community buildings and thus reduce escalating energy bills through: [Let's Do Net Zero Community Buildings Fund · Local Energy Scotland](#) Breakish hall recently got funding for solar panels. The hall will be seeking advice on what improvements could be made to our building to benefit from this fund. Following a visit by some of the committee to the hugely successful Repair Cafe Cairngorms, the hall are planning their own repair cafe taster day to gauge support for hosting a similar project here. Broadly the project is to have volunteer repairers to help fix small items with cafe facilities available while you wait. For more information contact Jackie: jackiemarigold@gmail.com Work has been underway to spruce up the interior of the hall and painting work is planned this summer to repaint the exterior. The hall committee would like any suggestions regarding the holding of events in the hall: types of events and whether community members have a preferred time of day/week when events are held. If you want to contact the hall either email Jackie (address above) or leave a note inside the black letterbox outside the hall. Any suggestions would be most welcome.

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

We have been granted a 60 GHz license by Ofcom and will upgrade the Achmore Hall to Creag Mhaol link in due course. All of the current batch of new installations have been completed but two have issues that as yet have not been resolved. One additional new connections is waiting to be scheduled. We are working on the details of the Hall installation with The Achmore Hall committee. All the New Joiner's Premium rebates have now been distributed. We have purchased a laptop to be used for support and upgrades for access points and subscribers antennas. Delivery of some equipment is being delayed due to a shortage at the suppliers. See our website for more details:- www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

Fernaig Community Trust - Colin MacAndrew, Lizzie Bird

Communication Received from 25th January till 29th March 2023.

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
Email – Julie Wileman – Policy and funding January 2023 – distributed
Email – Mark Crowe - Community Council: Footpath Stromeferry and Achmore – on agenda
Email – Mark Crowe/Lizzie Bird/Colin Parsons - Contact required for path at
Email – Eilidh Muncro - Hamish Macbus - Community Shopping Trips – on agenda
Email – Host World : Information about SpangleFish software – distributed
Email – Scottish Community Council – Websites for Rural and Islands Community Councils - on agenda
Email – HostWorld - Invoice 1587 from Hostworld Internet Limited, t/a Calico UK – complete
Email – Kate Stuart - Enquiry from Stromeferry & Achmore website - 07 March 2023 08:39 12627
Email – Kirsty Calico support - 06/03/2023, 11:51 We will be renewing your Spanglefish domain stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk

Minutes for Strome ferry and Achmore CC Meeting –29th March 2023 @ 7.30pm

Email- Payment SpangleFish - 06/03/2023, 11:36 Strome ferry & Achmore - Spanglefish Gold Reminder – on agenda
Email – Peter Finnie – Sepa - SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey – on agenda
Email - Lizzie/Mary/Jackie – Space for filing cabinet in hall – on agenda
Email - Kate Forbes’ office - (Case Ref: KF5729) removal of Ardnarff barriers
Email _ A plats _ HC - SLWR Highland Cares Update – distributed
Email – Highland Cares - Community Council: Highland Cares Community Training diary – distributed
Email – Julie Wrightman - The meeting will be held virtually from 7pm to 9.00pm on Monday 27th March 2023 – on agenda
Email – Chris Marcsh – FLS - - Forestry update – distributed
Email – Information Commissioner - Data Protection fee - Reminder to renew ICO:00012560008 – on agenda
Email – Julie Wileman - Community Council: Outreach Pilot – Gairloch - distributed
Email - Biz Campbell – HC - Kyle Dentist Closure – distributed
Email – Highland cares - Kyle Dentist Closure – distributed
Email - Zurich Insurance - Coronation of King Charles III on 06th May 2023 – complete

Approved