

# Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 31th May 2023 @ 8.00pm

## 1 Formal opening of meeting at 8.00 pm – 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: Paul Garner

Apologies: Mhairi Macrae

## 2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 meeting were approved by Dawn and seconded by Kath.

## 3 Matters arising.

None

## 4 Treasurers Report

Opening balance as at 1st April 2022 **£3,231.42**

Expenditure £ 1,770.33

Income £ 425.97

Closing balance as at 31<sup>th</sup> March 2023 **£1,887.06**

The Income of £425.97 consists of Highland Council Grant of £417.97 + £8 interest.

The Expenditure of £1,770.33 consist of Secretary Expenses for 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022 is £750.00, Insurance for £84, ICO annual Fee - £35, Hall Hire - £40, Account Audit - £25, Software from SpangleFish/Calico/Now Host World - £111.55.

Replacement Defibrillator door - £50, Wreath - £34.18, Plaque for bench - £26.99, Bench - £259.

HC Grant paid in error to CC paid to Hall - £345.61.

It was noted that the HC grant of £417.25 is not sufficient to support the activities of the CC.

## Local Items – Update and progress

### 4.1 Defibrillators

#### 4.1.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

Mary has spoken to the local manager for Bakkafrost to ask for funding for the Stromeferry defibrillator. Other suggestions were made at the meeting to contact Morrisons, Tesco and MOWI. This has been noted.

Action: Mary on behalf of CC to get an update from Bakkafrost.

The defibrillators are for the benefit of the whole community, so the CC have decided to look into setting up a Stromeferry and Achmore CC Funding raising page to accept donations from everyone in our CC area and out with. These monies will be used to pay for the upkeep of the 2 defibrillator. This will be discussed further in our June meeting. This method of raising funds is necessary as the CC does not have the money to pay for the equipment needed to keep the defibrillators working.

Action: Kath and Dawn to check out how to set up a funding page to get money for the upkeep of the defibrillators.

#### 4.1.2 Monthly checks and seals on Achmore Defibrillator box

The monthly checks are ongoing. The current pads were due for renewal in May 2023. Lucky2BeHere are awaiting a new batch of pads to be delivered and as soon as they get them Kath will get pads for the Achmore defibrillator.

Action: Ongoing checks using the monthly rota.

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### **4.1.3 Defibrillator Training.**

The defibrillator training is now being delivered by Lucky2BeHere, Skye team. There are a few groups in the queue as mentioned in the email exchange with Lucky2beHere dated 13 April 2023. Mary has forwarded this email exchange to Kath so when she picks up the defibrillator pads she can ask about the Stromeferry and Achmore training, using the email of the 13<sup>th</sup> April as our reference.

**Action: Mary to find out evenings that hall is pre-booked for meetings etc and assists with setting up training sessions. Mary & Kath to communicate with Lucky2BeHere.**

## **4.2 Infrastructure - roads, verges and Ardnarff blocks.**

### **4.2.1 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.**

## **4.3 Path by the A890 between Stromeferry and Achmore**

Three people have expressed interest in pursuing this project. Mary will contact them and pass on the survey data without the householder personal details. The information will be tagged as household and a number.

**Action: Mary to contact the interested parties and pass on the 'redacted' information from the survey.**

## **4.4 Community Benches – Achmore and Stromeferry**

The Strome bench has been rescued and put back in situ – thanks to Neil Connolly. At the meeting Neil (MacRae) volunteered to fix the bench down and Mary will look for some appropriate materials.

**Action: Neil & Mary to fix bench to prevent it being blown away.**

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 in the Achmore bus stop.

**Action: Mary**

### **4.4.1 Request to place a plaque on the Fernaig Shore picnic bench.**

The Stromeferry and Achmore CC have had a request from a family (who visited this area many times) if they could attach a plaque in memory of a beloved family member on the Fernaig shore picnic bench. After much discussion we concluded that the Fernaig Shore picnic bench is not suitable for attaching plaques too, as the benches do not have an upright back with a vertical surface, and we all agreed we do not want plaques on the horizontal surfaces. Some present also felt that it should only be residents of the CC area that should have plaque put on the CC benches. Others felt it was appropriate to receive a donation in return for hosting a plaque. These topics were not conclusively concluded but are worth noting.

**Action: Mary to contact family with our decision.**

## **4.5 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. This activity is ongoing.

**Action: Mary to continue to organise with all concerned.**

## **4.6 Stromeferry and Achmore Website and Minutes.**

Now that the annual cost is £92.75p the CC does not have the funds to continue to pay all the software fee so Mary will contact the others groups who use the website to ask for their help/input on what to do.

**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.**

## 4.7 Planning

No planning applications for our area.

## 4.8 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

Susan Walker the Lochalsh Collaboration Development officer has had her term extended till later in the year, working two days a week rather than four days. Most of the Community funding this year was allocated to elevate poverty in the urban areas of Scotland with the rural areas receiving little or no funding. The next Collaboration meeting is by Zoom on the 19<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm. Mary will attend.

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

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

### 5.1 Highland Council

We received documentation about a new method of developing Highland Plans and a survey to complete. As the Lochalsh Collaboration has just completed a plan for our area we forwarded the documentation to them.

Closed.

### 5.2 Funding Opportunities

Monthly lists have been distributed.

### 5.3 Forestry & Land Scotland

The CC got the following update from FLS:-

- We are facilitating a Stay the Night scheme for the Stromeferry viewpoint, as last year but we are charging £7 per night, to be collected by an app called Ringo.
- We have had difficulties in finding a local ranger, two candidates backed out due to being unable to find housing. We are hoping to find a ranger who lives locally.
- The area is being covered sparsely on a rota by Inverness-based rangers for now.

### 5.4 NHS & Campaign for a CT scanner for Broadford hospital

Mary received a response from Pamela Cremin on 19<sup>th</sup> April:-

'Thank you for your email enquiry regarding dental services in the Lochalsh area, I can provide the following update accordingly: I'm afraid that recruitment has not been successful for a full-time Public Dental Service (PDS) dentist working between Kyle of Lochalsh Health Centre and Dunvegan Health Centre. No applications were received for this post when we tried to recruit to it recently. However, NHS Highland are currently advertising for a full-time Dental Therapist post, to work between Kyle of Lochalsh and Dunvegan Health Centres. We are hopeful that this post may attract some interest, to maintain dental services in the area. Dental workforce will be reviewed for the area, following Dental Therapist recruitment exercise being completed and future workforce requirements identified.

Work is progressing, led by NHS Highland Estates colleagues, to add an additional surgery (4<sup>th</sup> Surgery) for the Portree Dental Care Practice, to increase capacity.

There continues to be a Scotland wide shortage of NHS Dentists which has significantly reduced access to NHS dental services in many Health Board areas. Within NHS Highland many Practices have been unable to recruit to vacancies for Dentists and this issue has intensified post COVID. Only one Dental Practice in the Highland HSCP area is currently accepting new adult patients for registration; there are limited and intermittent opportunities for children to be registered.

I do appreciate your concerns about NHS dental services and that this is an essential service for the Community. NHS Highland continues to monitor availability of NHS dental care, and utilise available means to improve access to NHS dental care. Many factors impacting on Dentist workforce availability are out with the direct control of NHS Highland and are influenced by the Scottish Government and UK Government. It is very welcome that the Scottish Government has implemented a review of NHS dental

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services and are planning wide reform of NHS dental services currently, with the first reform stage planned to be implemented by the beginning of November.'

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May Mary emailed and asked for a further update on the dentistry situation plus an update on the progress of obtaining a scanner in Broadford hospital. Awaiting to response to this email.

Action: Mary to continue getting updates.

### **5.5 Utilities - Scottish Water & SEPA**

The highest households in Strome have been experiencing loss of mains pressure. This has been reported to the local Scottish Water team who have been responding by tuning the newly installed pump. If householders want/need the CC to get involved, the CC will communicate with Gavin Steel once more on their behalf.

Action: Mary to keep in touch with households who are experiencing problems with mains pressure.

### **6 Update from our Councillor**

Some of Biz's updates are covered in the Lochalsh Collaboration section. It is worth mentioning that Biz has been reminding the HC of the need to do something about the A890 Stromeferry Bypass.

### **7 AOB**

Community Council elections.

This is the year for the full election when all 156 Highland Community Councils are up for re-election. The process will begin in early September, concluding in November. HC will be promoting the elections widely (starting in a few weeks). All agreed that the CC would benefit from new members of the Community joining the new CC in the autumn.

### **8 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

### **9 Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm in Achmore Hall. No meeting in July.

### **10 Close of Meeting**

Meeting formally closed at 8.53pm

## **Updates for Other Community Groups**

### **Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall - Jackie Parsons**

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

The last of the current batch of installations is scheduled to be installed in the next few days.

The Achmore Hall to Creag Mhaol link will then be upgraded to 60 GHz.

We are working on the details of the Hall installation with The Achmore Hall committee

After several month's delay we have finally started to receive the equipment we ordered last August. When the last delivery arrives we will start a program to upgrade the access points on Creag Mhaol which will then allow subscribers antennas to be upgraded to the latest standards to boost any weak signals.

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)

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### **Fernaig Community Trust - Colin MacAndrew, Lizzie Bird**

#### **Communication Received from 1<sup>st</sup> April till 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.**

On Agenda – these items will be discussed in the meeting not in this section. NNTD – no need to discuss

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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\_ A Stuart – Hall prices increase – on agenda  
Email \_ Biz Campbell – Street lighting in Achmore - Complete  
Email – Mark Crowe/Lizzie Bird/Colin Parsons - Contact required for path at  
Email – Host World : Information about SpangleFish software – distributed  
Email – HostWorld - Invoice 1587 from Hostworld Internet Limited, t/a Calico UK – complete  
Email - Lizzie – Space for filing cabinet in hall – on agenda  
Email \_ A plats \_ HC - SLWR Highland Cares Update – distributed  
Email – Highland Cares - Community Council: Highland Cares Community Training diary – distributed  
Email – Chris Marsh – Permission to pass on his emails - complete  
Email – Information Commissioner - Data Protection fee - Reminder to renew ICO:00012560008 – on agenda  
Email – Dev Plans - Development Plans Newsletter & Participation Statement Survey – on agenda  
Email- SpangleFish – Price upgrade for SpangleFish Gold - on agenda  
Email – Policy - Port of Nigg Open Day - Saturday 24th June 2023  
Email - Pamela Cremin – Update on dentistry in Lochalsh – on agenda  
Email – Chris Marsh – Permission to forward his emails to cc - done  
Email –Plaque on Fernaig Shore bench – on agenda  
Email - Dot Ferguson – Information on CC elections