

**ACHMORE AND STROME FERRY PATHS GROUP – NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 09/02/2024**

**Present – Colin Parsons, Iseabail Howat, Mary MacBeth, Kate Biss, Rory Biss, Chris Cartwright, Marion Howat, Nic Bullivant**

**Apologies – Mhairi Macrae, Katherine Smith**

<b>PREVIOUS MINUTE AND ACTIONS ARISING</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS/UPDATES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>DATE</b>
1. Previous Minute		Approved with amendments.		
2. Guest - Nic Bullivant	The group welcomed Nic to the meeting. See attachment for summary of Nic's interesting and helpful input.			
<b>3. AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>TARGET DATE</b>
1. Formalise Chair, Secretary, Constitution, Status of Group	<p><b>i) No other nominations so CP and IH will be Chair and Secretary</b></p> <p><b>ii) Status</b> Discussed the recent changes to the Fernaig Community Trust (FCT). There are now 3 footpath group members on the FCT. The Paths Group would like to become a subgroup of the FCT for several reasons without creating any additional work for the FCT Board. Reasons included –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People resource is limited in our small community so it would appear to make sense to maximise this resource in existing groups where possible without creating new formal groups if this is not needed.</li> <li>• Fit to FCT objectives for the wider community.</li> </ul> <p><b>iii) Constitution</b> CP said he had knowledge of informal group constitutions and would be willing to draft a constitution document for the Paths Group based on this. There was some discussion about whether this was necessary until the outcome of the next FCT meeting is known on subgroup status. It was agreed it would be helpful for CP to draft this as it would be helpful to have one on the shelf in event, we do need one.</p>	<p><b>i) Completed</b></p> <p><b>ii) Maintain dialogue with the FCT.</b></p> <p><b>iii) Draft constitution</b></p>	<p>CP, CC and KB</p> <p>CP</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Initial feedback next meeting</p>

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	<p><b>iv) Stakeholder Map</b> The need to have this was discussed at the previous meeting (08/11/2023) to facilitate effective communication with relevant people and groups.</p>	<p><b>iv) Start developing</b></p>	IH	Next Meeting
2. Achmore/Strome Routes	<p><b>i) Road</b> IH has emailed Malcolm MacLeod (Exec Chief Officer, Highland Regional Council, Infrastructure, Environment, and the Economy) asking for a feasibility study and exploration of other options discussed at last meeting (09/11/2023)</p> <p><b>ii) Hill Route</b> CP has updated the landowner who is supportive.</p> <p><b>iii) Contact Countryside Ranger and Access Officer</b> Following Nic’s input and discussion it was agreed it would be helpful to contact our Countryside Ranger and Access Officer (Stewart Eastaugh) and invite him to a future meeting to get the benefit of his knowledge and experience including learning from other groups, potential grant sources, etc. It was felt it would be helpful if we could send a list of questions to Stewart to consider before he comes along.</p>	<p><b>i) Response awaited. To be chased up before next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>ii) Draw up questions and invite Stewart</b></p> <p><b>iii) Invite Stewart</b></p>	<p>IH</p> <p>All members - please email IH with any questions they would like included. IH</p>	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Before next meeting</p>
3. Strome Woods Paths	<p><b>i) Review of Forestry Commission and FCT Concordat for South Strome Woods.</b> A meeting has now been set to begin this in March. One of the attendees will be the Regional Manager for the North (Alex MacLeod). The Strome wood paths and other routes in the forest will be discussed. It was noted the top Strome Wood path has core path designation. Insurance for volunteers to be raised if appropriate at the review meeting.</p>	<p><b>i) CP and CC will be at the review meeting.</b></p> <p><b>ii) Feedback from initial review meeting.</b></p>		Next meeting

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4. Portchullin to Strome old route	i) CP advised this would require significant work to reinstate and need grant aided funding. It remains a desire but not priority. Nic plans to do the walk to establish the state of it.	i) Hold on agenda		Rolling item
5. Footpath Focus Group (FFG) feedback (including bike trails).	Nic attended and discussed the FFG and the work he is doing for them (summary attached).			
6. Rights of Way	i) Potential sources of funding for small projects. IH has drafted a list of 12 potential funding sources. This is not an exhaustive list. One source is called Sustrans Scotland which Community Councils can apply for. There was not time to discuss this further at the meeting. IH said the crofters at Portchullin will fix the gate behind the dairy properly when the weather improves.  iii) Identifying existing sources of signage such as sign posting paths and explaining when paths crossed common grazing, what this was with right to roam responsibilities explained was agreed. Signage was discussed at 5 but no time to feedback on existing signage used elsewhere so carry forward to next meeting.	Agenda for discussion at next meeting.  iii) Create list/ look at examples.	IH  CP	Next meeting  Next meeting
7. Fernaig Route		Completed		
8. Strome Beach Track	i) There is a new contact for the landowners. We will write to advise volunteers plan to clear the route in case the owners are not happy with this.	i) Contact owners.	IH	Next meeting
9. Sulky Road and other forest roads	i) Another possible volunteer project that would need discussed beforehand with FLC.	i) Hold on agenda		Rolling item
10. Paying hall fees	i) Rather than all chipping in at each meeting we agreed that a different person each meeting would pay the Hall Committee Treasurer (Mhairi Macrae) either in cash or by bank transfer. IH, Mary M and CP will arrange payments for the first three weeks with CC next.	i) Payment to be made after each meeting to Hall Treasurer.	By the designated member	Every meeting
11. Date of next meeting	20/03/2024 – 7pm – Achmore Hall			