Present – Colin Parsons, Chris Cartwright, Marion Howat, Claudia Weegan, Mhairi Macrae Apologies – Mary Macbeth, Kath Smith, Iseabail Howat, Kate Biss, Rory Biss

PREVIOUS MINUTE AND	AMENDMENTS/UPDATES	COMPLETED	WHO	DATE
ACTIONS			X	
ARISING				
1. Previous Minute		Approved		
3. AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	TARGET DATE
Action points from last				
meeting - <u>3.1.ii)</u>	3.1.ii) Update from Fernaig Community Trust. FCT members			
	See email from CP sent out at 20/03/2024 for update on FCT meeting			
	with Forrest and Land Scotland (FLS)			
	Meeting was last week with Alex MacLeod, Regional Manager for north			
	Scotland, Mike Beveridge and Becky Milne local Foresters, and their			
	Land Agent, Mr Ruairidh Maclennan. FLS are happy for FCT and Local			
	Community to help with Footpath Maintenance but would want alerted			
	in advance to any planned voluntary activity. CC suggested that if there			
	was a planned activity to maintain paths, we should prepare a Risk			
	Assessment for volunteers to read first. We were not sure if insurance			
	would be required for such activity. Probably not, going by Scotways			
	Guidance on right of way paths maintenance and from what Nic			
	Boulivant's input to the last meeting was. Alex Macleod re-iterated this			
	at the meeting with FCT, saying that if a walker trips on say, a tree root while out walking, the owner of the land would not be held responsible			
	for injury, while, if someone injured themselves on a broken gate or			
	stile, the owner could be held responsible.			
	stile, the owner could be field responsible.			
	He also said it would not be impossible for volunteers to use machinery			
	(e.g. chainsaws) for path maintenance activity if they held a chainsaw			
	ticket and insurance had been organised in advance. It was also noted			
	at this meeting that neither Highland Council nor FLS would be			
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3.1.ii) cont.	employing seasonal rangers this year to manage tourist activity. This will now have to be covered by existing staff.	. 1		
	The existing Concordat between FCT and FLS is to be updated and as we	On-going	FCT Board	Relevant FCT
	are all members of FCT we will be alerted to progress on this.	updates	members on the Paths Group and via FCT online minutes	updates to become standing agenda item.
3.1.iii)	3.1.iii) Update on Draft Constitution - CP.			
	CP has looked at others. It was decided to put this on hold for the time being though as we don't know whether we'll need one and if so, what			
	it might need to include for specific purposes.			
3.1.iv)	3.1.iv) Stakeholder Map – IH.			
	List of Stakeholders shared with the Group. It was agreed this covers	Completed		
	what we need just now and can be up-dated as needed.			
2. Achmore/Strome Routes <u>3.2.i)</u>	3.2.i) Road Update – IH			
<u> </u>	IH has emailed Highland Council again but has had no response so far.	Chase up	IH	Next Meeting
	M M asked if both potential routes were still being considered and CP	again		
	said yes. Ideally both would eventually come to fruition. Path over the			
	hill was more achievable but would need signage (see below) and a new gate at the Achmore end of the Path near the cattle grid.			
	Sate at the Administration of the Fath fleat the Cattle grid.			
3.2.ii)	3.2.ii) Countryside Ranger and Access Officer – invite. IH			

ACHMORE AND STROMEFERRY PATHS GROUP – NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20/03/2024.

	Stewart Eastaugh can attend the next meeting on 17 th April.	Completed	
3. Strome Woods Paths	3.3.i) Review of Forestry Commission and FCT Concordat for South	NX	
3.3.i)	Strome Woods.		
	See action point 3.1.ii)	\ \\\\'	
4. Portchullin to Strome	No change	i) Hold on	Rolling item
old route <u>4.i)</u>		agenda	
5. Rights of Way <u>6.i)</u>	6.i) Create List of Potential Sources of Funding - IH		
	CP referred to the list IH has produced listing the range of potential	Discussion	Next meeting
	funding sources from small local ones (£50) to much larger ones. It was	with Access	
	suggested we discuss sources of potential funding with Stewart	Officer	
	Eastaugh.		
	ii) Signage – CP		
	We agreed that signage would be needed at both ends of the Strome to		
	Achmore path over the hill. Organising signs and a new gate would be a	Discussion	Next meeting
	good start to getting this path re-instated. These signs could include	with Access	
	text from the Outdoor Access Code stating walkers were responsible for	Officer	
	their own safety on the track. All planned signs would be shown to the		
	landowner for their approval prior to being made up and we would also		
	update landowner on liability and what they would and wouldn't be		
	liable for in case of injury (i.e. only liable for any injury due to broken		
	gates and stiles for example). Nic (Bullivant Kyle and Lochalsh		
	Community Trust & ex Countryside Ranger) had stated he had never		
	come across any claims for injury on Rights of Way in his career so far		
	and expected them to be extremely rare.		

ACHMORE AND STROMEFERRY PATHS GROUP – NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20/03/2024.

6. Strome Beach Track –	8.i) Write to new contact for the landowners.			
<u>8.i)</u>				
	IH has written explaining volunteers would like to tidy this up if they	i) Reply	1H	Update at
	have no objections.	awaited.	X	next meeting
7. Sulky Road and other forest roads	i) Another possible volunteer project that would need discussed beforehand with FLC. It was noted that before we set up any volunteer activity, we would need to liaise with FLS first to alert them to planned activity and see what they would want us to have in place first.	i) Hold on agenda		Rolling item
8. Hall fees	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.	i) Payment to be made after each meeting to Hall Treasurer.	M Macrae for this meeting.	Every meeting
Date of next meeting	17/04/2024 – 7pm – Achmore Hall			