

Chairs Report Covering Period March to June 2024

After a somewhat hesitant start we had our first meeting on the 27th of March where we formally elected Office Bearers.

Chair - Joe Grimson.

Secretary - Mhairi Macrae.

Treasurer - Dawn Lupton.

To share the load equally it was decided to split the Secretaries role into three parts.

Communications - Mhairi, Website - John, Minutes - shared by Lynn and Josie.

At this point I would like to thank the previous Council for the splendid job they did for the community over the past few years. Even at this early point in the life of the new council I am beginning to realise what a difficult job it is going to be.

The issues with the Stromeferry water supply remains an on going problem. The latest "fix" from Scottish Water is to connect the low pressure sensors to both pumps so that in the event of low pressure both pumps would cut in and solve the problem.

Mhairi has also been in contact with Scottish Water about the smell and discharge from the Achmore sewage system and various other private systems along the Fernaig road.

The Council continues to liaise with the Lochalsh Collaboration and to date I have attended two meetings, one live chaired by Kate Forbes and one online. The meetings are a good way to see what others in our area are doing and if we may pick up on ideas that could benefit our community.

In March we distributed a Housing Survey on behalf of the Skye and Lochalsh Housing Association. The survey wasn't very well worded and some people thought that the questions weren't relevant to them.

At a request from the Housing Association the deadline was extended but I think they found the results disappointing.

Loch Long Salmon and Simply Blue approached the council requesting a meeting with the council to give a presentation on the possible siting of a fish

farm in Loch Carron. We gave them a date but they have since cancelled saying that they are not yet ready.

I would like to thank Claudia for taking on responsibility for the Defibrillator Rota. The new rota is in place and a What's App group has been set up to keep check on the monthly and weekly checks.

The fitting of the Strome ferry Defibrillator is still ongoing and we are currently awaiting to hear from Scot Rail who have said that will install and maintain it when financing is available. We had decided to wait until August and if nothing is forthcoming from Scot Rail we will pursue other options.

The Draft Local Place Plan was issued in May and circulated and placed on the website. It is fair to say that this has caused a fair amount of consternation in certain areas. After assessing all the comments from the community Mhairi and I had a very productive 90 minute Zoom meeting with Nick Wright, author of the plan. We discussed all of the issues received by the council and other issues raised directly with Nick by individuals. The Place Plan will be updated and re-issued and over the next couple of months it will be refined before we submit it to Highland Council for registration in September.

In mid June we circulated the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Service Review to enable the community to put forward their comments on the issues raised in the document.

On the 17th of June I had a Zoom meeting with Meg Taintor of Community Land Scotland. The meeting was held after a member of the community had requested information on how to "Register an Interest to Buy" in relation to the Old Marconi Site in Strome ferry.

Meg was very helpful and produced lots of information on the way forward.

In conclusion I would like to thank Mary and Gill for the Chair Report covering their period of office and to my fellow councillors, thank you all for your efforts on behalf of the community

Joe Grimson

Chair Strome ferry and Achmore Community Council

