

1 Formal opening of meeting – Chair

Present: Gill Harrington (Chair), Dawn Lupton, Mhairi Macrae, Mary MacBeth, Kath Smith
Members of other organisations: Biz Campbell HC Councillor

Members of Public: Paul

2 Apologies.

Apologies: Neil MacRae

3 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 28th October 2021 meeting were approved by Mhairi and seconded by Dawn.

4 CC Constitution and protocols and agenda reorganisation.

This was our first 'in person' meeting that we have had since February 2020 and the first time that this current CC team have met. Gill took this opportunity to clarify some points around the Community Council Scheme guidelines and the CC constitution. Our Ward Manager clarified that anyone can attend a CC meeting. The CC is a meeting held in public, not a public meeting. Therefore members of the public attending would not take part in any of the discussion unless invited to do so by the Chairman - often a Q and A session held after a particular topic or just at the end of the meeting. For our meeting to be quorate we need 4 CC members to be present. Post COVID lockdown more funding opportunities are being sent to the CC, so it will be the CC policy to cascade the information we receive about funding opportunities to other groups, but the CC will not obtain funds for other groups, as the CC cannot hold assets. All issues that residents want the CC to take up on their behalf must be sent to the secretary by email so that we have a written record, where the person is not on email then the CC member will report the issue/topic by email to the CC group. The CC will not discuss or try and resolve any issues that are raised where the source wishes to remain anonymous. All of our discussions/issues will be concluded by a majority agreement.

Clarification on 'Matters arising from previous meeting'. This section should really be used only to cover actions or any outstanding issues recorded in the previous Minute. Most of the issues our CC deals with end up taking a few meetings to progress to a conclusion and therefore are included on our meeting agenda and dealt with during our meeting.

The CC agenda has been reorganised so that the list of communications received is located at the end of the agenda. The first section deals with the standard meeting protocols, and then we deal with our CC area's issues, Lochalsh area and Planning. And the final section is an update from our Councillor plus feedback from regional/national bodies.

5 Treasurer's report

Opening balance as at 27th October 2021 £3,808.56

Expenditure Picnic bench for shore - £653.57

Income – nil

Closing balance as at 24th November 2021 £3,154.99.

A Cheque for £279.00 was issued for the expenses claim submitted by Mary for the Strome ferry high backed 3 seater bench.

Our CC is quite often asked for money to support local initiatives. We discussed this and concluded that the CC funds received from the Highland Council should be used for items that are within our CC area. This is due to the low level of funds received. Our CC receives approx £470.00 per year to cover all our running costs, e.g. insurance, meeting room, secretary expenses, stationary – ink, paper. So going forward the CC will pass on the details of other funding avenues:-

- Highland Council discretionary funds
- Kyle Second Hand Book group supported by the Kyle Pharmacy.
- Suggest that groups/individuals set up an online Funding pages.

6 Local Items update and progress

6.1.1 Defibrillator

ScotRail as a potential host @ Strome ferry. Mhairi reported that ScotRail had responded with a conditional 'yes' if our Community can fulfil their required conditions, one being that the defibrillator is maintain by the community and secondly the CC buy the defibrillator from ScotRail's preferred supplier. We agreed that we would reply to ScotRail and tell them that we receive our Defibrillator from a local Charity – Lucky2BeHere and we wish to continue this relationship. We decided that we should get Lucky2BeHere to contact

ScotRail. Email for Lucky2BeHere. info@lucky2bhere.org. The CC need to find out if ScotRail require us to use their preferred electrician to get power to the Defibrillator box.

Action: Mhairi and the Strome team to contact Lucky2bhere and put them in touch with ScotRail to see if they can work together to set up a defibrillator at Strome station.

6.1.2 Defibrillator training

Lucky2BeHere have said that they are running online training at the moment; a couple of CC members will attend the December training and depending on the feedback received, then the CC will discuss if the CC should organise an online training session for 15 – 20 Strome ferry & Achmore households or publish the Lucky2BeHere contacts and allow households to organise their own training.

Action: Await feedback from December training and then determine if the CC should organise a local training session.

6.1.3 Monthly checks and seals on Defibrillator box

It is important that the person doing the checks refreshes seals, signs label and dates it. This way we know if the box has been opened.

Action: Move Defibrillator checks to Calendar section for next meeting.

6.1.4 Take old box etc to Portree

The box has been scrubbed up, passed to Kath to return to Lucky2BeHere in Portree.

Action: Kath to deliver box, battery and old pads to Portree

6.2 Infrastructure

6.2.1 Cattle Grids – Strome ferry

HC Roads dept got the out flow pipe of the cattle grid cleared last week and the water flows away as it is meant too, but there is a lot of mud and debris in the bottom

6.2.2 Ditches – Strome ferry – culvert between Meallan & Lochview

HC Roads sent a man and a digger to Strome ferry a couple of weeks ago to work on the ditched. and ditched the hill

6.2.3 Bridges – Braeintra, Achmore, Achnacraig

A local stonemason has provided quotes for this masonry work which has been approved by HC Roads. There are a lot of bridges to be repaired and our CC will be told when our bridges are scheduled to be repaired

6.2.4 Verges – poor cropping and no line of sight due to over growth

If possible some of the verges may be cut if program rescheduling can happen.

Action: Mary to keep getting updates from HC Roads dept on above topics.

6.2.5 Winter Resilience program for our CC area.

Each year the HC look for volunteers in CC areas who are willing to grit their own footpaths and other walk ways by their properties. Our CC organises this program by creating groups according to the physical house groups and contacting each of the households (that we have an authorised email contact for) in that area what their gritting requirements are and if they are willing to volunteer. The CC collates all this information and submits it to the HC who record the volunteer names for insurance purposes.

Action: Mary to create area groupings and set up google groups – Strome ferry, Achmore, Braeintra, Glen, Fernaig and Portachuillin.

Dawn to contact each of the groups to find out what they will grit and what if any equipment they may need. Gill to check if the people who volunteered in 2020 will volunteer in 2021. Gill will collate all the info and complete the HC form and return to ward manger Dot Ferguson Dot.Ferguson@highland.gov.uk

6.2.6 Ardnraff concrete blocks by roadside and road end

Highland Council is in the process of acquiring all the required materials to erect the security fence before they start work

Action: Biz to keep us updated.

6.2.7 A890 – Strome ferry By Pass works

The works are ongoing and will complete in early December rather than November.

6.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Community website

The Hall is having its AGM on the 7th December and looking to recruit new committee members. Once the new committee is established the CC will work with the hall to get the Hall section of the website up to date.

Action: Mary to work with the new Hall committee to update website if required.

6.4 Recycle table /bench for shore & Bench by cattle grid

Stromeferry bench - Becky Milne the LFS Visitor Manager is checking what style of bench has been ordered for Strome Woods. If the LFS bench is a high back bench then it will be located in Strome woods and the CC bought high backed 3 seater bench will be located by the Achmore Cattle grid.

Action: Mary to liaise with Becky and Strome residents.

The Picnic table and bench have been put in place at Fernaig Shore by Andy Bone and Chris Macdonald. Thanks to Dawn, Andy and Chris for getting this task completed.

6.5 Planning

Nothing for Stromeferry and Achmore area

6.6 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

6.6.1 Update from Collaboration meetings

The next Lochalsh Collaboration meeting is scheduled for the 14th December by Zoom at 6.30pm. Susan Walker has analysed all the material received from the survey returns and has produced a 50 page document. An in depth discussion was held about how to proceed with turning the 50 page document into executive summaries; so that the results can be presented to each of the main bodies that provide services to the Lochalsh area e.g. NHS, Housing, Roads, HIE, Police. During this discussion it became clear that the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) which consists of the key Service providers, for example HIE, NHS, Fire, Police, Housing, and Transport for Lochalsh is not functioning and has not meet in the last 20 months. Biz has asked the CPP to hold meetings and to invite the Lochalsh Collaboration to participate; so far the CPP has not allowed Lochalsh Collaboration to attend their meetings. We concluded that we support the Lochalsh Collaboration.

Action: Mary to attend if possible.

6.7 Dornie CC

Dornie Community Council has written to our CC to ask us to assist them in applying pressure on the NHS and other bodies to get Aird Ferry centre reopened.

Action : Gill will respond on behalf of our CC.

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

7.1 Funding Opportunities

Grant funding to Community Councils to promote cycling. We are not pursuing this option at this time.

7.2 Tourism

Forestry and Land Scotland appoint Becky Milne as the Area Visitor Services Manager. Becky's area extends from Loch Ness to Glen Affric in the east to Kinlochewe in the North.

7.3 Utilities - Scottish Water

The following update was received from Gavin Steel.

As noted in my previous update, two projects have been raised which are focused on restoring operation of a pumping station at the old Achmore Water Treatment Works.

We have a project manager in place to take this work forward and I know he has been working to get a contractor engaged. I understand that he is meeting a potential contractor and someone from the local team on site this morning to move this forward. He is also exploring whether two phases of work are needed; or whether there is any opportunity to move quickly to a permanent arrangement.

I appreciate residents will be concerned to have a programme and further detail of the work to be delivered; and I would certainly hope we will be in a position to provide this by the time of your January meeting, which we would be happy to attend to discuss this

further. (It would be helpful if you could confirm the date for this when you can so that I can make sure it is in the right colleagues' diaries.) In the meantime, I can only assure you that both our project manager and others are aware of the importance of the timescale on which work needs to be taken forward.

I am not aware of residents experiencing continuing disruption to their water supply currently, which would tend to support the idea that peak seasonal demand on the water network is a significant contributing factor. If residents are experiencing problems currently, I would be keen to know about that. I appreciate progress has been slower than we originally hoped it would be, but we think the option selected will be the better one for the long term.

Action: Mary to invite SW to our 27th January 2022 meeting.

7.4 Update from our Councillor

7.4.1 Quality of food on offer in Broadford Hospital.

This is an ongoing issue and during our CC discussion members told of their experiences of hospital patients not able to eat the food as it was inedible and of family members having to bring food into the hospital for their loved ones.

Action: Biz is going to write to the regional head of NHS to see if the NHS is going to provide wholesome edible food to patients in Broadford Hospital.

7.4.2 Campaign for a CT scanner for hospital

Mhairi had an update from NHS via Kate Forbes' office which provided little detail and no dates. Mhairi will peruse this topic and contact the senior executive again to see if she can get more specific information on NHS Highland's strategy for assessing the need for a CT scanner for Broadford Hospital.

Action: Mhairi to continue her good work of campaigning for a CT scanner for Broadford Hospital

7.4.3 Booster & 3rd COVID jab clinics for Lochalsh residents and in particular over 70s

The program for Booster COVID and 3rd COVID jabs opened in late Oct and the Kyle Surgery are not participating. This resulted in 1st month of this program being a scramble to get an appointment as NHS Highland's solution was to get everyone, starting with over 70s, to call one telephone number which ended up with long waits on the phone, getting cut off and having to redial many times over many days to get an appointment. This scramble for an appointment was set against a back drop of changing NHS priorities which were mostly posted on Facebook or a complex link to a NHS website. Fortunately this mess has been rectified and NHS Highland is now writing to households to give them timed appointments but there are still groups of people who do not know how or where to go to get vaccinated.

Action: Mary will highlight this issue to Kate Earnshaw.

7.4.4 Purpose and benefits of Community Planning Partnerships.

1. The Partnerships. The Highland Community Planning Partnership has 9 separate geographically based Community Planning Partnerships. In addition to these 9 Partnerships there is an overarching Highland CPP Board.

2. The partnership that covers our area is Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross (SL&WR).

3. The statutory partners are Highland Council, Third Sector Interface (in SL&WR that is SLCVO), Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Highland, and HIE.

4. The Highland Community Planning Partnership works together to reduce inequalities and improve the following outcomes:

1. poverty reduction
2. mental health and well-being
3. access to services
4. community safety and resilience
5. community participation and dialogue

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 24th November 2021 @ 7.30pm

5. The partnership is not responsible for consulting on, and developing, place based plans such as 'Fort William 2040', 'Inverness City Centre Vision and Masterplan', 'Skye and Raasay Future'.

8 AOB

Nothing to discuss

8.1 Calendar - reminders and topics C/F.

Monthly Check Path Access at Stromeferry

Post COVID – Relationship building with the Scottish Salmon Fish farm.

Defibrillator Checks – Phil is on the rota for December

Achmore bench

Defibrillator Fund Raising

Storing of roadside Notice Board

9 Next Meeting

27th January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Hall.

10 Close of meeting

Meeting formally closed at 9.15pm

Communication Received from 28th October 2021

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 September/October - distributed –NNTD

Email – 28/10 – Fay Mackenzie – Health Walks from Dornie – Distributed

Email – 28/10 – Derek Manson policy – Clarification of Derelict Land and Finance policy –NNTD

Email – 29/10 – Alison Jack – Dornie CC – Support for getting Aird Ferry up and running – on agenda

Email – 29/10 – Kate Earnshaw – COVID Booster jab clinic for Lochalsh – on agenda

Email – 02/11 – Kate Earnshaw – More on COVID booster clinics – on agenda

Email – 04/11 – D Lupton – Invoice for the shore bench – on agenda

Email – 05/11 – C Smith – Update on A890 Bypass works – on agenda

Email – 05/11 – B Milne – FLS – Area Visitor manager and bench- on agenda

Email - 07/11 – L Bird – FCT Minutes – NNTD

Email -10/11 – Dot Ferguson – CC protocols – on agenda.

Email – 16/11 – Dot Ferguson, Isabelle Campbell - Vaccine booking press release – distributed.

Email – 17/11 – Kate Forbes' office/Mhairi Macrae – Update on no progress on CT Scanner for Broadford Hospital – on agenda

Email – 19/11 – L Frost - HC- Ward 5 Funding opportunities closes 10/1/2022 - distributed.

Email – 19/11 – D Manson _ HC Policy - Community Council Interim Elections – 2022 – N/A

Email – 24/11 – A Bone – HC Roads – Update for our CC on local infrastructure – on agenda

Email – 24/11 – G Steel – Scottish Water – Update on Stromeferry water outages for CC – on agenda

11 Updates from Other Local Groups.

FERNAIG COMMUNITY TRUST
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
7.30pm, Wednesday 8 December, 2021
Achmore Village Hall

Formatted: Heading 1

AGENDA

Welcome and Apologies

Approval of 2019 AGM minutes and Adoption of Directors' Report and Financial Statement 2020

Chair's Report

Company Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report & Draft Accounts

Appointment of Auditor

Any Motions to be Proposed

Election of Directors

Notes: (1) Any relevant motions to be proposed should be submitted to the Company Secretary (Lizzie Bird, Dunbeag, Strome Ferry, IV53 8UJ) seven days in advance of the meeting.

(2) The status of the current Board of Directors (8 Members):

Available for re-election: Georgie Grimson, Lizzie Bird, Neil Macrae, Duncan Gibson, Colin McAndrew, Roddy MacPherson, Martin Irving.

The Trust is also anxious to recruit one new Board member, and nominations are welcome. Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Company Secretary, as above, prior to the meeting.

A Minimum of 6 Members present is required as a quorum for the AGM to take place.

Directors' Report and Financial Statement 2020 are available on the website.

CMNet CIC Community Broadband

Here is a brief summary of progress since the last update for the CC:-

Another installation has been completed.

The third batch of cheques for the New Joiners Premium refund have been distributed; the remaining cheques will only be distributed when subscribers accounts are up to date.

The unit in North Strome that acts as an access point for Strome Ferry has been upgraded to a unit that should provide full coverage for all residents in Strome Ferry. It is currently under test but so far seems to be working well.

Our software is being updated to work with the new "Generation 2" Ubiquiti units and also the latest MikroTik releases.

Usage continues to increase so we are working towards increasing capacity in Lochcarron.

See our website for more details:- www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

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CMNet CIC, Achmore & Strome Ferry Community Broadband System