

# Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 30th August 2023 @ 7.30pm

## 1 Formal opening of meeting at 7.40 pm – Chair

Present: Gill Harrington (Chair), Mary MacBeth, Dawn Lupton, Ann Gillespie, Mhairi Macrae

Members of other organisations: Biz Campbell HC

Members of Public: No one

Apologies: Kath Smith, Neil MacRae

## 2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

The minutes from the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 meeting were approved by Ann, and seconded by Gill.

## 3 Matters arising.

None

## 4 Treasurers Report

Opening Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

£1,389.11

Expenses

£00.00

Income Highland Council Grant £417.97

Interest £4.56

£422.63

Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023

£ 1,911.64

A cheque was written for Secretary Fees for 5 meetings in 2023 - £100 and presented to Mary.

A cheque for £8 was written to pay for the CC's use of the Hall for March, May, June, and August 2023 meetings and presented to Mhairi. The CC overpaid by £40 earlier in 2023.

Approval was granted to spend £55 on a 'back up set of pads' for the Achmore defibrillator

The spending on professional seals for defibrillator was approved and likely to be around £20.

The £25 for auditing the CC accounts has to be paid.

So once all the above expenses have been deducted the CC balance will be ~ £1,703.64.

## 5 Local Items – Update and progress

### 5.1 Defibrillators

#### 5.1.1 Defibrillator Stromeferry

The Bakkafrost application form to obtain funds for a defibrillator for Stromeferry has been completed and returned to the Community Fund department at Bakkafrost.

Action: The CC awaits Bakkafrost's response.

The funding page option to raise monies for the ongoing upkeep of the Achmore and hopefully the Stromeferry defibrillators awaits more discussion prior to implementation. Mary has confirmed with our Ward Manager that the CC can solicit funds or donations for the purpose of maintaining the defibrillators. The CC is a public organisation and not a charity.

Action: Dawn and Kath to complete.

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

The monthly checks are ongoing.

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Currently the CC is looking to buy professional labels as seals for the defibrillator. The seals can be obtained from the web but this will incur a £7 carriage charge so Gill has asked JJ's if they can obtain them. Mary will ask Lucky2BeHere if they can supply us with professional labels.

**Action:** Mary to ask Lucky2BeHere for labels. Gill to check if JJ's can get them.

Kath will contact the current defibrillator checkers and ask them, if they will become part of a WhatsApp group; so the rotas and other issues relating to the defibrillators can be handled on this platform.

**Action:** Kath to organise creation of WhatsApp group.

We decided to keep the new professional seals and pen in a small box in the hall located on top of the defibrillator electric distribution box that is in the inside wall of hall, behind the defibrillator. The key for the hall is in an external key box on the hall wall to the right of the defibrillator.

**Action:** Mary and Kath to sort our 'home' for labels and pens.

Lucky2BeHere have asked us to register our Achmore Hall defibrillator with The Circuit. "The Circuit is a defibrillator network, providing a nationwide overview of where defibrillators can be found. Many defibrillators never get used because emergency services and the public don't know where they are or how to access them - this can cost lives, and that's why this new infrastructure is so vital".

**Action:** Kath to register defibrillator once we have professional seals etc in place.

Lucky2BeHere has recommended that the CC has a 'back up set' of pads for the defibrillator and the CC members approved the £55 for Kath to buy them.

**Action:** Kath to get 'back up' pads

All to continue checking the defibrillator as per rota.

**Action:** Kath to set up new rota

### **5.1.3 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. We are in the queue awaiting the training.

**Action:** Mary will ask for an update and then pass on to new CC team.

## **5.2 Infrastructure - roads, verge. Etc**

### **5.2.1 Cattle grid gate /sides at Achmore end of Braeintra and at Achmore turn off are damaged.**

Andrew Bone of the HC Roads Dept. is aware of the damaged drop-in side gates that have been hit by motorists. These should be insurance claims, but as none of them have been reported by the offending drivers, it is up to the Highland Council (HC) to replace them. As resources become available to the roads Dept this will be dealt with. There are many to replace in the Ward and they are on a schedule.

**Action:** Await further information from HC Roads.

### **5.2.2 Braeintra redundant B & B sign.**

The information provided from an earlier meeting was passed on to the household concerned.

**Action:** Matter closed.

### **5.2.3 Hanging Oak branch Fernaig Road**

This has been reported to BT Openreach (the branch is hanging over their services) who will be in touch. Biz told the meeting that it is scheduled to be taken down this week

**Action:** Openreach to take the hanging branch down.

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### **5.2.4 20mph Speed Limit for Achmore**

More information about the topic of 20mph can be found at [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport\\_and\\_streets/1049/20mph\\_programme](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport_and_streets/1049/20mph_programme). Achmore is not on the list.

Action: Passed on to new CC to monitor.

### **5.2.5 Cut back trees and scrub at Braeintra junction**

The HC have cut back the scrub 3m from the road edge. This is as far as the HC controls.

Action: Completed

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

In response to the original CC survey conducted in Dec 2022 and Jan 2023, 21 households responded. Of these 21 households 8 have give their permission to the CC to pass their contact details to Colin Parsons. Colin has set up a Strome and Achmore path email group -An update from Colin 'This is an informal group to discuss and explore the idea of new paths and trails in our area, particularly the suggested path between Achmore and Strome. I have set the group up so that anyone can post. Please get in touch with Colin if you would like to be involved or just kept up to speed with developments & he will add you to the group email. [colinparsons12@btinternet.com](mailto:colinparsons12@btinternet.com)

Action: This project has now been passed on to Colin Parson, Mhairi Macrae and Kath Smith. This is now complete from a CC perspective.

### **5.4 Community Benches –Stromeferry**

#### **5.4.1 Strome bench**

Mary has collected the 'r' bar from Neil Connolly in Strome. Next steps is to get it into some sort of shape to fix the bench to the ground

Action: Neillie & Mary to anchor bench to prevent it being blown away.

### **5.5 Storing Community Council documents**

While we were discussing this topic this evening Dawn mentioned that a 4 drawer filing cabinet with keys is about to be cleared from her work place and is in need of a home as most offices are now becoming paperless. The CC saw this as an option as it is ready to use for the FCT and CC. Dawn will circulate photos of this cabinet and check to see when it will become available. In the meantime the CC will update Lizzie of this opportunity to get a 4 drawer filing cabinet with lock and key ready for use by both groups.

Action: Dawn to circulate photos and gives the CC a date when the cabinet will be available.

### **5.6 Stromeferry and Achmore Website.**

V3 of Spanglefish is now live as all four groups have certified that all their data has been moved across. There is quite a bit of work to be done to refresh and update the website and this will happen in due course. In the meantime the home page of V3 has a notice saying our website is being refreshed and upgraded so a work in progress. The old Spanglefish 2 site is available on <https://www.spanglefish.com/StromeferryandAchmore/> for a while. Each group has agreed to contribute to the annual cost which will be £20.68 for 2023 and then £25.50 from January 2024.

Action: Mary to load all CC minutes from May 2022 to present onto V3. Mary to send invoices to the FCT, Hall and CMNet group chairs.

### **5.7 Planning**

No planning applications for our area.

## 5.8 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The Lochalsh Collaboration held a Zoom meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> August. The original Lochalsh Collaboration Agreement from June 2019 has been updated and agreed and states the purpose etc. of the Lochalsh Collaboration going forward. Copies are available on the Kyle and Lochalsh website .

Susan Walker told the meeting that the September allocation of funding has been assigned and the KLCT has not got any more funds, therefore the development officer position needs to find funding from other sources.

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

### 6.1 Highland Council

#### 6.1.1 Community Council elections.

Elections for new Community Council are being held in September/October 2023. The Stromeferry and Achmore CC can have a maximum of 8 members and a minimum of 4. The current council has 7 members, **4 of whom are not completing** nomination papers **and are standing down** on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Therefore new members are required so that a council can be formed on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. For the CC to run smoothly and be quorate the ideal number of members is at least 7.

The timetable for the CC elections: -

Earliest date to complete Nomination Papers is 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Closing date for lodging nomination papers is noon 3rd October 2023.

The notice of Election and further guidance for Candidates wishing to serve their local Community Council's for the next four years will be **published on the Highland Council website [www.highland.gov.uk/ccelections](http://www.highland.gov.uk/ccelections) on Monday, 4 September 2023.** . All applicants must have a note of their electoral registration number. **The electoral number can be** obtained by them completing the [electoral number request form](#) or it is available from the Electoral Registration Office by emailing [ero@highland.gov.uk](mailto:ero@highland.gov.uk) or telephoning 0800 393783.

If our CC gets less than 4 nominations papers submitted, then no CC can be formed and the next election date will be 19 March 2024

If more than 8 nomination papers are received a postal ballot will be held and a CC will be formed on the 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. The current councillors remain in place.

If between 4 and 8 inclusive self - nomination papers are received then a CC can be formed and notification issued regarding the calling of the first Meetings of the new Community Councils will be the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

#### 6.1.2 Reduce speed limit on the A890

The CC received a suggestion that it would be quieter in our valley if the speed limit on the A890 from Strome View point to Auchertyre was reduced to 50mph. This suggestion was passed to Biz to discuss with her peers.

### 6.2 Funding Opportunities

Monthly lists have been distributed.

### 6.3 Forestry & Land Scotland

No update was requested.

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

Not discussed at meeting this month.

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

The residents of Strome are continuing to have outages to their water supplies. The outage on the 26<sup>th</sup> August was for at least 2 hours so this problem is not fixed. The CC wrote to Gavin Steel of Scottish Water to request and update and timescales for this problem to be fixed. Thanks to Mhairi for contributing to the email. On the 30<sup>th</sup> August the CC got the following response from Scottish Water : - "I'm very sorry to read that customers in the higher houses at Stromeferry are again experiencing significant disruption to their water supply – and that initial efforts by the local team to resolve this haven't succeeded. There is a meeting this week between our internal specialists, who have been investigating, and our contractor who delivered the new pumping station at Achmore. We would then hope to be on site with them next week to investigate further and potentially implement a solution.

Firstly, we want to make sure we have as confident an understanding as possible of why the pumping station is not working as expected – and the team hope to be able to use a hydrant on the network downstream (in Strome) to simulate times of higher demand and test the pumping station's response. We are hopeful that there will be a solution that can be implemented quickly with the 2 pumps currently installed, as there are potential options to change their settings and the way they operate. This, and any longer term work that might be needed, is dependent on the findings of the planned site visit next week.

I can only apologise, once again, that we're back in a position where customers are not receiving an acceptable level of service – but I hope we will be able to understand the cause of the problem next week and take action to minimise further impact on the customers who have been affected."

**Action:** The CC will continue to liaise with Scottish Water to get a solution to this problem.

### **7 Update from our Councillor**

Biz informed us that we have a new Ward Manager for area 5. It is Willie MacKinnon who is currently Ward Manager for Skye.

### **8 AOB**

This was the last Community Council meeting for this CC. All current members are Community Councillors till the 10<sup>th</sup> October unless a member resigns or more than 8 self-nominated papers are received then the new council will start on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### **9 Calendar - reminders and topics to C/F.**

Monthly Check Path Access at Stromeferry  
Defibrillator Checks using rota - Achmore  
Culvert Stromeferry – between Meallan and Lochview  
CC funds received from HC

### **10 Next Meeting**

No further meetings till a new CC is formed in October 2023.

### **Close of Meeting**

Meeting formally closed at 8.54pm

### **Communication Received from 1st July 2023 to 23rd August 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 - 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 July 2023 – distributed  
Email – Mark Crowe - Community Council: Footpath Stromeferry and Achmore – on agenda  
Email –many Exchanges between CC, FCT Hall, CMNet, Stromeferry and Achmore website software upgrade.  
Emails – Lizzie & Mary - Hall cabinet for documentation for FCT and CC – on agenda  
Email - Policy – CC elections – on agenda  
Email – Spanglefish - Stromeferry and Achmore CC : Upgrading to V3 – on agenda  
Email - Dot Fergusn -Community council: HC Grant – complete  
Email \_J Wileman - Community Council engagement re Just Transition – distributed  
Email- M Buchanan - Community Toolkit Feedback – distributed  
Email- N Connelly - Strome Bench fixing - on agenda  
Email – M Irvine - Defib pads. – on agenda  
Email - M Cunningham – Lochalsh Collaboration - Collaboration Agreement rework – complete  
Email - USA Contact - Stromeferry and Achmore - located your nicest person in Scotland – complete  
Email - Spanglefish - Stromeferry and Achmore CC moving data – on agenda  
Email - J Wileman - Scottish Community Councils Newsletter August 2023 – distributed  
Email – E Taylor - Request - details of CC Scheduled Meetings for the Period October 2023 – January 2024 inc – complete  
Email - Mary & Kath – Defibrillators and Lucky2B3Here – on agenda  
Email – HC - Community Council: APHA posters - Outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry in Lochcarron – distributed  
Email - Mary & Dot Ferguson - RE: Community Council: What can current CCs do during the period of elections 4/9 to Oct/Nov – complete  
Email – Helen Robertson – 20mph speed limit and 50mph limit for A890 Auchertye to Strome View Point.