

Minutes for Strome ferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 27th March 2019 @ 7.30pm.

1 Helen, as chair, formally opened the meeting at 7.35pm.

1.1 **Present & Apologies.**

Present: Helen Robertson, Mary MacBeth, Dawn Lupton, Neil MacRae, Biz Campbell (Councillor), Ann Gillespie, Claudia Weegen.

Apologies: None

1.2 **Approve and adopt previous Minutes**

Dawn Lupton proposed the 27th Feb 2019 minutes and Neil MacRae seconded them.

The Community Council minutes of the 17th November, 2015 were left in draft mode, so Neil proposed those minutes and Dawn seconded them. Both Neil and Dawn served on the last CC and are current members of this CC. The minutes from the 17th November 2015 will now be posted on our website.

1.3 **Matters arising**

No matters arising from the minutes of 27th February, 2019.

2 **Communications received & Financial Report**

2.1 **By the secretary and /or chair**

Email - Weekly - Robbie Bain - Planning Information.

Email – Ad Hoc – L Bird Achmore quiz night 23rd March

Email – Ad Hoc – Development Officer, Kyle – Community Organisation - distributed.

Email - Robbie Bain - acknowledging Feb CCs minutes and financial report

Emails – Ad Hoc – approx. 52 out of 60 households have responded to GDPR approval request emails

Email – Ad Hoc -Division Community Policing – North

Email – Margaret MacFadden – Scam information

Email – Margaret Arscott – Braeintra bridge

Email – Martin Irvine – Hall Update

Email – Philip Game – CMNet Broadband Update

Email – Dave Biss – Signage at Ardnaff

Email – Ross Cowie - Defibrillator pads

Email – Robbie Bain – Planning list x 2

Email – Policy - Resilient Communities Conference 11th Sep 2019

2.2 **Treasurer's report**

Dawn is awaiting the current account statement for the period up to and including the 31st March, 2019. The balance as at 31st December 2018 C/F to end of March 2019 will be £3,751.00 + approx. 40p interest payable each month - January, February, and March 2019.

Dawn is in the process of applying for online access to the CC bank account.

Action: Dawn will update the account balances once she is in receipt of the latest quarterly statement.

We had a discussion about how to use some of the Community Council money to purchase items that benefit our community. We all agreed to replace the bench in the Bus shelter in the centre of Achmore. Claudia told the meeting that the pupils from Strome ferry do not have a bus shelter. Biz took an action to ask D Summers about provision of a shelter for the 4 pupils from Strome ferry. Another suggested place to locate a bench was 'somewhere' on the new river walk from Achmore to Braeintra. We did not conclude where the 'somewhere' should be and thought it be best to solicit 'bench siting' ideas from others in the area. Our chat about benches along the river walk in Achmore leads to a conversation about a path linking Strome ferry and Achmore. It

was acknowledged that any new path in this area would be prohibitively expensive and the land is privately owned, so not explored in any depth; so no action assigned to the CC. It was pointed out that the new path in Achmore is on Community Trust land. The picnic bench located on Fernaig Shore is aging and may need replacing.

Action: Mary to obtain a [best priced] bench similar to the bench by the cattle grid at the top of Achmore road.

Action: Biz to ask D Summers about provision of a bus shelter for Stromeferry pupils.

Action: For everyone in the area to nominate their preferred location for a bench on the riverside walk or along other popular established walking routes, and then to email Helen or Mary with their ideas.

Action: Dawn to talk to Forestry about obtaining another picnic bench for Fernaig Shore + Dawn will obtain an update of what the latest happenings are with the forestry. Dawn will also find out who from the forestry will act as a point of contact for the CC.

3 Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

3.1 Defibrillator

Ross Cowie from Lucky2Bhere has contacted us about our defibrillator pads, as they are out of date plus he needs to know how much battery is left. This information is required as Lucky2Bhere are putting all their defibrillator details on to the Scottish Ambulance Service Control centre's mapping software. Helen stressed the need to make sure that our Defibrillator is properly monitored and ready for emergency use. The CC members will check the defibrillator on a monthly basis and if the CC is not having a monthly meeting, Helen will ask a member of the Hall Committee to check the defibrillator is monitored. The new Defibrillator box has been located and it will be put in place and tested to make sure it opens and closes properly, unlike the current one. Claudia asked if Stromeferry could have a defibrillator so we discussed the requirements – a sheltered place with access to mains power and located close to the majority of people. Lucky2BHere is a charity and they provide the defibrillators on the understanding that communities will contribute towards the cost of the equipment. A fund raising effort will be required and funds will be needed to maintain the Defibrillator's parts – pads, batteries, boxes etc.

Action: Mary has taken the new defibrillator box so that a backing plate can be cut to the required size to support fitting the new box to the hall wall.

Action: Mary will provide copies of the defibrillator instructions for CC members and leave them in the hall.

Action: All CC members to check the defibrillator on a monthly basis. Neil as one of the CC members closest to the hall volunteered to regularly check the Defibrillator. All CC members to record their checks and the status of the defibrillator at time of checking plus take the necessary actions if the defibrillator needs attention.

Action: Helen who is also a member of hall committee will ask the hall committee to help us to regularly check the defibrillator.

Action: Claudia and Neil to locate suitable places in Stromeferry for a defibrillator, how to install it and raise funds for the defibrillator and how to pay for its upkeep.

3.2 Infrastructure maintenance e.g bridge parapets

The CC's approach to monitoring infrastructure problems will be as follows. If the problem is with Highland Council property then the individual who identifies the problem should log the fault using the Highland Council website at the following link:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/roadside_problems.

On completion the Highland Council system will give the reporter a reference number which can then be passed to the CC for monitoring along with a brief description of the problem and location. Problems which have been logged into the HC system will be followed up by the CC. Problems forwarded to the CC which do

not have a HC reference number cannot be monitored; and will be returned to sender for entry into the HC system.

It has been mentioned to Biz that Achmore does not have a village sign at entry to the village.

The last CC developed a spreadsheet for monitoring and prioritizing infrastructure problems and we all agreed to continue with this method.

We had a discussion with Biz about the need for public transport so that people can get to the shops, and the services in Kyle – Doctors, chemists, dentist, opticians, CO-OP etc.

Action: Mary to bring the Infrastructure monitoring spreadsheet up to date and enter the new problems which have a HC reference number and monitor progress.

Action: Neil to report issues with the road surface near the pier in Stromeferry and rail bridge surface and pass reference number to Mary.

Action: Helen will look for Achmore village sign.

Action: Biz to contact D Summers and discuss public transport and then update Helen with her findings.

3.3 Information Management

Mary had a discussion with the Information Commissioner and was told that we have to register as the CC is constituted as a public body. It costs £35 by Direct Debit and £40 if we pay by other means. Dawn and Neil completed and signed DD forms.

The CC had a discussion about what information they will report and publish. We concluded that we will not be a vehicle for distributing household type information, which is more suited to be published and spread by word of mouth, reported in the local paper, on Facebook, displayed in local shop and/or on public notice boards.

Mags McFadden emailed us to let us know about a potential scam; details included below

' Just a wee note got a letter from Langford Marsh about electric cables over my garden.

The thing is the website doesn't exist and the details in the letter end up no where.

Can you warn everyone it could be a scam'.

Action: Mary to register with ICO and get DD set up.

4 Update from our Councillor

Biz Campbell is 1 of 4 councillors for our ward. Biz is covering all the Lochalsh Community Councils. Biz attends a series of meeting such as the area meetings every quarter and the ward Councillor meeting on a monthly basis which is attended by Robbie Bain and this is where CC issues are discussed.

Biz informed us that the Highland Council Budget was agreed at end of February for year April 2019 to April 2020 and money is exceeding tight. As an example, the roads capital budget has been cut from £9m in the year 2018 - 2019 to £6.1m for the year 2019-2020. The stretch of road from Achnasheen to Achnashellach has been identified as in dire need of repair and will get fixed. An extra £1.5m has been allocated to the roads revenue budget to fix things like potholes, bridge parquets, gritting etc.

The Education department is also experiencing cuts with the Additional Support budgets being reduced and the route of accessing funds being made more challenging.

The Highland Council new chief executive is East Lothian-born Donna Manson, and she had a reputation for good financial management.

Biz also told us about the Joint Community Council meetings and the next one is scheduled to take place in late April in Lochcarron and is being organised by Kenny MacLean.

Biz told us that the design for the new Broadford Hospital is complete and the project is progressing. Currently Biz is fund raising for dialysis equipment and campaigning for treatments to be made available in Broadford to save patients having to make the 150 mile round trip journey to Raigmore three times a week.

Professor Boyd Robertson was appointed as interim chair of NHS Highland in February 2019. NHS Highland also has a new chief executive Iain Stewart and he can be contacted at iain.stewart7@nhs.net. This is the person to contact if we have issues with NHS cuts or lack of services.

Action: Biz to give Helen the contact details for Kenny MacLean and confirm time & date of April meeting.

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

5.1 Tilhill

- Nothing to report

5.2 Highland Council

- Reported under local infrastructure.

5.3 Police & Fire

Helen contacted our police and has received the following response 'PC Ian Carr has been allocated responsibility for our community council. Ian is an experienced local officer, as he works shifts, we cannot guarantee personal attendance at every meeting by PC Carr but he will try to arrange for a colleague to attend or prepare an email report for you if you would find that useful.' As the CC has no immediate issues requiring police attention we decided that we will contact PC Carr later in the year and invite him to a meeting.

5.4 NHS

- Reported under our Councillor Update

5.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

- Nothing to report.

5.6 Others

We were contacted by Jo Wawrzyczek, Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust about the Community led action Plan of Lochalsh. After some discussion we decided that the best way forward would be to ask Jo to come to one of our CC meetings and tell us about her plans for Lochalsh.

Action: Mary to contact Jo and organise a visit.

6 Updates from Local Groups

6.1 Broadband

Update from CMNet Chair – Phil Game

The last update to the CC was in October 2015; quite a few things have changed since then:-

From 1st April 2019 the tariff (excluding the new joiners premium) will be £6 for 50 GB, £7 for 100 GB ..., £25 for 1,000 GB. In Oct 2015 the tariff was in 10 GB increments rather than 50 GB and the rate for 50 GB was £58, 100 GB £113 and 1,000 GB £1,103 per month.

In 2015 we had 26 subscribers, today we have 44; in 2015 the average usage per subscriber was 9.6 GB today it is 75 GB.

In 2015 our total monthly usage was 250 GB today it is 3.3 TB and usage per subscriber is still increasing. In 2015 we expected to have a total of 66 subscribers today we expect to connect 74.

Today speeds are 29 Mbps download and 14 Mbps upload, four years ago they were 5.5 Mbps download and 0.7 Mbps upload.

Some things haven't changed since 2015:-

CMNet's philosophy is still to provide the best value broadband by operating a charging system based on cost recovery with overheads kept to the minimum (helped by almost all the work being done by unpaid volunteers).

CMNet's tariff is still designed to provide a service tailored to its subscribers whether they be light or heavy users of the Internet.

There are more details on the website:-www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

6.2 Fernaig Trust

- No update received

6.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Hall

Update from Chair – Martin Irvine

The next hall event will be “The Gathering” on the 25th of May. The plan is to have a few stalls, a raffle, games, hot food, bar etc. There will also be provision for an “open mike” for the good and the brave.

We have work to do re-felting the shed roof and a leak to investigate in the vestibule as well as a £352.00 oil bill to pay so support for the village hall events is most welcome and much needed.

Its likely that we will arrange a further quiz night with the support of Jack as these seem to be a popular event.

7 AOB

Claudia raised an issue with getting to the beach in Strome ferry being really difficult and nigh impossible when the yard gates are locked. Claudia has made approaches to the yards users and owners but has not had any response. Biz told the meeting that the person who knows about paths and access to paths is Donald Kennedy.

There were also concerns raised about some usage of large lorries on the Strome road, combined with the narrow road and extremely tight corner this is making driving conditions very difficult. Plus the additional traffic load is having an adverse effect on the road surface. There were different views on the size and frequency of the lorries and the difficulties they were creating for the Strome ferry population. We therefore concluded that the best approach would be for Helen to make contact with the owner of the yard and start a conversation about access and traffic activity.

Action: Biz to pass Donald Kenndy’s contact details to Helen who will contact Donald.

Action: Helen to get details of the yard owner and make contact.

8 Calendar

- No items logged this month

9 Next Meetings

According to CC scheduling our next CC meeting would be on the 24th April. Mary is not sure if she will be available so we are going to check hall availability for 1st May. Helen is not available for meeting at end of May.

Action: Mary to check her schedule and let the CC know what dates she is available.

10 Formal close of meeting

Meeting closed at 9.25pm