

## Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

### Minutes of Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January @ 8 p.m. Achmore Hall

**Present:** C. Begg, E. Bird, P. Game, R Gibson, M. MacBeth, C. MacDonald, M. MacDonald, N. MacRae

#### 1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November were presented. Correction made under Correspondence, the date for the Fernaig Community Trust meeting feasibility study should read 3<sup>rd</sup> December, not 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Proposed: Chris MacDonald, Seconded: Chrissie Begg

#### 2. Matters arising since meetings of 24<sup>th</sup> November

1. **Re-siting of the re-cycling bins from the Square** – still awaiting response regarding siting at top of Achmore Road where old main road runs off

2. **C.C. Accounts audit** – Cheque for C.C. grant has been received

3. **Re Review of Community Councils – First Phase.** – Lizzie has written to H.C. regarding Review of Community Council – First Phase – boundary review. The letter requests, as agreed by the C.C., that we extend our boundary south to include the Braintra exit onto the A890 – suggested edge of boundary is Glen Udalain Forestry Track. Also by extending slightly eastwards would include Achmore Glen which would make sense as it covers more of the Fernaig Trust As our boundary is against Dornie C.C.'s, Lizzie spoke to Graham Hewitt, Sec of Dornie C.C. – he sees no problem as there is no housing of population implications in changing our boundary.

4. **NHS** – Mary had sent Lizzie draft letter regarding co-ordinating other C.C.'s and our concerns regarding Broadford hospital rumoured in the press recently. Lizzie had not received the email so Mary will resent. Also, it was Lizzie who was going to make initial contact with local C.C.s and liase with Mary regarding a meeting date

5. **Broadband Speeds** – Phil has carried out a survey of residents and broadband speeds received sent out of 1<sup>st</sup> December. Responses were 20 from Stromeferry and Achmore and 2 from Plockton. The average speed in the UK is 4Mbps, the average speed from BT is 3 Mbps, and the average speed in Stromeferry/Achmore/Plockton is 1/2 Mbps not dependant on distance from exchange.

Lizzie had forwarded to Phil an article which covered the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) and a broadband campaign by Peter Peacock, Highlands and Islands regional Labour MSP, said Holyrood would increase the broadband budget available through EU Leader funding for rural development, if demand shows there is a need. “Scotland has been allocated £2.9million of funding as part of the European Recovery Package to improve broadband support for businesses and communities in rural Scotland. There has been confirmation from the rural affairs minister that, if there is a significant demand for broadband support, to the extent that there are budgetary constraints, it would be possible to review the situation at that time and reallocate SRDP funding.” Mr Peacock said “that the UK Government had also announced a new £1billion fund to provide super-fast broadband to rural and hard-to-reach areas.” He added: “I have tabled a parliamentary question asking the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to secure a reasonable share of the funding. This Digital Britain in Scotland initiative has a 12-week consultation period and I would urge anyone in the Highlands and islands with an interest to respond to it as it is vital for our area's future that we secure our share of this new funding.” The consultation document can be accessed at <http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page54155.html>

Next action is to contact BT/Open reach and Phil will liase with Neil to send a letter from the C.C.

#### 3. Matters arising

1. **C.C. Communication** – the C.C. agreed that we need to liase with Sarah Berry who does the Newsletter, to update email listings when we need to email out to residents (such as the Phil's Broadband survey) and, to improve our communication even further, we need a paper circulation list for those that don't

have email – perhaps to include a box next to the Notice Board outside the Hall. It was also discussed and agreed that it would be well worth investigating setting up an Achmore and Stromeferry C.C. website. Neil will progress

2. **Hall computer** – there was some discussion about whether it would be an idea to have a computer/broadband connection available in the Hall. However, the main problem would be accessibility and someone being responsible for that. With many people have computers and the Service Point in Kyle, it was felt this idea was a bit of a non-starter
3. **Fernaig Trust** – It was felt that communications need to improve a lot more particularly with the proposed forest buyout under consultation at the moment. As chairman, Neil agreed to link more closely with the Fernaig Trust
4. **Planning**; Renewal of planning application for erection of house to right of hotel, up bank above High Street, Stromeferry
5. **TEC Services – Planning Schedule.** Mary MacBeth had sent Lizzie the Schedule but Lizzie had not received. Mary will resend.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 8 p.m. Achmore Hall

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.25pm