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Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 30th March @ 8 p.m. Achmore Hall

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

Apologises: C. Begg

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 23rd February were presented.

Proposed: N. MacRae, Seconded: R. Gibson

Matters arising since meeting of 26th January

1. Re-siting of the re-cycling bins from the Square

Lizzie informed the meeting she had passed to George Speed, copy emails from Audrey Sinclair to Richmond Clements. Waste Management Assistant (Recycling), Highland Council regarding the C.C. wanted to pursue the land beside the slip road into Achmore and to meet with Mark Crowe to point out the extent of available land there which might be prepared and made suitable for the bank

Action: Biz will follow up but needs be shown the area the C.C. are referring to

2. Re Review of Community Councils - First Phase – Boundary review.

Biz, had told the last meeting that the ward boundary changes had been discussed and no issues were raised in the Stromeferry & Achmore request. Lizzie has not received any notification of this to date

Action: Lizzie to contact Ian Hargrave, H.C. to see if paperwork coming out to us

3. NHS

Lizzie has received email with attachments regarding the meeting held on 12th Feb The main point confirming that both Portree and Broadford hospitals remain open for the foreseeable future. The attachments were a number of files and if anyone wants them in full, Lizzie will send

4. Broadband Speeds

Biz had emailed Phil giving Andrea Rutherford as the contact at HIE (Highland & Island Enterprise) Andrea gave a presentation to the Highland Council on the 20th January this year which was recorded and can be viewed at http://www.highland.public-tv/site/player/index.php?a=35338&l=en_GB

It was decided that we would write to our MP and MSP, then contact the MPs & MSPs who have special interest in broadband in remote areas. Depending on the response we get it is likely that our next goal will be to contact all the other Community Councils who have Exchange Activate Exchanges to see if we can join together to form a lobby group, this will probably take some time.

Action: Phil to contact Charles Kennedy and John Farguhar initially followed by other MPs and MSPs as above. Biz will also email

Phil had sent out proposed response to BIS regarding the Next Generation Fund to all interested parties locally

Action: Phil will send the response on the Digital Britain in Scotland tomorrow 31st March being the consultation cut off date)

The C.C. thanked Phil for all his efforts on this subject

5 C.C. Communication

Distribution lists

The C.C. with Neil, Sarah (Berry), Kate Bulloch (FCT) and Phil have an email list to circulate Minutes of Meetings. We still need a list of residents who do not have email and wish to receive the Minutes

It was agreed that the new process for circulating Minutes to the C.C. would be: following a meeting, the minutes are emailed to those who have email and posted/delivered to those without. Minutes can be read and approved by notification (phone/email) back to the Secretary and then distributed publicly.

C.C. Website

Following the previous meeting and Neil contacting Stephen about setting up a website for Achmore & Stromeferry CC, Lizzie had also spent some time investigating other options that could be available to us. Looking at other C.C. websites, quite a few use Spanglefish a free website or with additional benefits for £25 per year, so she had set up a temporary site as an example of the facilities they have to offer. This info she had emailed to Neil, Mary and Phil but brought into the meeting a sample of what the first page and its links could look like. Following attendance at a Fernaig Trust meeting where they were also considering a website, the idea of a joint website was suggested where the three organisations in Stromeferry and Achmore could be represented so Lizzie had assembled the sample site in this way and also emailed FCT to look at the sample site.

There were questions about who could edit which part of the site, holding email lists to use for information circulation such as minutes etc., which needs further investigation and Phil asked for a 'Pros and Cons' on whether we have one site or individual sites for each organisation.

[**Action:** Lizzie will prepare a 'pros and cons' paper

Mary also suggested having a 'brainstorm' with C.C., FCT and Hall Committee to find out about what each group would need from a site and how best to progress for everyone.

Action: Neil will contact FCT/Hall Committee with above suggestion

Phil had asked Biz at previous meeting if it was possible for us to get space on the Highland Council servers to host our website

Action: Biz to check with Highland Council and report back to next meeting.

6. Fernaig Community Trust

Neil had written to Directors, 9th March, outlining the C.C. ideas to aid communication, information exchange and understanding between the all community groups. Response had been received from Kate Bulloch

7. TEC Services

Planning Schedule

Mary had finished spreadsheet and sent to George Speed & Mark Crow on 2nd March 2010 and a meeting had been arranged with George at Achmore Hall on Monday 29th March.

Meeting 29th March

Attended by George, Neil, Phil, Lizzie and Renee. George updated the meeting on the priority and progress of each item. A couple of extra items were brought up, which will be added to the spreadsheet one of which was Renee's point raised at the last meeting regarding the clearing back bushes at the top of the Braintra/main road junction. As George had confirmed the HC mower would only be able to reach so far back from the road, Renee suggested a 'volunteer' session to ensure the bushes were cut back before coming into leaf and maintaining the safety of view at the junction and Lizzie will mention this to FCT to seek volunteers.

Action: Neil suggested that Renee should take the lead on organising all the 'volunteers' for this activity and to be sure that she gets a 'team' to assist her this year.

At this meeting the question of how to best pinpoint the problem areas arose. Photos were included in the schedule but would it be better to use OS ref? George replied that GPS would be better and could be mapped in on the TEC services systems.

Following the update on the meeting with George, Chris MacDonald volunteered to assist on GPS positioning when needed as he uses this for Forestry mapping.

Action: As Mary is currently responsible for 'upkeep' of spreadsheet she will co-ordinate updating spreadsheet with Chris.

Signs for viewpoint and refuse bins

Lizzie had spoken to Bruce and he was going to investigate the possibility of Forestry Commission signs for the viewpoint. Regarding the bins, there was some misunderstanding about whether TEC would charge or not. Lizzie rechecked with George about this and if the bins were suitable for the collection pickup the service would be free.

Action: Lizzie will liase back to Bruce on the style of bin and whether costs will be down to the FC or the CC

8. Highland Council Budget

Biz confirmed that this would take some time to give the planned overview so this was deferred to the next meeting

Correspondence

1. NHS report on Meeting 12th Feb, see above
2. Letter from FCT 11th March see above
3. Email from Colin Parsons on 20th March, Lizzie responded 21st March
4. Email from Robbie Bain, Ward Manager, re Ward Forum on 12th April, 18.30 Ullapool, still working on Agenda but expecting to cover next phase of consultation on Community Council review and Community Learning
5. Scottish Rights of Way Newsletter
6. HQ 51 (Scottish Brigade) Military Flying Activity 20th March – 2nd April, Large NATO exercise between 12 –30 April
7. NHS Team Update Feb 2010
8. ARCH (archaeology for Communities in the Highlands). For further information contact info@archhighland.org.uk or see www.archhighland.org.uk

New Matters arising

1. Request was made for a Community Skip for Achmore
Action: Lizzie will place request and notify via email / postal distribution list delivery date
2. Lizzie resigned as Secretary and Treasurer but will prepare the notes of this meeting. Neil thanked Lizzie on behalf of C.C. for all her years of service and hard work as secretary & treasurer.

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The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th April at 8 p.m. Achmore Hall

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.15 pm.