

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 27th March 2012 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

Present: Audrey Sinclair, Ellanne Fraser, Martin Fraser, Phil Game, Mary MacBeth, Jann MacRae, Wilfar Matheson (part)

1) Apologies: Kate Bulloch, Dawn Lupton

2) February's minutes.

These were accepted, proposed by Mary seconded by Martin.

There was an issue outstanding from February's minutes regarding whether all items need to be minuted, this arose from an item excluded from January's minutes. Clarification was sought from Robbie Bain and we have now been made aware of the rules which are quite clear.

If an item is placed on the agenda and discussed in the meeting then **any** decision taken by the CC **must** be minuted, even if the decision is to take no action.

In January our mistake was to assume that as we had decided that the item was outside the remit of the CC and therefore was to be dropped from the agenda it did not need to be minuted. This was incorrect as technically the conclusion to reject the item was a decision by the CC.

If the item had been rejected when raised and not placed on the agenda then it would not have needed to be minuted.

In future CC decisions regarding all items discussed in meetings will be minuted.

Copies of February's draft minutes were sent out early in March. Copies of approved minutes are on our website at www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934

Email phil.game1@btinternet.com if you would like to be put on the circulation list for the draft minutes.

3) Secretary's report

Communications received

Neil Gillies – Response to our letter regarding the A890

Copy to be put on the website, our letter to NG to be put on website.

Action: Phil

Mary thanked Audrey for reminding NG we were waiting for a reply.

NHS Highland – “Highlights from NHS” this arrived as a paper copy and is too large to circulate.

A copy will be put on the notice board outside the hall.

Action: Mary

If anyone would like a copy to borrow please contact Mary. Mary has asked NHS Highland for future documents to be placed on the web and will circulate the link so they more freely available.

Invitation to a conference Wed 18th April 2012 from the Association of Scottish Community Councils
Audrey advised that this group was disbanding and so we decided not to attend.

List of Planning Applications week beginning 1st March 2012 – nothing for our area.

Martin informed the meeting that we had to respond quickly if anything should arise on the weekly list which we needed to address. All agreed to respond to Mary within the five day cut-off.

Planning issues will be debated in more depth at a future CC meeting.

Various emails re: the A890 - which were distributed via email as they came in.

Meetings

Met with Scottish Water (see item 8)

Telephone calls

Spoke with Peter Greening, Tilhill (see item 9)

4) Treasurer's report

Wilfar informed the meeting that he was still waiting for statements to be forwarded from the bank but that there had been no income or expenditure in the past month.

New spending plans

Phil asked for money to distribute the minutes by post to those who do not have access to email or the notice boards. This was agreed (see item 5)

5) Distribution of minutes to those not currently on our email circulation list

A questionnaire will be circulated to households that do not currently receive the minutes via email asking them how they would like to receive minutes from the CC.

Action: Phil

Ellanne volunteered to review the outstanding names and addresses to see if she could complete a few more of the blanks.

Action: Ellanne

6) Notice boards

Wilfar informed the meeting that two boards have been ordered and we are awaiting delivery.

Mary asked if it would be possible to get a stand to hold bundles of minutes like those used at petrol forecourts. We will look to see what is available and the cost.

Action: Wilfar

7) Re-siting of the re-cycling bins from the Square

Wilfar had another quiet word with the driver and the bins have been moved!

It should now be possible to get easier access to the bins and to clear up any breakages.

Wilfar asked for feedback from the community

Action: You (yes you, who are reading this right now)

8) TEC Services – Spreadsheet

This has been put on the website at www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934. Details will be checked, photographs uploaded and the details forwarded to TEC services.

Action: Phil

All new road faults should be reported by individuals to the Council via the normal route and then details of the faults should be sent to mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com as shown on the web page. We will then provide as much documentation as possible to TEC services to help them identify and prioritise the faults and fix them.

9) TEC Services – A890

Please note the best place for the latest information is the Highland Council website.

www.highland.gov.uk and www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/roads/stromeferry.htm

Wilfar and Meg Mackenzie met with Keith Brown the Scottish Transport minister. Wilfar gave us brief summary of the meeting.

The road is maintained by Highland Council not the Scottish government, there is little chance it will be adopted by the Scottish Government. The minister was made aware that the road is of vital importance to local business even in the “low season”. Some local businesses have reported downturns of 25% due to the loss of passing traffic. The difficulty for Lochcarron residents trying to get to Broadford hospital for appointments was stressed as was the impact on major distributors now having to organize two sets of deliveries where before these could be handled by the one lorry.

It was felt the minister did take all these points on board and indeed may have been helpful in speeding up the use of the railway as a temporary road.

None the less the minister has stated he has no intention of looking at reclassifying the road.

Our thanks to Wilfar and Meg for representing us at the meeting at such short notice.

There was then a brief discussion about our next move and it was decided we would contact the Highland Council to ask for copies of recent slope inspection reports.

Action: Wilfar

We then discussed a longer term action plan for the CC, it was decided we should start the process now.

Action: Wilfar

10) Scottish Water

Works on the Achmore / Plockton Road.

Works are now complete and the road opened on the 28th March.

Automating the pump to cater for power cuts

The generator is to be upgraded to automatically cut in when there is a power cut. SW informed us this work is to be completed within the next four months.

Mains low pressure

To get this problem resolved with Scottish Water residents should call 0845 601 8855 **every time** that they experience low pressure. These calls are logged by the customer service centre at SW. The number of calls is accumulated for each area and this is used to prioritise investigating and fixing the problem. Therefore it is essential that all low pressure events are logged every time they occur so that the problems feature on the priority list for fixing.

In addition Scottish Water has suggested that the households suffering from low pressure could contact someone on the CC.

To that end would you please email mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com or telephone 01599 577 296 and leave a message if there is no answer. Please supply the following details; name, location, date and time low pressure was experienced.

This information will be collated by the CC and forwarded directly to Joanna Peebles, Scottish Water Customer Representative.

11) Tilhill and Braeintra / Fernaig Woodland

Mary to contact those who have registered an interest in this topic.

Action: Mary

12) Broadband

Phil reported that he had received the following response from Andrea Rutherford.

There is no mechanism for individual CC to participate in the process at this stage.

We cannot receive copies of the board meetings as these contain confidential commercial information.

Andrea sent us copies of the following documents.

The Connectivity Roadmap, which resulted from discussions with communities and business groups.

The Contract Notice for the next generation broadband project.

These arrived too late to be presented to the meeting, so a synopsis of the two documents will be circulated to the CC.

Action: Phil

Andrea also sent us a copy of the members of the project board. John Watt is the community groups representative, we will contact him to see what input we can have to the decision making process through him.

Action: Wilfar, Phil

13) Defibrillator for local emergencies?

No progress this month due to other commitments.

Action: Mary

14) Fernaig Trust

Kate was unable to attend the meeting but had emailed Martin with an update.

The Hydro feasibility study is ongoing, the Trust expect the report to be available sometime in April. Phil asked if the terms of reference on the website were still relevant as they are dated 23rd July 2010.

Action: Jann

All Fernaig Trust minutes are available on the website Stromeferry-and-Achmore.co.uk. If anyone would like the Trust minutes emailed to them individually please contact Kate at kbulloch@mac.com.

Action: Kate

The Fernaig Trust asked if it would it be possible to have a sentence in the letter asking individuals how they would like to receive Fernaig Trust minutes? This was already in the letter to be distributed, it was agreed we should ask the Hall Committee if they would like to be included.

Action: Phil

Once the CC has sorted distribution lists for those not on email could Fernaig Trust use that list? It was agreed that this information would be passed to the Trust (and Hall Committee if they request it).

15) Shed on the green opposite Achmore square

As agreed at the February meeting members of the CC went to talk to the presumed owners. The building has a complicated history, it is not clear who owns it or who is responsible for it.

Martin was in receipt of an email from Jim Coomber regarding the exchange Jim had had with the CC. In response it was decided we should document the situation regarding when items should be minuted. (see item 2)

There has been no further correspondence regarding the shed itself and so the item will now be dropped.

16) Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park.

No progress this month due to other commitments. We will send a letter to the Highland Council formally requesting the provision of a local recycling centre.

Action: Mary

17) Skip

The rough cost of a skip is £350 - £400 for a weekend.

There was some discussion about alternate ways to fund a skip and it was decided we should do further research.

Action: Wilfar

New items

18) Constitution.

It was agreed the constitution would be circulated to all members of the CC.

Action: Mary

All members to respond with any comments by Tuesday 3rd April.

Action: All

Signed constitution to be forwarded to Robbie Bain.

Action: Mary

19) Dog's mess in public places.

It has been reported that some paths, roads and areas of the village have “disappeared” under piles of dog's mess. Would dog owners please be considerate when allowing their dogs to evacuate and either steer them well clear of public areas (paths etc) or clear up any mess that would cause inconvenience to others.

Action: Canines (and owners)

20) Items noted from last week's training session requiring CC attention.

There was a brief discussion of the following topics

a) Data protection Act, we need to register & find out what to do to comply.

We will register as soon as possible

Action: Mary

b) Public liability insurance.

Deferred to another meeting

c) Formal list of assets & who is liable.

Deferred to another meeting

d) Insurance for assets – see c

Deferred to another meeting

e) How to deal with planning issues, 5 day rule.

Deferred to another meeting

f) How to deal with licensing issues.

Deferred to another meeting

g) Should we join CVO or other similar group?

It was agreed we should join.

Action: Mary

h) Distribution of agendas, best practise is to circulate these to everyone in the area one week before the CC meeting.

Deferred to another meeting

i) Written treasurers report for each meeting.

Deferred to another meeting

j) Election of a vice chair

Deferred to another meeting

21) AOB.

Nothing

22) Next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th April at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.