

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 28th August 2012 @ 7:45 p.m. Achmore Hall

Present: Biz Campbell, Ellanne Fraser, Martin Fraser, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae, Wilfar Matheson

Martin stepped down as chair at the AGM but agreed to chair this meeting. The start of the meeting was delayed by a few minutes to allow Wilfar and Dawn to attend.

1) Apologies: Jann MacRae (work commitments).

2) May's minutes.

These were accepted, proposed by Mary, seconded by Martin.

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

Email from Jim & Babs Gibbs – Low pressure and no water in Strome Ferry on 22nd August.
See 9

Research survey from SLVCO

As we have just joined we decided not to respond on this occasion.

Scottish Rights of Way & Access Society

See 21

Three months of weekly Highland Council Planning lists

These were distributed to all members of CC as they were received. There was a brief discussion about the telecoms mast to be erected in Dornie and we decided to get more information about this for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Mary

Email & telephone call from Dave Biss re – clearing verges and delays to A890
See 7

Letter from Wester Ross Alliance – Membership Application details

We will complete and return the form.

Action: Mary

Invitation to the number 1 turf care & open space management show – Windsor Racecourse 4-6 Sep
We will decline the invitation

Highland Council, Consultation on Civic Government (Scotland) At 1982 – Late Hours Catering Licensing Hours Policy

Not applicable to us.

Highland Council, Licensing Board – Consultation in respect of the door entry policy for licensed premises operating after 1am

Not applicable to us.

Highland Council, Candidate of the year awards

This was distributed to all members of the CC. If anyone in the area (not just members of the CC would like to nominate someone who works for the Council please contact Mary at mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com or 01599 577 296 by **Friday 21st September**.

Email from Robbie Bain re Budget consultations meeting Lochcarron 17th September Monday @18.30pm.
Circulated to all members of the CC

If anyone would like copies any of the above documents please contact Mary at mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com or 01599 577 296.

4) Treasurer's report

No purchases this month.

Opening Balance	£4,105.90
Expenditure this period	£ 0.00
Income this period	£ 0.00
Closing Balance	£4,105.90

We will check with Robbie Bain that we have completed all the procedures necessary to complete this year's return.

Action: Wilfar

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

Would anyone who has not yet responded please do so as soon as possible.

Thirty-six letters were distributed; we have had 24 responses asking to receive communications from the CC. We will chase the remainder unless we believe the properties to be vacant.

Action: Phil

Everyone that responded asked to be put on the mailing list for the CC, most wanted to be put on the circulation list for the Fernaig Trust and Hall Committee. We will verify that the three lists are correct and then distribute the Fernaig Trust and Hall lists to the respective administrator. We are happy to act as the focal point to administer the lists but do not want to be the postman as this is likely to lead to confusion.

Action: Phil

6) Notice boards

No progress

Action: Martin

7) TEC Services

TEC services are aware of our spreadsheet of road faults but as yet have not updated their sections.

TEC services are aware of the overgrown verges and have stated that they are to be cleared in the near future. Delays have been caused by lack of staff and a faulty machine. We will chase for a date.

Action: Phil

Concern was raised at the size of the drop at the edge of the new tarmac on the Plockton road. We will ask TEC services if they can raise the verge so vehicles are not damaged.

Action: Phil

The lack of notice regarding the resurfacing work on the Strome Ferry bypass was raised with Biz and she suggested we contact Robbie to make sure we are notified of disruption in future. We will ask for details to be broadcast by email to local CCs, by road signage giving advance warning and by radio travel lines.

Action: Phil

George Speed is to leave TEC services at the end of August and as yet we have not been notified who will be our focal point. Biz suggested we chase Mark Crowe for a response.

Action: Phil

The road fault spreadsheet can be found at www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934.

Action: Phil

8) TEC Services – A890

Several members of the CC attended the briefing given by the Highland Council on the 25th June in Lochcarron where several possible alternate routes were discussed. Details of the presentation can be found at:- www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/roads/stromeferry.htm

At the meeting on the 25th June we asked for copies of the recent slope inspections, we have not received anything and so we will chase Neil Gillies.

Action: Mary

9) Scottish Water

Low pressure / no supply in Strome Ferry

We queried the recent lack of water on the 22nd August and have been informed by SW that this was due to excessive “draw down” at Achnandarach.

We have queried the exact meaning of this phrase and as yet have not received a reply. We have asked SW for a full explanation of the local water supply, holding tanks, emergency generators,

Action: Mary

Emergency procedures

We have not received a satisfactory response from SW, we will chase a reply.

Action: Mary

Damage to surfaces in the Square and Achbeg Crescent

Nothing yet from Scottish Water, we will chase a reply

Action: Mary

10) Tilhill and Braeintra / Fernaig Woodland

We have chased Tilhill to be told that they are still in the process of putting there plans together. We will contact them again for answers to our specific questions.

Action: Mary

11) Broadband

We have responded to the HIE consultation after having been given dispensation to respond after the official closing date. We emphasised the following; the need for competition, target speeds of 2Mbps by 2012 and 20Mbps by 2020 are woefully inadequate, broadband in remote areas should be funded by all users.

We were not made aware of the HIE consultation until after the closing date for responses. We have suggested in future HIE use a circulation list to keep people informed by email rather than just relying on access to their website. We will chase to ensure that we get a response.

Action: Phil

We have contacted Harry Emambocus at the Scottish Government in the Broadband Policy and Digital Economy Team who are the steering group. His team has responded to say they are in the process of setting up Community Broadband Scotland which should be up and running by October. Their brief will be to provide finances, technical advice and guidance for communities wanting to set up their own broadband initiatives. There will be a meeting in September to launch the Community Broadband Scotland initiative.

Action: Phil

We have contacted Peter Buneman who was key to setting up a community broadband in Arnisdale / Knoydart. Peter was extremely knowledgeable and helpful.

Their local set up is applicable to us. They use local wireless connections rather than telephone cables and have speeds of 20Mbps. The equipment they use is available commercially at cost of around £100 per household. Running costs depend on who provides the main “gateway” to the Internet and here the set up at Arnisdale differs from most as they use the network of the University of the Highlands and Islands. We would no doubt have to negotiate with BT for our “gateway”.

Action: Phil

Nothing received from Jim Coomber regarding the satellite based broadband service mentioned in the last minutes.

12) Defibrillator for local emergencies?

We contacted Glendale with a view to discussing their set up but as yet haven't organized anything specific.

Biz told us that there was to be a talk in Dornie hall in the next few weeks and we decided that would be easier to attend than Glendale.

Action: Mary

13) Fernaig Trust

Martin did not attend the whole of the last meeting so Mary who was there as a member of the public (not a representative of the CC) gave an update.

There were not enough directors present to make a quorum so it was decided to publish draft minutes.

Kate & Jim focused on feedback and preparation for the public meeting to discuss the hydro scheme feasibility study. Lizzie explained that progress had been made talking to the Forestry regarding work on Strome Woods. Colin is organising a talk at the next Trust meeting to discuss Crofting.

Several members of the CC attended the public meeting to discuss the feasibility study for the hydro scheme. All of those that attended thought that Simon Munro (the consultant) did a very good job and was obviously very knowledgeable and answered all questions put to him at the meeting.

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

Mary has now obtained contact details of neighbouring CCs from Robbie Bain, we will contact them to see if we can put a joint case to the Highland Council.

Action: Mary

15) Constitution.

We have now received details from Robbie Bain, this topic is therefore closed.

16) Donation to Auchtertyre and Loch Duich schools mini Olympics

It would appear we missed the opportunity to donate, better luck in 2016, topic closed.

17) Issues raised at CC training session.

Public liability insurance

We have now received the certificate for 2012 / 2013, topic closed.

How to deal with licensing issues

We will contact SLVCO and ask them to attend a CC meeting we will ask the Hall Committee if they would like to attend.

Action: Mary

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

We will circulate the agenda for the next meeting of the CC to all members on the Monday two weeks before the meeting, members of the CC are to submit their changes by the end of the following Sunday. We will collate any changes from members of the CC and circulate them to everyone in the area on the Monday one week before the CC meeting to allow anyone to add topics.

The final agenda will be circulated to all members of the CC on the Monday prior to the meeting.

Action: Mary

Written treasurers report for each meeting.

This will be done using the standard Highland Council pro forma as per the AGM.

Action: Wilfar

Election of a vice chair

This was deferred to be put on the agenda for a later meeting.

Action: Mary

18) Co-option of new member and election of new chair.

Neil MacRae was the only candidate to come forward to fill the vacancy caused by Kate's resignation. He was elected to the CC unanimously.

Wilfar proposed Neil to be the new chair, Phil seconded Neil. There were no objections and so Neil is therefore elected as the new chair of the CC. We will inform Robbie Bain of the changes.

Action: Mary

We will get bank signatories altered for the CC account.

Action: Wilfar

19) Feedback to Scottish Government re planning changes

Completed, topic closed.

20) Why were the Independents frozen out of the executive at the Highland Council?

We have written to the chief executive asking for an explanation, we will chase a response.

Action: Mary

21) Scottish Rights of Way & Access Society

We have decided to renew our subscription for this year at a cost of £20.

Action: Mary

22) AOB.

Nothing

23) Next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th September at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm.