

# Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

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

1) **Apologies:** Jann MacRae (work commitments).

2) **August's minutes.**

These were accepted, proposed by Wilfar, seconded by Dawn.

Copies of approved minutes are on our website at:-

[www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934](http://www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934)

Email [phil.game1@btinternet.com](mailto: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 Coomber, via Martin - Broadband satellite links as per May Minutes - See 11

Weekly Highland Council Planning list - Distributed to members of the CC

Letter from Mr. Souter regarding communications - See 5

Emails from Robbie Bain re Budget consultations meeting Lochcarron 17<sup>th</sup> September Monday @18.30pm - See 19

Letter of 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2012 Highland Council re: Proposal to change the Secondary catchment areas of Portree and Plockton High School. – Of more relevance to Kyleakin than ourselves

Letter of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012; Representation – Local Communities – See 17

By hand from Moira MacDonald – A890 Stromeferry Bypass – Economic Impact Study – 1<sup>st</sup> Draft June 1993 – To be kept in the archive.

Email from Geoff Underhill regarding errors in web links in the minutes; potholes; format of TEC Services Spreadsheet – see 5, 8.

Email Highland Council Community Council Insurance – not applicable to ourselves

Receipt from Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society on 10<sup>th</sup> Sep.

Email 4 Sep from SLCVO re: Community Councils & Licensing in the Highlands – to be circulated and debated at a future meeting

Email from Kate Bulloch – Re Small Housing Association AGM - noted

Telephone call John Caithness re; Found ladies glasses, half rim, tortoise shell legs by cattle grid at Braeintra Road – will circulate with next minutes.

Email from Mark Crowe regarding TEC services – see 7.

Telephone call from Dave Biss regarding overgrown trees affecting line of sight see 7

**If anyone would like copies any of the above documents please contact Mary at**

**[mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com) or 01599 577 296.**

#### 4) Treasurer's report

Opening Balance	£4,105.90
Expenditure this period	£ 20.00
Income this period	£ 0.00
Closing Balance	£4,085.90

The annual accounts have been approved and will be submitted to Robbie Bain to secure this year's grant.

Dawn asked that the usual £100 donation should be made to the Hall Christmas party. All agreed.

**Action: Wilfar**

Wilfar said he had been asked for a donation of £140 to repair the Hall fence. There was some concern that we might set a precedent in contributing to the regular maintenance costs of the Hall, however after taking into account the special circumstances of this specific request it was agreed by a majority we should donate the full amount.

**Action: Wilfar**

There was then further discussion regarding the monies owed by the CC for the use of the hall. It was decided we should contact the Hall Committee and ask for either a monthly or annual invoice covering the CC meetings.

**Action: Mary**

Wilfar is now able to produce a written report each month in the format requested by the HC.

**Action: Wilfar**

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

Our thanks to Geoff Underhill for pointing out errors in some web links in previous minutes. These will be corrected this month.

**Action: Phil**

We received a response from Ken Souter regarding the circulation of information and specifically details from the Fernaig Trust. We will respond to Ken to explain the differences between the FT & CC and circulation of information.

**Action: Phil**

Although there are still a couple of addressees who have not yet responded to our letters / emails and reminders it was agreed that we would now close this topic. If you have not yet provided your contact details and you wish to receive communications from the CC, Fernaig Trust or Hall please contact Phil ASAP.

**Closed**

#### 6) Notice boards

No progress and Martin is unable to devote any time to the notice boards next month. Wilfar volunteered to resolve the issue.

**Action: Wilfar**

## 7) TEC Services

As George Speed has now left TEC Services we asked Mark Crowe if he still wants to continue with the trial of the spreadsheet prioritizing work. Mark responded to say he does want to continue to use the spreadsheet.

If you want to raise a report regarding a road fault then first please report it directly to the HC on **01349 886601**, then contact Phil giving details of date the fault was reported, the location and the nature of the fault. It will then be discussed by the CC and given a priority. Details will then be sent to TEC services.

It may take a little while before this is back in full use while Sandy MacVarish who will replace George Speed, gets up to velocity.

The overgrown verges have now been cut.

Low verges at the edge of the new tarmac on the Plockton road. TEC services hope to be able to resolve this over the winter. We will add this to the spreadsheet

The lack of notice regarding the resurfacing work on the Strome Ferry bypass was raised with Robbie Bain who informed us that the correct point of contact for this work would be Bryan Stout in Dingwall. We will contact him to make sure we are notified of disruption in future.

For his part Mark Crowe has agreed that schools and CC should be informed in advance and he asked us which radio station we thought would be the best to get the widest audience.

The road fault spreadsheet can be found by clicking [here](#)-

Dave Biss has raised the issue of problems with the line of sight on the Fernaig Road, Dawn and Wilfar raised similar problems on the Plockton Road. It was agreed we would look into these problems in more detail as local chainsaw action may be able to resolve the problem.

Geoff Underhill has raised the issue of the poor road surface on the Braeintra road 200 yards up from the cattle grid and also the stretch from Birchwood to the bridge. Phil to confirm Geoff has reported the problems to the HC. It was agreed the section on the Braeintra road should be given some priority however we decided that we could live with the section from Birchwood to the bridge.

**Action: Phil**

## 8) TEC Services – A890

At the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> June in Lochcarron about the long term solutions to the A890 problems we asked for copies of the recent slope inspections, we sent an email to Neil Gillies requesting the same on the 24<sup>th</sup> August and chased again on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

As yet no response, we will chase **again**.

**Action: Mary**

## **9) Scottish Water - Low pressure / no supply in Strome Ferry, Emergency procedures, Damage to surfaces in the Square and Achbeg Crescent**

We have asked SW to attend a CC meeting so we can go through these issues, and understand the infrastructure of our new water supply; no one was available for September's CC meeting.

**Action: Mary**

## **10) Tilhill and Braeintra / Fernaig Woodland**

Mary spoke to Tilhill and although there has been little progress they were able to clarify the following points:-  
Tilhill have not yet contacted the owners about using the name Braeintra Plantation / Woodland rather than Fernaig Wood, but they are of the opinion that the owners may not want to change the name, but they will discuss our request with them.

There will be no new tracks created in the forest; trees will be cleared to allow ATV access.

The existing points of access will remain; the existing stock fence will remain and will not be upgraded to a deer fence.

To allow the forest to regenerate deer will be culled by stalking.

Mary told the meeting that Tilhill think it unlikely there will be any major developments in the next few months and so she agreed that she will contact Tilhill again next January. Tilhill will contact Mary if there any developments before then.

There was a general discussion regarding the news from Tilhill and the following points were noted:-

It was felt that we had managed to create a better relationship with Tilhill.

If the owners will not alter the name of the land we will ask Tilhill to use the local names when communicating with third parties and especially when commissioning any contract work.

Tilhill are to be asked to notify us in advance when stalking is planned.

Tilhill are to be asked to notify stalkers to be considerate of local residents when out on the hill and when "processing" their kill.

**Action: Mary**

## **11) Broadband**

HIE have not yet published the results of the consultation.

HIE have not yet set up a circulation list to keep people informed by email.

Scottish Government in the Broadband Policy and Digital Economy Team

There was an error in last month's minutes as the launch meeting was scheduled for October the 13<sup>th</sup> not September as stated. However with just two weeks to go there are still no details as to whether this is going to take place as planned.

Peter Buneman came over to visit and went through the work that was done in Loch Hourn and Knoydart. He described the set up, the equipment used and problems faced getting a community broadband project up and running. He has provided maps and techniques to be used to find suitable sites for equipment for us. Whilst here he took the opportunity to view our surrounding terrain and was able to point out examples of suitable sites to locate equipment. Peter suggested we continue to look for the best local sites and contact local businesses to see what commercial demand is present in the area.

We have now received an invitation for the Tegola Project event to be held at Sabhal Mor Ostaig on 12th October.

**Action: Phil**

Our thanks to Jim Coomber for information regarding satellite broadband, it appears Jim's email was sent in May but got lost in Martin's email filing system!

## **12) Defibrillator for local emergencies?**

Biz told us that there was to be a talk in Dornie hall this week but it is actually a training session to prepare for their installation of a defibrillator and is not suitable for us.

However as we now have approximately 20 volunteers it seems sensible to go ahead with the training and installation of our equipment.

**Action: Mary**

## **13) Fernaig Trust**

At the last meeting of the FT there was discussion regarding the Hydro feasibility study, with mostly positive responses received.

The AGM will take place at 7pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> October where several changes to the Articles are proposed:-

Increase the maximum no of directors to 12

Increase the minimum of directors to 6

The quorum should be half the number of directors with a minimum of 4

Directors should attend a minimum of 8 meetings annually.

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

Mary has contacted neighbouring CCs and has had responses from Kyle and Dornie who are both keen to see local facilities. We will chase the outstanding responses.

**Action: Mary**

## **15) Issues raised at CC training session.**

### **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.**

It was agreed the revised schedule was acceptable and will be used from now on. Topic closed.

### **Written treasurers report for each meeting.**

This has been set up by Wilfar and will be used from now on. Topic closed.

### **Election of a vice chair**

It was agreed that we would elect a temporary chair on an ad-hoc basis if required. Topic closed

## **16) Co-option of new member and election of new chair.**

Robbie Bain has been informed of the changes. Topic closed.

Bank signatories have been altered. Topic closed.

## **17) Why were the Independents frozen out of the executive at the Highland Council?**

The result of the local council elections resulted in 80 councillors being elected:-

Independent 35, SNP 22, Liberal Democrats 15, Labour 8. The Independents make up the largest group but are not in power so we asked why. We have had a response from the chief executive Corporate Office, informing us that after discussion between the various political groupings, an agreement was reached between the SNP, Democrats and Labour to form an administration. Highland Council have produced a brochure 'Working Together for the Highlands' with section dedicated too 'Working together to empower our communities'. A copy of the document can be obtained from Mary. We will respond with our response on how the Highland Council can engage more with local communities.

**Action: Mary**

## **18) Scottish Rights of Way & Access Society**

Our subscription has been renewed. Topic closed.

## **19) Highland Council budget reductions**

Mary attended the meeting in Lochcarron on the 17<sup>th</sup> September and distributed information from the meeting. The deadline for responses is the 31<sup>st</sup> October and it was decided that we would add he topic to next month's meeting and if possible submit a response on behalf of the CC. The budget consultation document is available online at:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4C4A5AC3-5511-4E23-BD68-EC18D56D6681/0/budgetconsultation2012.pdf> .

The Highland Council is keen to have your views and you can do this by following the links on the budget consultation pages of the Council's website at:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/news/haveyoursay/budget2012/> .

## **22) AOB.**

Nothing

## **23) Next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.