

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 26th March 2013 @ 6:55 - 7:45 & 9:20 - 10:00 p.m. Achmore Hall

Members of the CC met at 6:45 to meet with Kate Earnshaw to discuss hospital requirements in our area. As Kate had not arrived by 6:55 it was decided we would start the CC meeting. Kate finally turned up at 7:45 and the CC meeting was adjourned to allow the NHS meeting to take place. After the NHS meeting finished the CC meeting resumed at 9:20.

As advised by email on the 25th March dates and times were agreed with Kate some time ago and reconfirmed on Monday the 25th, the day before the meeting.

Present: Audrey Sinclair, Martin Fraser (part), Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Jann MacRae (part), Neil MacRae
Sean Tomlinson, see 10.

1) Apologies: Ellanne Fraser, Wilfar Matheson

2) February's minutes.

These were accepted, proposed by Neil and seconded by Jann

Copies of minutes are on our website at:-

www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934

Email CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk if you would like to be put on the circulation list.

Please note the change in email address in preparation for our own broadband system.

3) Secretary's report

Communications received – March 2013.

Email - Weekly Highland Council Planning list – distributed to CC

For some unexplained reason we were dropped from the ward 6 list, then put on to the Skye list! We are now back on the ward 6 list, but now are not receiving the Skye list! We will check why we are not receiving the Skye list.

Action: Mary

Email - Monthly SLCVO e-bulletin – distributed

Email – NHS representative to visit Achmore to liaise re 'New' Hospital Lochalsh & Skye.

This was the meeting with Kate Earnshaw, there will be a separate report covering this meeting.

Hand/post – John Muir Trust 2013 Leaflet & Poster Distribution

We agreed we would distribute information on their behalf.

Post – Spring Newsletter, Scotways

Email – J Coomber re: URS/Lochcarron Business Group survey see 8

Letter – The Information Commission – renewal reminder £35 see 4

Communications received by the chairman.

None

If anyone would like copies any of the above documents please contact Mary at CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk or 01599 577 296.

Please note the change in email address in preparation for our own broadband system.

4) Treasurer's report

Opening Balance	£ 4,725.39
Expenditure this period	£ 0.00
Income this period	£ 0.00
Closing Balance	£ 4,725.39

We have paid our subscription to Scotways twice as a standing order was already in place. Wilfar to cancel the standing order and inform Scotways to treat the overpayment as next year's subscription.

Action: Wilfar

Wilfar issued a cheque to pay our subscription for the data protection act.

Action: Mary

5) Distribution of minutes

No new addresses this month; Phil has given the Hall committee a test file to load into their circulation list. If this is OK the same procedure should be able to be used for the Fernaig Trust list. No response from the Hall committee, we will chase them again.

Action: Phil

6) Notice board for Strome Ferry

It was decided we would ask the residents of Strome Ferry to nominate the best location for the notice board.

Action: Phil, Neil

7) TEC Services

Lack of gritting on the Strome Ferry hill, we have had an email from Lynn saying she did not receive a response to her call to TEC services. However as most of the cold weather is behind us now we have agreed to drop this topic for this winter but put it in the CC diary to resurrect in good time for next winter.

Action: Phil

Disruption on the A890 caused by resurfacing work

We emailed Alistair Dodds for the HC escalation procedures, and then escalated the lack of response from Bryan Stout with Neil Gillies. Neil Gillies apologised and said Cameron Kemp would resolve the matter. Cameron Kemp also apologised and promised that the CC would be contacted directly in future and he also gave us details of the Scottish roadworks website <http://www.roadworksscotland.org/> which has details of all roadworks in Scotland.

We will put a link to the Scottish roadworks website on our website.

Action: Phil

Work has started filling the verges between Achmore & Plockton. Sandy informed us that the outstanding work is quite involved and needs drains to be installed before the verges can be filled. Due to budgets this cannot be completed until the start of the new financial year. We will update the spreadsheet accordingly.

Action: Phil

We received a letter and information booklet from the Scottish Government – Coping with Emergencies, Building Community Resilience. Mary distributed copies to members of the CC and further copies have been put in the notice board container.

Closed

We received communications from the Highland Council and the Scottish Government regarding winter road and path preparedness and will look at this next August / September so we are ready for next winter. A new section “Calendar” has been added to the minutes to remind us of scheduled tasks.

Closed

We asked Margaret Arscott about the work done by TEC services last winter in Braeintra. She has reported that clearing the drains at the bridge has had the desired effect and there is no longer any standing water. However clearing the ditches further up has not completely stopped water running down the road and into private property. We will update the spreadsheet accordingly and report back to Sandy. A new item has been reported by Margaret Arscott; ref no 554969, appalling state of lower end of Braeintra road. After some discussion regarding this and the outstanding road faults it was agreed that 554969 should now be given the highest priority.

Action: Phil

Martin raised the issue of the efficiency of council road workers. It was agreed that this should be discussed with Audrey.

Action: Martin

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

8) TEC Services – A890 reroute

We will press the HC for a meeting in Achmore.

Action: Neil, Mary

The documentation was displayed in the hall to allow everyone the chance to view the documentation sent through so far. 15 people attended and it was well received. Thanks to everyone that attended and the feedback has been forwarded to URS.

Completed

An issue has been raised by Jim Coomber about URS conducting a survey with Lochcarron Business Group without a similar exercise being done for Stromeferry and Achmore. Jim has forwarded a copy of the Lochcarron Business Group letter. We have emailed the URS project Manger to ask why Stromeferry & Achmore has not been consulted and why the Economic stakeholder group had not been informed. We have asked URS when they propose to consult other businesses in the area. We are waiting for them to pass details of the survey to us so we can distribute locally.

Action: Mary

9) Scottish Water - Low pressure / no supply in Strome Ferry, Emergency procedures.

We have asked SW to provide maps and diagrams to show the layout of the mains. We have asked to be given details of emergency procedures should there be a problem with the main from Plockton.

We emailed Joanna on the 18th March and again on the 25th March. No reply, we will chase her again.

Action: Mary

Damage to surfaces in the Square and Achbeg Crescent

Mary Passed Joanna Peebles email details to Wilfar.

Action Wilfar

10) Tilhill

Braeintra / Fernaig Woodland, if anyone wants more details Scoping Summary please contact Mary. Tilhill have promised they will talk to the CC before any more work is done.

Achnandarach - Woodland above Achmore / Braeintra, Sean informed the meeting that a gate has been removed from its hinges and again deer have entered the replanted area. Sean has asked that anyone that needs access to the replanted area contact him or a member of the CC so the issue can be raised with Tilhill. The consequences of gates being propped open or taken off their hinges will be further restrictions on access to the hill.

11) Broadband

The long awaited deal between HIE and BT was announced on the 26th March. There will be £146 million spent on new land and subsea fibre routes covering the Highlands and Islands. £126 will come from public funds and £20 million will come from BT the goal is to give 84% of premises access to fibre. There are very few specifics in the announcement.

You can read the full press release here:-

<http://www.hie.co.uk/about-hie/news-and-media/archive/146-million-investment-in-fibre-broadband-heralds-a-new-age-of-communications-across-highlands-and-islands.html>

One household that has previously decided not to join the CBS is now debating whether to join. One household for which we would appear to have the wrong contact details has been asked to forward correct contact details.

The meeting took place to discuss the feasibility study with 12 in attendance and another 15 sending their apologies and / or commenting via email. It was decided to proceed to the next stage and set up a test bed and demonstration system. The feasibility study has been updated with the decisions taken at the meeting and has been loaded to the website.

Most of the Ubiquiti kit has been ordered, unfortunately routers and external grade cable are out of stock, routers are expected in on the 4th April and will be ordered as soon as they arrive (they are not essential to the initial testing). As a stop gap internal quality cable will be used until better external quality cable can be sourced. Ubiquiti external cable will not be available until the end of May. Other supplies; e.g. tools & armoured mains cable, have already been delivered.

Martin is not able to work on restoring the power line to the old TV repeater. Phil and Neil will take on the task.

Action: Phil, Neil

Neil has found a suitable donor in Plockton for our demonstration; we will continue to monitor their bandwidth.

Action: Neil

There was no response from Lochcarron & District business association.

Dropped

We are still waiting for a response from Community Broadband Scotland regarding contact details of the advisor to be based in Auchtertyre.

Community Broadband Scotland has confirmed that once we start to buy equipment for our system we will no longer be eligible for funding.

Joe Grimson has very kindly volunteered to help.

Phil has been exchanging emails with Alison Macleod in Applecross; they are a little ahead of us and have already set up their demo system with a connection to Broadford BT exchange. They have up to 200 users in their “catchment” area. Although we will be working to different timescales we have agreed to try to share resources if at all possible.

Portree BT exchange is scheduled to be upgraded to 24Mbps at the end of May. Unfortunately due to Raasay we do not have a line of sight to Portree, but a repeater on Raasay might be an option for Applecross and ourselves.

Geoff Harrington and Hamish Howat-Hurst have agreed to act as auditors for the CBS. They will keep an audit trail of all assets and liabilities.

As we now need to move more quickly Phil suggested we set up a steering group separate from the CC to progress the broadband project. Neil, Phil & Mary will serve from the CC and Geoff Harrington, Hamish Howat-Hurst and Joe Grimson will be asked to join.

Talking to Applecross has highlighted a potential requirement to obtain an Ofcom license; Phil is looking into the fine print regarding the possession of equipment with the potential to transmit versus the actual transmission of licensed frequency bands. If we do need a license it will cost between £50 and £70 per year for 44 households.

The latest information on the broadband project can be found at:-
www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

12) Defibrillator for local emergencies

Mary will contact Dornie, who have recently been through the process of installation. We are looking at fund raising events so we can make a donation to Lucky2Bhere.

Action: Mary

13) Fernaig Trust

Neil gave us an update from the last FT meeting.

The FT has started an exercise to review rents and rationalise anomalies. The FT will organise a public meeting to discuss a general review of goals. No progress on the Hydro plant. Membership lists are being drawn up to remind people to renew their subscriptions. There may be an option to join forces with Lochcarron and utilise a mobile milking machine. This would allow the trust to graze Swedish dairy cows which are specifically adapted for soft boggy ground.

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

All our neighbouring CCs have responded and all are in favour of a recycling centre. Mary has written a letter, signed by Neil to be taken to all local CCs one letter by Audrey and one by Biz. Audrey will then present the letters to the HC.

Action: Mary, Audrey, Biz

Provision of a skip for Braeintra, Dawn will look into this in more detail. Phil to forward the original request to Dawn

Action: Phil, Dawn

15) How to deal with licensing issues

Mary called David Inglis, and emailed provisional confirmation for a meeting to take place on the **30th April at 6.45pm**, Achmore Hall. Mary will email everyone in the Community and in particular the hall committee to tell them about this meeting.

Action: Mary

16) Update from our Councilor, Highland Council budget reductions

Audrey has been involved with several groups this month:-

Public Partnership Form, which covers health and social services and is open to anyone to attend. The next meeting will be in Broadford Hospital on the 7th May. This meets to provide input to the Highland Health and Social Care District Partnership, which covers health and social work issues. This is the group which will cover the change in hospital provision in Skye as well as the management of other health and social services functions.

Fire service; this has been changed to a national service which has led to higher training and closure of some small stations. All the units in our area will stay as they are and the national body has promised they will liaise with members of the Highland Council. Audrey has been very busy visiting fire stations.

The Police Service changes to a national organisation next month.

17) Capital grant funding from Sport Scotland

Phil sent the website reference to Wilfar

Action: Wilfar

Dawn has checked records and as far as we are aware the old school playing field is owned by the Highland Council. We will look into this further.

Action: Dawn

18) Highland Senior Citizen's Network

No progress this month.

Action: Jann

19) NHS Review of Hospitals in the area

A separate meeting has been organised, and details circulated to everyone

Rather delayed, but completed

We will continue to monitor progress.

Action: Mary

20) AOB.

CC projects for 2013, this was deferred until April.

Regeneration of Kishorn yard, this was deferred until April.

Condition of Achmore sewage system, deferred until April.

Various members of the CC will miss May's meeting, at April's meeting it will be decided whether to skip May's CC meeting.

21) Calendar

August / September, prepare for winter roads, gritting stocks, gritting schedule for Strome Ferry hill.

November, MOD support fund for schools

22) Next meeting.

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

The meeting closed at 10:30pm.