

# Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting held on 28th January 2014 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

### 1 Present & Apologies

**Present:** Audrey Sinclair, Ellanne Fraser, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae.

**Apologies:** Jann MacRae

### 2 Approve and adopt previous minutes

November's minutes were accepted, proposed by Ellanne and seconded by Dawn

Copies of 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 at [CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk) if you would like to be put on the circulation list.

### 3 Communications received December 2013 / January 2014.

#### 3.1 By the secretary

Emails - Weekly Planning Ward 6 & Skye - Distributed

Emails - Bulletins Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary organisations - Distributed

Letter - Westminster - Charles Kennedy XMAS Card

Email - 30/11 Scotways - Confirmation of final subscription £4

Email - 29/11 Redesign NHS Services Skye & Lochalsh papers for 2/12/13

Email - 2/12 Response from Tilhill - distributed & to be discussed - distributed

Email - 4/12 Policy - Census profile for Community Councils - distributed

Email - 8/12 Robbie Bain - Advanced flood warnings - distributed

Letter - 9/12 - Police Scotland - Community Relations - readdressed by L Bird.

Email - 12/12 - Policy - SRP letter and data sheet - distributed

Email - 13/12 - A Sinclair - winter resilience - distributed

Email - 15/12 - D Mocket - Dangerous Tree Braeintra - distributed

Email - 17/12 - Foundation Scotland - E newsletter - distributed

Email - 18/12 - SNH - Invitation to evening gathering - distributed & to FCT

Email - 19/12 - S Halford - SRDP for 2014 - 2010 - distributed & FCT

Email - 19/12 - Policy - Advice note to councillors - distributed

Email - 31/12 F MacGeachan - Redesign of Healthcare Services Skye, Lochalsh & W Ross Workshop  
8/1/14 - working papers - distributed & update @ meeting.

Email - 6/1/14 F MacGeachan - Working Papers for meeting 8/1/14 - distributed

Email - 9/1/14 B Campbell - Highland Councillor for CC 2014 - distributed

Email - 10/1/14 - SLCVO - SLCVO Update

Email - 10/1/14 - D Agnew - SSE Sustainable Development Fund - distributed

Email - 14/01/14 - P Moxon - Police Scotland attendance at CC meetings - distributed

Email - 14/01/14 - Policy - Proposed National Planning Framework 3 & Scottish Planning - distributed

Email - 20/1/14 - Anke Gunder - Stromeferry Options Appraisal, Stage 2 Exhibition - distributed

Email - 20/1/14 - Anke Gunder - Stromeferry Options Appraisal, Joint Stakeholders Workshop Summary Report -  
distributed

Email - 20/1/14 - F MacGeachan - Supporting Strong Communities - distributed

Letter - 06/12/14 - L & S Housing Assoc - the newsletter @ meeting.

#### 3.2 By the chairman

None

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

## 4 Treasurer's report

Opening Balance	£ 4,384.26
Expenditure this period	£ ~
Income this period	£ ~
Closing Balance	£ 4,384.26

We are still waiting for the bank to change the details of the account and send a statement to Dawn.

**Action: Dawn**

## 5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

### 5.1 Distribution of minutes

A copy of Ingrid's last new Hall list email was circulated using the old Hall list. There were no complaints from anyone missed from the new Hall list so it is assumed to be complete.

**Closed**

A copy of the CC agenda was circulated using the new list and another using the old list. There were no complaints from anyone missed from the list so it is assumed to be complete.

**Closed**

Phil will authorise all members of the CC to allow them to send emails using the new distribution list.

**Action: Phil**

We will check with the Fernaig Trust to see who needs to be able to send emails using their list and set up a Google group for them.

**Action: Phil**

### 5.2 Notice board for Strome Ferry

The leaflet holder has been installed; more magnets are required.

**Action: Phil & Mary**

### 5.3 Provision of more goal posts and nets for the green

We have obtained a set of goal posts which we will erect ready for the new season. Neil will source a new set of nets.

**Action: Neil**

### 5.4 Provisions of benches

Andy is happy to make the benches for us but this will now be put on hold until the spring.

**Action: Dawn**

### 5.5 TEC Services

#### 5.5.1 New issues reported

Ellanne raised the issue of potholes on the A890 and will report to the HC and give Phil the ref no to send to Sandy.

**Action: Ellanne, Phil**

Dawn raised the issue of blocked road drains in the village and will report to the HC and give Phil the ref no to send to Sandy.

**Action: Dawn, Phil**

#### 5.5.2 Outstanding issues

Sandy reports that an engineer has been requested to check the potholes on the Braeintra road with a view to cutting out and repairing with hot tar. On the Fernaig road; Sandy has submitted a request to engineering replace the crash barrier, the ditches will be cleared when resources permit and there is nothing obviously wrong with the cattle grid, but Sandy will check it again. Sandy will check the line of sight problem reported on the Plockton road.

We will monitor progress.

**Action: Phil**

#### 5.5.3 Road fault spreadsheet

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

Both items from last month's minutes have been transferred to the spreadsheet which has now been split to show work in progress and completed items. There was a debate as to whether we needed to keep previous versions of the spreadsheet and it was agreed we would continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

**Action: Phil**

## 5.6 Defibrillator for local emergencies

No news from Lucky2BHere and we note that Kinlochshiel Shinty have received their defibrillator so hopefully the problem of rusting external cases has been resolved. We will chase.

**Action: Mary**

## 5.7 Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park

Audrey informed us that the TECS committee meeting in January was cancelled; this topic will probably be discussed at the next meeting in February.

**Action: Audrey, Mary**

Free recycling is available in Dingwall at the Business Park, or Inverness at Henderson Drive, or Portree at Dunvegan Road, Portree.

## 5.8 Highland Senior Citizen's Network

Despite our request we have heard nothing from HSCN and have therefore decided to drop this topic.

**Closed**

## 5.9 Storage of CC records

No progress this month.

**Action: Mary**

## 5.10 Condition of Achmore sewage system

We will contact Scottish Water and ask for a formal report on the condition of the tank in the summer when the aroma is more in evidence.

**Action: Mary**

## 5.11 Winter resilience

Still nothing from TECS, Neil will contact Mark Crowe to see why we have not received the requested items.

**Action: Neil**

## 5.12 Parking at Strome Ferry for train passengers

It appears most of the land is privately owned, we will do more research to see if parking space can be freed up.

**Action: Neil**

## 5.13 BT Broadband Problems

Phil exchanged a series of emails with Vickie Saunders of the Chairman & Chief executives team. None of the questions we raised have been answered and we have not been told of any changes that BT is to implement to make sure last November's problems are not repeated. BT has unilaterally closed this issue regardless of the fact that we have stated we are not happy with their answer and want the issues escalated.

**Closed**

# 6 Update from our Councillor

It was noted with sadness that John Farquhar Munro had passed away.

There was a HC meeting in December to pass the budget; this meeting normally takes place in February. There is a funding gap of £80 million this year, but there will be no cuts to department budgets. The shortfall will be found from other areas, e.g. contingency funds. Normally there are briefing papers produced to detail budget items, there were none this year. There will be a referendum on Scotland's independence in September during this budget year! As reported in 5.7 above the chairman decided there would be no TECS meeting in January in spite of the fact that the current department head Neil Gillies leaves at the end of January. TECS is to be amalgamated with Housing in a new department, Community Services this will be lead by William Gilfillan.

Adults and Children's Services will be combined with Education and Social Work.

Michelle Morris was appointed the new deputy Chief Executive at the end of last year.

There was a Planning Environment and Development (PED) committee meeting to discuss the SNH consultation on wild land, it was agreed that the area designated was too large and would hamper development. There was a debate about the cumulative effect on people living close to wind farms and this had to be viewed in relation to the Scottish government's policy of installing as much renewable energy as possible. Plans for off-shore wind farms will increase capacity by an order of magnitude. This will be enough power for one TARDIS or quite a few light bulbs (energy saving of course).

## 7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

### 7.1 NHS Redesign of Services in Skye, Lochalsh and W Ross

Mary attended the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January. Three options have been identified.

- 1 - Make slight improvements to the existing systems
- 2 - A new central hub containing most services with satellite sites for local treatment
- 3 - A new central hub containing all services and no local sites

Option 2 will be put forward with a recommendation as to which services will be located where.

Mary reported it was good to see that all options are being raised and discussed. NHS staff are taking a wider view and not just what happens inside hospitals / surgeries. For example they are considering the impact of improved roads allowing access to treatment centres. Some doctors have also suggested a policy is adopted that means that they move between surgeries so that they can develop and utilise their particular expertise.

The next step will be a series of meetings held locally by NHS staff for public consultation.

It was very disappointing to see no other Lochalsh CC sent a representative; we will continue to participate in the discussions.

**Action: Mary**

### 7.2 Tilhill

The CC is not happy with the letter we have received from Tilhill; a response will be sent after consultation with the relevant professional bodies.

#### 7.2.1 Access

Tilhill have promised to send a new map showing the location of gates.

**Action: Mary**

#### 7.2.2 Stalking

The response from Tilhill is not acceptable.

**Action: Mary**

#### 7.2.3 Fire beaters

No progress this month.

**Action: Mary**

### 7.3 URS - Reroute of A890

There will be two local public meetings and exhibitions to report back on progress in March, one in Lochcarron and one in Achmore. Details will be circulated when the dates have been finalised.

**Action: Mary**

### 7.4 Police & Fire

We have registered our interest in the discussion about changes to policing policy. We will invite a representative from the Police Service to our next meeting to discuss issues raised by Tilhill.

## 8 Update from Local Groups

### 8.1 Broadband

From Phil Game -

The latest minutes were circulated on the 13th January, and are on the website.

Our grant from CBS has been agreed and processed; there is one precondition - that we submit an approved mast lease for Creag Mhaol.

The set up of the bank account has been completed.

We have started training sessions for CMNet directors so everyone will fully understand the system.

Most documents have been submitted to our solicitor to be checked, we are waiting for their response.

We have been in touch with the new rector at Plockton High School, Susan Galloway, to introduce ourselves. Susan has warned us that there are no spare telephone pairs available in the school and new cables will need to be installed and this may take some time.

We are waiting for the building services inspector to respond so we can discuss using Plockton High School to host equipment.

We can't progress much further until we have a response from the solicitor and the building services inspector.

At the meeting Phil explained that CMNet was likely to be caught in Catch 22. Delays in getting approval of mast lease could hamper our grant, but we can't draw down any money without a mast lease, we can't get a mast lease without the document being approved by the solicitor and we probably won't get the solicitor's approval without payment. This is why CMNet asked for the CC to loan money if required to get to the point when the grant is available.

The latest information on the broadband project can be found at:-

[www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827](http://www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827)

## 8.2 Fernaig Trust

From Colin MacAndrew -

There was no trust meeting in January, the next meeting will be on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. Work continues on the new leases and developing a work plan for 2014.

## 8.3 Hall Committee

From Jack Bird -

The Hall Committee have nothing to broadcast this month. However it was noted the AGM is to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm in the village hall all welcome.

## 9 AOB

### 9.1 CC projects for 2014

This was deferred to the next meeting.

**Action: All**

## 10 Calendar

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

November, MOD support fund for schools; a letter was sent out covering this year's fund in October but was not sent to the CC. We have obtained copies of the letter and we will forward to the local schools.

**Completed**

## 11 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on ***Monday*** 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall.

## 12 Formal close of meeting

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm