

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 24th March 2014 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

1 Present & Apologies

Present: Ellanne Fraser, Phil Game, Mary MacBeth, Jann MacRae, Neil MacRae

Apologies: Dawn Lupton, Audrey Sinclair

2 Approve and adopt previous minutes

February's minutes were accepted proposed by Ellanne and seconded by Mary

Copies of minutes are on our website at: - www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934

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

3 Communications received

3.1 By the secretary

February - March 2014

Email - 26/2/14 - Anke Gunder - Public Exhibition for A890 Bypass URS & HC (4) - distributed

Email - 27/2/14 - Venters Angus - NHS Highland Options meeting Broadford 11th March - distributed

Email - 27/2/14 - Rebecca Munro - Service Point Closure - distributed

Email - 3/3/14 - Maimie Thompson - NHS Highland Consultation Draft Summary (6) - distributed

Email - 4/3/14 - Fiona McGeachan - NHS Highland Board success - distributed

Email - 5/3/14 - Gill McVicar - NHS Highland Options meeting Broadford 11th March - distributed

Email - 6/3/14 - Monica Urquhart - Rural Cycling Conference - distributed

Email - 6/3/14 - Anne Carey - NHS Highland Further Options Appraisal - 11th March - distributed

Email - 6/3/14 - Drew Hendry - Customers Service review - distributed

Email - 7/3/14 - Policy - Inverness and Black Isle U3A - distributed

Email - 9/3/14 - John Boocock - Open letter to all Highland Community Councils - see item 9.3

Email - 10/3/14 - Gill McVicar - S & L NHS Highland paper - distributed

Email - 12/3/14 - Policy - People's Millions Open for Business - distributed

Email - 12/3/14 - Ranger - 2014 Highland Councillors walks - distributed

Email - 12/3/14 - Gill McVicar - Preferred location of Hospital - distributed to all in Community

Email - 18/3/14 - Registration Team queue - Data protection registration - renewal - see item 4

Email - 19/3/14 - Carol Nicholson - Skye & Lochalsh Access Forum - distributed

Post - Commission Scotland Boundaries - 5th Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements - to be copied and distributed to members of the CC - **Action Phil**

Post - NHS & Police Scotland Interim Service for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Highland - see item 7.1.2

Post - Wicksteed playscapes - to be discussed see item 5.3 & 5.4

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 or 01599 577 296.

4 Treasurer's report

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

Mary has received a bill to cover data protection; Mary will ask Dawn for a cheque. No progress on the bank details as Dawn was unable to attend the meeting.

Action: Mary, Dawn

5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

5.1 Distribution of minutes

Colin MacAndrew has been set up as the owner of the Fernaig Trust circulation list and Lizzie Bird has been set up as manager. Neil asked that we inform the Fernaig Trust of the origins of the list.

Action: Phil

5.2 Notice board for Strome Ferry

The lid has disappeared from the leaflet box; does anyone use the leaflet box? The locks need some WD40.

Action: Phil

5.3 Provision of more goal posts and nets for the green

We decided not to buy nets from Wicksteed playscapes, otherwise no progress this month.

Action: Neil

5.4 Provisions of benches

We decided not to buy benches from Wicksteed playscapes, otherwise no progress this month.

Action: Dawn

5.5 TEC Services

5.5.1 *New issues reported*

Ellanne's potholes, Phil to give Ellanne the telephone no. to report the fault.

Action: Phil, Ellanne

Dawn's drains, Phil to give Dawn the telephone no. to report the fault.

Action: Phil, Dawn

Dave Mocket has reported a problem with the first bridge as you enter Braeintra from Achmore, HC no. 831820. Dave has provided photos and these have been forwarded to TECS. Sandy MacVarish reports that he will discuss this with the technical department without delay. We will update the spreadsheet.

Action: Phil

5.5.2 *Outstanding issues*

Sandy reports that 2) HC Ref 434898 - deep verges along the Plockton road has now been completed. We will update the spreadsheet.

Action: Phil

5.5.3 *Road fault spreadsheet*

The spreadsheet will be updated to reflect this month's changes, click [here](#) to view.

Action: Phil

Sandy has informed us and that he will be retiring at the end of May.

5.6 Defibrillator for local emergencies

Mary chased Lucky2BHere; they are **still** waiting on delivery of replacement external boxes which are expected in a couple of weeks. Mary has booked a new external box and defibrillator for Achmore. Mary will call Lucky2BHere in two weeks to make sure we get the next available defibrillator with suitable external box, collection has already been organised.

Action: Mary

5.7 Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park

No progress this month.

Action: Audrey, Mary

5.8 Storage of CC records

No progress this month.

Action: Mary

5.9 Condition of Achmore sewage system

No progress this month, waiting for warmer weather.

Action: Mary

5.10 Winter resilience

Phil will ask Sandy about delivery of the equipment from the Ardelve depot.

Action: Phil

5.11 Parking at Strome Ferry for train passengers

No progress this month

Action: Neil

6 Update from our Councillor

Audrey was unable to attend the CC meeting so sent this update in by email:-

The decision to close 23 service points (including Lochcarron, Kyle, Gairloch and Broadford) was made at the Finance, Housing and Resources (FHR) committee on 26th February despite some really good arguments being put forward (large distances, vulnerable and old people affected most, etc). The petition I set up in Kyle gathered 650 signatures within 3 days. A notice of amendment (signed by a number of Independent councillors, including myself and Biz) to reverse this decision was submitted to the full Highland Council on 13th March. Following the outcry from a large number of members of the public and many, many community councils, the HC Administration councillors (SNP/Lib Dem/Labour) changed their stance between the two meetings and no closure will take place before there is consultation (rather late in the day!) and a business case for each service point considered. This persuaded those doubters on the Admin to toe the party line and our notice of amendment was defeated. A Board of 10 councillors from across all the groups is to be set up to carry out the review. I have put my name forward to be on the Board but it has not been confirmed yet.

We will ask Audrey for details about the committee selection process.

Action: Mary

7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

7.1 NHS

7.1.1 *Redesign of Services in Skye, Lochalsh and W Ross*

The Health Board met on the 4th March and supported the redesign of services by the Steering group for Lochalsh and Skye - this was option 2 (of 3) with a major “hub” in one location and a “spoke” in another location.

The Steering Group met on the 11th March to determine the location of the major hub and the spoke. Seven criteria were established that were used to discuss and score the best location for the hub and spoke. Broadford was selected as the best location for the hub and Portree as the location for the spoke. I.e. the new hospital will be in Broadford and Portree will have a much smaller facility which can only cater for outpatients. Anything more serious will be dealt with in Broadford.

Post the press release detailing the decisions made on the 11th March - the NHS manager leading the process was asked by the West Highland Free Press and also through a Freedom of Information Inquiry, to provide a list of those who attended the workshop on Tuesday.

Action: Mary

7.1.2 *Interim Service for Survivors of Sexual Violence in the Highlands*

We have been asked to publicise this service and will post details in the hall and on the notice boards.

Action: Mary, Phil

7.2 Tilhill

7.2.1 *Access*

Tilhill have promised to send a new map showing the location of gates, again nothing received from Tilhill this month. We will check that the new gates comply with the right to roam legislation.

Action: Mary

7.2.2 *Stalking*

Last month Ian and Cameron informed us that the hill ground is about to change ownership as it is currently under offer; however it transpires that this information was out of date and refers to the previous sale in 2010.

Closed

7.2.3 *Fire beaters*

Mary emailed Alistair Jupp asking for information and inviting him to meet with us if he thinks that is a good idea. After some discussion it was decided we should ask for his advice and circulate this rather than hold a meeting.

Action: Mary

7.3 URS - Reroute of A890

The meeting has been arranged for the 28th March, and will be open to the public from 1pm to 7:00pm - all welcome.

Our thanks to the Hall committee for reorganising their Spring Bingo evening.

Mary and Phil cannot be in attendance on Friday 28th March due to unforeseen family commitments and so this has been handed over to Neil as Chair to complete. Mary outlined what would be required on the day. The team from the HC / URS will need access to the hall at 10:00am to set up, as there are no local facilities they will something to eat at lunchtime and in the evening. At the Lochcarron exhibition, tea and biscuits will be provided for those attending whilst the meeting is open to the public till 7.00pm. The URS project co-ordinator has asked if we can provide similar refreshments. Mary had told the project organiser that she would provide soup and sandwiches for URS/HC staff as there are no cafe/shops in Achmore. Mary said that that she would organise the tea/coffee and biscuits for the people attending the exhibition and asked URS how many people they were expecting and what was their budget to cover tea, coffee and biscuits for the attendees at the exhibition.

Neil suggested Jann handle the catering, there was then a long discussion about the budget available for refreshments. Mary had asked for this info but had not yet had a response, Jann said she would be pleased to take on the catering on a commercial basis so wanted to know if there was a budget. If there was no budget she was happy to provide six lunches for the expected number of people but could not volunteer herself to be available the whole day.

Ellanne then said that she could perhaps be available for a later part of the day.

Neil is to talk to the HC / URS about what they require, what budget is available and look for volunteers to support the HC / URS staff whilst the meeting is open to the public.

Action: Neil

We will circulate a reminder of the meeting to everyone via the email circulation list.

Action: Mary

7.4 Police & Fire

Nothing this month.

7.5 Scottish Water

Nothing this month.

8 Update from Local Groups

8.1 Broadband - from Phil Game

The latest minutes were circulated on the 10th March, and are on the website.

We met with CBS and explained the problems we were having with our solicitor and CBS have agreed to waive the precondition to have a mast lease in place temporarily and release part of our grant money. After another set of missed deadlines by the solicitor we have decided to part company and we are now working with the solicitor used by the Fernaig Trust. They are much more helpful and we have already had their first set of comments on our documents.

We are still waiting for a response from Norma Young the area educational manager, to see if we can use Plockton High School. Alastair Nicolson at CBS is looking at the possibility of community broadband schemes using Cable and Wireless for our Internet connection, we are waiting for his response.

We now have a detailed plan for the first phase roll out. We have ordered most of the equipment required to start the build and expect delivery within the next few days. We will shortly start the installation of the backbone equipment followed by the domestic equipment for the first ten subscribers. Our thanks to everyone who has pledged to lend money to the project.

As there are so many uncertainties surrounding the best option for our internet connection we will leave the decision who we use to the last possible minute. However this will not delay the installation of equipment.

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

www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

8.2 Fernaig Trust - From Colin MacAndrew -

Main business of the meeting of Fernaig Community Trust on 11 March:

New Trust 5-year leases and rents were finalised and will be issued to tenants during March to come into effect from 1 April. The Trust's new bank account is at last finalised and operational, and insurance renewed for 2014.

Discussion on the Trust's relationship with Forestry Commission Scotland, and plans for a joint meeting in the near future. Review of Allotments postponed until next meeting. FCT email group will be managed by the Trust. The proposed Hydro project sub-group has met and will arrange to meet FCS to progress to next stage in land acquisition. The Trust's workplan for 2014 was reviewed and updated with drystone dyke repairs added

Next meeting will be Tuesday 8 April.

8.3 Hall Committee from Jack Bird

The Hall Committee have nothing to broadcast this month.

9 AOB

9.1 CC projects for 2014

Dropped

9.2 RockMoreFest

Mary informed the promoters of the results of last month's CC meeting.

Completed

9.3 Improving the relationship of CCs to the HC and other Public Bodies

We have received an open letter from John Boocock, Kilmuir & Logie Easter CC to all Highland Community Councils. John's letter relates to the lack of consultation from the HC and specifically the fiasco of the service point closures. John has asked all CCs for comments which he has volunteered to co-ordinate.

9.3.1 Current Situation:-

After some discussion we came to the following conclusions regarding the current situation:-

Mostly, our elected councillors are effective; they inform us of pending decisions, ask for our input and represent our views. However if our councillors are not informed of proposals from the HC administration they cannot perform their role effectively, as was the case with the service point closures.

We have already started to widen our base and involve other CCs where relevant. For example for the recycling centre in Auchtertyre we approached the HC in tandem with neighbouring CCs to lend a greater weight to our request.

We find the current HC administration consults less and is less responsive than previous administrations.

9.3.2 Our proposals:-

We should set up a web based discussion group which is divided into geographic areas and topics so that any interested CC can register their interest and pass comment.

There should be a central repository for all CC minutes so that we can all easily search for common topics, we should ask Robbie Bain if this could be made available.

We should have a service level agreement with the HC which specifies timescales for a response and clearly defines an escalation procedure in the event that we cannot reach an agreement.

There should be a place at the HC meetings to allow CCs or groups of CCs to present their views.

There should be more input by CCs into budget discussions

The HC should consider handing over a portion of the budget to be administered locally by CCs.

The HC and other public bodies should provide better feedback, why bother to contribute if you appear to be ignored?

Action: Mary

9.4 Speed control through the village

There was a discussion about the speed of some traffic through the village. It was decided we should conduct a survey to see if locals felt this was a problem, and if so, what should be done about it.

Action: Phil

10 Calendar

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

11 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th **May** at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall, this will also be the date of the AGM.

12 Formal close of meeting

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm