

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 26th August 2014 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

1 Present & Apologies

Present: Audrey Sinclair, Ellanne Fraser, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae (up to point 7.3 when Audrey took over as chair).

Apologies: Jann MacRae.

2 Approve and adopt previous minutes

May's minutes stated that February's minutes had been approved at that meeting, which should have read March's minutes were approved. Item 5.5.2 for no 831820 (Braeintra Bridge) the last sentence should have said Dave will keep an eye on the problem and will let us know should it get any worse. With these alterations May's minutes were accepted, proposed by Dawn and seconded by Neil.

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

June - August 2014

Email - Weekly - J. Robertson - Skye & Lochalsh planning x 6 - distributed
Email - Weekly - J. Robertson - Delegated list x 6 - distributed
Email - Weekly - A. Allan - Ward 6 Planning x 6 - distributed
Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Community toolkit x 2 - distributed
Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Monthly Bulletins x 2 - distributed
Email - 6/5/14 - Policy - Scottish Rural Parliament - distributed
Email - 5/6/14 - Policy - Community Challenge - distributed
Email - 9/6/14 - Policy - Scottish Government Review of Section 36 - distributed
Email - 24/6/14 - Policy - National Planning Framework 3/ Scottish Planning - distributed
Email - 25/6/14 - GADT - Community Hospital - Glenelg Drop In - distributed
Email - 27/6/14 - Policy - WW1 Commemorations - Community Council Briefing - distributed
Email - 30/6/14 - Policy - LGR Committee Call for Evidence - Community Empowerment - to be discussed
Email - 8/7/14 - Gill McVicar (NHS) - Mid Way review meeting 9th July Dornie - distributed
Email - 14/7/14 - Policy - Customer Forum for Water News Update - distributed
Email - 15/7/14 - K Bulloch - Achmore Wildfire 2013 notes of meeting - answered
Email - 16/7/14 - FWD Neil MacRae - Achmore Bridge Refurbishment - distributed & to be discussed
Email - 24/7/14 - Emptying Recycle bins - To CC members
Email - 24/7/14 - Donnie MacLeod - Introduction of Acting Works officer - distributed
Email - 25/7/14 - Robbie Bain - Visit Wester Ross - distributed
Email - 28/7 14 - Jim Coomber - Strome Bypass - distributed & to be discussed
Email - 28/7/14 - Highland Senior Citizen - Highland Senior Citizens Network
Email - 29/7/14 - Rory Waugh - Achmore Bridge refurbishment - answered
Email - 30/7/14- David Taylor - URS - A890 & Achmore - update at meeting
Email - 30/7/14 - F McGeachan NHS - Summary note of NHS meeting Dornie - distributed
Email - 1/8/14 -Broadband - Help Vodafone Roll-out - sent to Community Council & to be discussed
Email - 2/8/14 - Robbie Bain - Weather warning - distributed
Email - 3/8/14 - Jann MacRae - Help with Vodafone Rollout x 2 - to be discussed
Email - 5/8/14 - SLVCO - Community Bulletin August - distributed 2
Email - 12/8/14 - D MacLeod - Refurbishment of Achmore Bridge - answered & to be discussed
Email - 12/8/14 - E Ashman - Invite to Scottish Health Council focus group - answered
Email - 13/8/14 - Lynda Duncan - Highland Council Quality Awards 2014- distributed
Email - 14/8/14 - N MacRae - are we Quorate - to be discussed
Post - July - Scotways - Subscription request - Mary & Dawn
Post - August - SLCVO - Research Survey - to be completed

3.2 By the chairman

None - Mary reminded Neil that had received the first communication from Rory Waugh regarding the refurbishment of the Achmore Bridge.

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	£ 3,862.09
Expenditure this period	£ 1,033.77
Income this period	£ 854.15
Closing Balance	£ 3,682.47

Expenditure this month includes a loan of £800 to CMNet and income includes our annual grant of £813.48 and the annual interest payment on the loan to CMNet.

5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

5.1 AGM chair's report

Neil produced a hand written report and was asked to type it up and circulate it via email.

Action: Neil

5.2 Notice board for Strome Ferry

The new lid was installed on the Strome Ferry leaflet box, secured by a bungee strap.

Completed

5.3 Provision of more goal posts and nets for the green

As there has been no progress on this item for the past three meeting this item will be dropped.

Dropped

5.4 Provisions of benches

This item will be deferred until the Forestry work on roads that are likely sites for the benches is completed.

Action: Phil

5.5 TEC Services

Donny MacLeod has taken over from Sandy MacVarish; we asked him for an update on all the outstanding issues on the 18th August but as yet have not received a reply. We will chase.

Action: Phil

5.5.1 *New issues reported*

None

5.5.2 *Outstanding issues*

831820 (Braeintra bridge, reported by Dave Mockett) Dave has emailed to say he will keep an eye on the problem and let us know should it get any worse. Waiting on a response from Donny MacLeod, we will chase.

Action: Phil

Speed control through the village. Waiting on a response from Donny MacLeod, we will chase.

Action: Phil

The new road from the Strathcarron junction to Coulags ends without warning just before the narrow bridge. It was noted that the bollards marking the "chicane" are now missing making this a very dangerous stretch of road.

Audrey volunteered to take this up with Colin Howell project design unit manager at the HC.

Action: Audrey

672709 - At the bridge over the river Ascaig. We have received notification that the Achmore / Abhainn Srath Ascaig Bridge (to give it its official title) has been scheduled for refurbishment in October and November 2014, work is expected to take up to eight weeks. During this time the bridge will be unusable and traffic will have to follow a detour via the A890 to travel from Achmore to Braeintra. TECS asked for our feedback and it was decided we should give our full support to the work and accept that there was no alternative to a detour.

Action: Phil /Mary

5.5.3 *Road fault spreadsheet*

Click [here](#) to view the latest spreadsheet. Waiting on a response from Donny MacLeod before we update it, we will chase.

Action: Phil

Bulb blown in the light by the slipway in Strome Ferry, a new light unit was fitted and we hope this will solve the problem of bulbs blowing, our thanks to TECS for responding so quickly.

Completed

5.6 Defibrillator for local emergencies

5.6.1 Installation

Our thanks to Jackie Parsons for mentioning to Stuart MacLeod that a defibrillator is to be installed at the hall. Mary has contacted Stuart and asked him to install and wire up the defibrillator to the right hand side of the hall door as agreed. Mary donated £200 from the CC secretary's fees to Lucky2bHere and sent letter of thanks. Lucky2bHere will want us to participate in some publicity shots to help raise awareness.

Action: Mary

5.6.2 Fundraising

We will start fundraising once the equipment has been installed; our target is at least £1,200.

Action: Neil

5.7 Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park

Audrey has raised this with Colin Clark (head of waste management at the HC) at the Community Services Committee and has set up a meeting to discuss this further with the chair. Audrey will explain the opportunity for saving money through less landfill charges, however we accept this will have to be offset against the additional staffing costs as the unit cannot be left unattended.

Action: Audrey, Mary

5.8 Storage of CC records

We are still sorting the old records and we will check how long we have to keep information.

Action: Mary

5.9 Condition of Achmore sewage system

Now the warmer weather has arrived there is no evidence of a bad smell so we will drop this item.

Dropped

5.10 Winter resilience

Waiting on a response from Donny MacLeod, we will chase.

Action: Phil

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

We have heard nothing further from John Boocock, Kilmuir & Logie Easter CC.

Action: Mary

5.12 CC meeting protocols

Three recent events have raised an issue about how we confirm that we have four members available for a quorum for our meeting, so that people do not waste time preparing for meetings that are subsequently cancelled.

- a) May's meeting and the AGM were both nearly abandoned. Although four members were in attendance Neil stated that he could only stay for 30 minutes, had he left his departure would have closed the meeting.
- b) A week before July's scheduled meeting Mary circulated an email asking who would attend, the meeting was cancelled as not enough members confirmed their attendance.
- c) In response to Mary's email Neil stated that "There are few meetings around where people are able to categorically say they can attend up to ten days in advance".

The situation was detailed in Phil's email of the 14th August which was circulated to all members of the CC.

It can be summarised as follows:-

Phil stated that it was not acceptable to be told at the start of a meeting that it would not proceed or that time would be severely restricted; this information should have been circulated to all members well in advance of the meeting.

Phil's stated that his preparation starts a week before the meeting and therefore it would be more appropriate for CC members to confirm their attendance in advance. Then Phil and others would not waste time preparing for a meeting that will not take place or may be truncated. Of course it is accepted that emergencies arise and sometimes cancellations at short notice are unavoidable. However it is not acceptable for people to be absent and fail to inform other members of the CC due to lack of foresight. After all the meeting is always the last Tuesday of the month and one of the items on the agenda of every meeting is to set the date of the next meeting.

A lengthy discussion followed and it was decided that Mary will email all members approximately one week before the meeting, as usual, and members will let Mary know if they are NOT attending. There are six members of the CC and four are required for a quorum, so if three or more email to say they are NOT attending six days prior to the meeting the meeting will not take place. Mary will email everyone in Stromeferry & Achmore to say the meeting has been cancelled. If we are 'likely' to be quorate Mary will email the meeting agenda to everyone.

It was agreed that meetings would start at 7:00pm in future.

Action: Mary

5.13 Vodafone initiative

See the report from Broadband for more details; none of the CC members want to take on this task. If anyone else would like to look at this on behalf of the community please contact Ellanne or Dawn.

Action: Ellanne / Dawn

6 Update from our Councillor

Audrey told us that July was a quiet month but in August the committees started a new round of meetings. However it is unlikely that any major decisions will be taken prior to the referendum on the 18th September. All councillors and council staff are forbidden from expressing any view on the referendum in their official capacity in the four weeks prior to the vote.

Audrey told us the Service Points Review committee has been gathering background information. For example they will be looking to see whether services can share premises. There will also be a review of each service point and the services it offers.

Audrey informed us that the HC would meet shortly to discuss the application from Kinlochshiel Shinty Club for money for a new pitch.

7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

7.1 NHS

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

It was noted that residents of North Skye has been lobbying for the hospital to be located in Portree and it was decided we should send a reminder to all local residents to complete and return the consultation document if they have not already done so. The next step will be a recommendation for the best site from the project manager, Gill McVicar.

Action: Mary

7.2 Tilhill

7.2.1 *Access*

No progress this month.

Action: Mary

7.2.2 *Fire beaters*

No progress this month.

Action: Mary

7.3 URS - Reroute of A890

We have asked for an update and have been told that the decision on the preferred option will be delayed due to the volume of documents that have to be read. Mary had raised an issue with Audrey as to whether the CC would be able to pass judgement on the proposals as several members might be subject to a conflict of interest. Audrey has checked this with Robbie Bain who has responded to say that in cases such as these potentially affecting everyone in the area it would not be practical to ask everyone with a conflict of interest to stand down. It was decided we would wait to see which option was chosen as the preferred route before passing further comment.

Action: Mary

7.4 Police & Fire

Nothing this month

7.5 Scottish Water

We have received two reports of an increase in the mains water pressure causing problems with “water hammer”. It would appear to be a localised problem so this will not be referred to Scottish Water.

8 Update from Local Groups

8.1 Broadband - from Phil Game

Rather a long summary this time because since the CC last met CMNet has held three meetings; on the 12th June, the 3rd July and the 31st July. Minutes of all the meetings are on the website.

During this period we have not received any responses to our requests for information from CBS, some queries have been outstanding for months and we have decided to proceed without CBS input. We have asked the CC, and been granted a further loan of £800 to cover additional insurance cover for the implementation.

We have installed all the backbone equipment needed to run the volume trial on Creag Mhaol, our thanks to Duncan Gibson for taking everything up to the top of the hill. At the moment the equipment on Creag Mhaol is being powered by a temporary power supply, our thanks to Eric Morrison for allowing us to use his power. The Hydro power supply for Creag Mhaol is due to be installed this week, our thanks to Jim Coomber for his help locating the services. Our dish has been installed at Plockton High School and was tested during the school's summer break, our thanks to Crisdean MacRae for his help at the school. We are waiting on a suitable time to run one final test at the school during the normal working day to check that our equipment does not cause any problems with the school's existing Wi-Fi backhaul. We have yet to install our own power supply and telephone lines at the school. The power supply will be investigated by the school's approved contractor this week and we have a contract ready to sign with Managed Communications for the telephone lines as soon as we have a date for the installation of the power supply.

Ten households have agreed to help with the volume trial and all their equipment has been configured and is ready to install; now we just need some dry weather. Installation of domestic equipment for those participating in the volume trial has started.

The solicitors have confirmed they have all the proof of identity information they require; we can now proceed and finalise our documents.

West Coast Backbone, although nothing has been signed, Peter Buneman is confident that the project will go ahead. It is hoped that the first phase will be implemented before the end of this year.

We have become concerned about the capacity at some BT exchanges used by neighbouring Community Broadband groups causing them abandon some exchanges and switch to alternatives. To ensure our project implementation does not stall because of lack of funds to investigate alternate exchanges we have applied to the Highland Council Discretionary Fund for a grant to cover possible extra costs and additional volume trials of other local exchanges if required.

Our thanks to Mags McFadden who has forwarded details of an initiative by Vodafone to install mobile and 3G access using small low power transceivers. Although the broadband group think this is a good idea and worth pursuing the timing overlaps with the broadband project as the application to Vodafone has to be completed by the middle of October. This will conflict with our volume trial and subsequent roll-out and will therefore detract from the broadband project. It has therefore been passed on to the CC to pursue. (see 5.13)

Our thanks to everyone that has loaned money to CMNet; we now have enough funds to cover all the capital costs for the volume trial.

There are more details on the website:- www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

8.2 Fernaig Trust - From Colin MacAndrew -

The area for car parking at the allotments has been extended.

Quotes are being sourced for much needed repairs to the Office, and it is then hoped to bring it into more regular use.

A very successful weekend dyking course, led by a Dry Stone Walling Association instructor, has been held. With limited places, Trust members with holdings took part. The course was fully funded by Historic Scotland and their support is much appreciated. The course was a 'hands on' experience that has resulted in the repair to its original condition of the collapsed section of dyke beyond Ascaig Cottage. A new section of dyke has also collapsed and the expertise gained over the weekend means that we are confident that we will now be able to tackle the repairs ourselves.

The date of the trust's AGM will be finalised at the next meeting.

8.3 Hall Committee from Jack Bird

There was no response from Jack Bird.

9 AOB

Audrey told us she had made enquiries about the lay-by on the A890 by the dam being cordoned off and was told that this had been done at the landowners request.

Community Empowerment Bill, we went through the provisions of the bill and by a majority, with one abstention, it was decided we would pass comment and object to the proposal to allow local communities to acquire assets

through compulsory purchase against the owner's wishes if the land is not "put to good use" or buildings are "run down". You can see more details at:-

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/78599.aspx>

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 30th September at **7:00 p.m.** Achmore Hall.

12 Formal close of meeting

The meeting closed at 10:25 pm