

**Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. Achmore Hall**

**1 Present & Apologies**

**Present:** Audrey Sinclair, Kath Biss, Ellanne Fraser, Dawn Lupton  
Neil MacRae

Apologies : Mary MacBeth , Lynda Allan , Phil Game

It had been planned that Inspector Lynda Allan (not of mystery fame) would attend ,but with a possibility of the meeting being cancelled at short notice since we were just quorate It was decided she would hopefully attend next months meeting .

**2 Approve and adopt previous minutes**

September's minute' were accepted, proposed by Ellanne and seconded  
By Kath.

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**

**3.1 By the secretary**

**By the secretary**

Email - Weekly - Various - Skye & Lochalsh planning x 11 - distributed

Email - Weekly - Various - Delegated list x 11 - distributed

Email - Weekly - A. Allan - Ward 6 Planning x 11 - distributed

Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Community toolkit x 2 - distributed

Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Monthly Bulletins x 2 - distributed

Email - October - Linda Plenty NHS - Steering Group Meeting - 29 October 2014 - 3  
00pm to 5 00pm

Email - 28/10/14 - N MacRae - Chairmans Report - discussed at meeting of 28/10/14

Email - 28/10/14 - N Campbell - Re Stromeferry and Achmore Defibrillator - complete

Email - 28/10/14 - Colin Clark - Re Update on recycling facilities at Auchtertyre -  
distributed

Email - 28/10/14 - Policy - Budget Consultation 2014 Phase 2 - Community Councils  
- complete

Email - 28/10/14 - Robbie Bain - Stromeferry By Pass - circulated to all in community

Email - 29/10/14 - Robbie Bain - FW Press release - A890 Stromeferry By-pass  
partially re-opens -  
circulated to all in community

Email - 29/10/14 - Colin Howell -Re Update on A890 options - distributed

Email - 30/10/14 - All CC members - Hall monies etc. - complete

Email - 30/10/14 - Grace Gray - Invoices - complete

Email - 30/10/14 - Donnie MacLeod - Re Attn Community Council - distributed

Email - 3/11/14 - Jackie Parsons - Hall monies - complete

Email - Early November - Various - Skye new hospital steering group - complete

Email - 3/11/14/- Linda Plenty NHS - SL&WR Redesign Steering Group - Note of  
Meeting - 29

October 2014 - done

Email - 4/11/14 - Elizabeth Morrison - Fwd Christmas party - complete

Email - 4/11/14 - Linda Plenty NHS -Access & Transport Sub-Group - 16 October 2014 - Meeting

Notes

Email - 4/11/14 - Policy + 3rd Sector - Skye & Lochalsh Third Sector CENSUS - complete

Email - 6/11/14 - Linda Plenty NHS - Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross paper at Highland Health

& Social Care Committee - 6 November 2014

Email - 7/11/14 - Audrey Sinclair - Strathcarron road - done

Email - 10/11/14 - Policy - FW Budget Consultation 2014 Phase 2 - Community Councils - done

Email - 11/11/14 - Linda Plenty NHS - Message to Steering Group - done

Emails - 12/13/14/11/14 - Various - Message to Steering Group - done

Email - 11/11/14 - Robbie Bain - FW Works get underway on A890 Strome ferry Bypass - done

Email - 11/11/14 - Policy - FW A request for your Community Council's views - complete

Email - 13/11/14 - community empowerment - MSPs seek your help to shape new law on

empowering communities

Email - 17/11/14 - Skye & Lochalsh - Mapping Project

Email - 24/11/14 - C MacRae - Re Hall Grants - done

Email - 25/11/14 - D MacLeod - Re FW Strome ferry and Achmore Winter resilience request

Email - 25/11/14 - Policy - Planning Matters Survey

Email - 25/11/14 - Policy - FW Public Members for committees

Email - 25/11/14 - M Thompson - NHS Highland board paper on Skye, Lochalsh and South West

Ross - Decision on Tuesday 2nd December

2

Email - 25/11/14 - Wilson - Highland Council Budgets - distributed

Email - 26/11/14 - Various CC members - Re Strome ferry and Achmore Winter resilience request -

complete

Email - 26/27/28/11/14 - Donnie MacLeod + CC members -Grit bins Achmore & Strome ferry - done

Email - 27/11/14 - L Bird - Reminder re FCT AGM - done

Email - 27/11/14 - M Arscott- Fw NOT SPAM - PLEASE READ Land's End to John o'Groats

Reliability Trial & Classic car Tour + gritting issues - done

Email - 27/1/14 - Robbie Bain - Re FW COMMUNITY SERVICES - OPEN EVENINGS- done

Email - 1/12/14 - Robbie Bain - FW Agencies meet to discuss recent Skye Bridge closures - done

Email - 2/12/14 - Linda Plenty NHS -Message to Steering Group - Outcome of Board Meeting - 2

December 2014

Email - 2/3/12/14 - Various - Re Message to Steering Group - Outcome of Board Meeting - 2

December 2014

Email - 8/12/14 - Highland Citizens - Highland Senior Citizens Network - done  
Email - 8/12/14 - Robbie Bain -FW HILRP teleconference meeting 08\_12\_14  
1600hrs - done  
Email - 9/12/14 - Policy - FW Land reform consultation - done  
Email - 11/12/14 - Robbie Bain - Weather Update - Bealach na Ba - done  
Email - 16/12/14 - Policy - Latest newsletter from the Local Government and  
Regeneration  
Committee of the Scottish Parliament  
Email - 16/12/14 - Mary MacBeth - January's Community Council meeting - please  
read  
Email - 16/12/14 - committee@scottish.parliament.uk - Latest newsletter from the  
Local Government  
and Regeneration - distributed  
Email - 18/12/14 - policy - FW digital engagement workshop for CCs, 30 January  
2015 - distributed  
Email - 19/12/14 - Colin McAndrew - FW Rural Housing Scotland Conference  
27.02.15 - distributed  
Email - 19/12/14 - Foundation Scotland - Foundation Scotland 2014 - distributed  
Email - 20/12/14 - Audrey Sinclair - Re January's Community Council meeting -  
distributed  
Email - 24/12/14 - Neil MacRae - Gullies or is it gullys - distributed  
Email - 24/12/14 - Robbie Bain - Forthcoming Ward Forum Meetings - distributed  
Email - 26/12/14 - Robbie Bain - FW Bealach na Ba - circulated to community  
Email - 5/1/15 - Policy - Communities Panel survey Highland Council Website -  
distributed  
Email - 5/1/15 - W H I Policy - West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan -  
January Ward  
Forums - distributed  
Email - 12/1/15 - SLCVO - Local E-Bulletin no 116 - distributed  
Email - 13/1/15 - Robbie Bain - Skye & Lochalsh Gritting - distributed to all in  
community  
Email - 14/1/15 - Robbie Bain - Skye & Lochalsh Gritting - update - distributed to all  
in community

### **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**

These replace previous figures in the minutes

May

Opening Balance            4,384.26

Expenditure this period    522.17

Income this period 0.00  
Closing Balance 3,862.09

#### August

Opening Balance 3,862.09  
Expenditure this period 180.00  
Income this period 40.67 (includes £40.29 interest from CMNet)  
Closing Balance 3,722.76

#### September

Opening Balance 3,722.76  
Expenditure this period 820.00 £800 CMNet loan and £20 Scotways  
Income this period 0.36  
Closing Balance 2,903.12

#### October

Opening Balance 2,903.12  
Expenditure this period 345.60  
Income this period 813.48  
Closing Balance 3,371.00

Figures provided by Dawn for period  
Opening Balance £ 3371.00  
Expenditure this period £1169.99  
Income this period £00.28  
Closing Balance as at 27/01/15 £ 2201.29

**Action: Dawn, Mary, Phil**

## 5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

### 5.1 AGM chair's report

No action this month

**Action: Neil**

### 5.2 Provisions of benches

Phil was not present at the meeting so no action this month.

Still looking at ways to deter theft when the seats are placed. **Action: Phil**

### 5.3 TEC Services

T.E.C Services has had to left over until next meeting, Neil was to contact Donnie a few days prior to the meeting but work related issues meant he was unable to. **Action: Phil**

#### 5.3.1 New issues reported

**Action: Phil**

#### 5.3.2 Outstanding issues

831820 (Braeintra bridge, reported by Dave Mockett) see above. **Action: Phil**

Speed control through the village. Mark Crowe has suggested we talk to the police. We will invite them to the next

CC meeting after the Achmore Bridge is completed

The new road from the Strathcarron junction to Coulags ends without warning just before the narrow bridge. Audrey

is waiting to see Colin Howell to discuss this. **Action: Audrey**

**Audrey informed us that council are waiting for a report from the road safety team, but a possibility of reducing road from a point further west.**

### 5.3.1 Road fault spreadsheet

Click [here](#) to view the latest spreadsheet.

## 5.4 Defibrillator for local emergencies

### 5.4.1 Installation

Mary has completed the documentation apart from sending photographs to show the location of the unit. Mary will

organise another training course. Ellanne will give Mary contact details for the paramedics.

**Action: Ellanne, Mary**

### 5.4.2 Fundraising

A discussion about how we may involve the community in raising money for this cause was had and the general opinion was that although we have a target of hopefully £1200. We should not avoid getting something going which we felt may not reach that target. Therefore we have earmarked Sat April 18<sup>th</sup> as a day to bring everyone together. Discussion as to what we may do threw up ideas from a bogey race (wheeled variety) to community fun run, tea cake eating competition followed perhaps by an evening quiz and social event. Any ideas welcome .

Ellanne is going to investigate possibilities with a SSE initiative which may offer a matching of cash raised by us for such a cause.

**Action: All**

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

Audrey advised us that she had been in discussion with Mr. Gilfillan (Director of Community Services) and Dr. Colin Clarke (Head of Waste) who were both sympathetic to the cause ,but could not see any funds being made available in near future. She was told they would keep their eyes open for any possible external funding.

Audrey felt there was little she could do to take this issue forward for now and so we have closed this for the time being. Action : **Closed**

## 5.6 Storage of CC records

No progress this month. **Action: Mary**

## 5.7 Winter resilience

Mary reported that all bins ,shovels,jackets etc had been distributed and filled.

Shovels are at the following locations:

Braeintra with Calum and Kate

Achmore- in the wooden structure housing the hall oil tank

Stromeferry – Behind the salt bin.

Fernaig road – with Phil and Mary.

Mary had received alternative shovels and would switch .

There was a suggestion that we buy buckets and trowels to distribute the grit but committee felt that that would be a more difficult task and a lot slower since there were fairly large areas to be covered. The CC would like to forward our thanks to Brendan the local foreman for his assistance in getting all equipment to us.

**Action: Completed**

## 6 Update from our Councillor

Audrey reported that a lot of time recently has been spent on balancing budgets within the council. Generally there will be less money available going forward.

A number of council funded services such as village halls ,leisure centres etc. would be asked in 2 years time to bid for cash from a smaller pot. Kyle leisure centre had been told it probably fitted a criteria which should mean continued funding .

Next years winter maintenance funding looks to be severely cut and the council will be sticking to a priorities list of roads meaning there will be less pre gritting generally and on roads with “limited use” there may be no gritting.

The council has balanced its’ budget for 2015/2016 but not for the following year.

Audrey has been elected Chair of the working committee on Customer services . She was able to report that Kyle Customer Service point was one which committee has proposed to be kept running as normal. Others, including Lochcarron would be merged with libraries where a lesser service would be offered .

Council have a consultation form which Audrey urged us to fill in. Achmore residents can fill one out for Kyle and for Lochcarron

## 7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

### 7.1 NHS

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

Highland NHS Board Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December Inverness – Board passed Steering Group papers and Broadford is the spoke and Portree the hub. There was some discussion around the approach and attitude of the North Skye group who were all included on workshop E-mails, and invited but rarely attended. Mary attended meeting in Inverness.

The board are now going to the Scottish Office to apply for money.

Neil and Audrey had attended the Ward Forum in Plockton Hall on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. At the forum Police Scotland gave a talk on their operational priorities and said the priorities had not changed significantly from the last time they had met with public bodies. Issues such as the closure of the Skye Bridge were taken up and we were informed that Police Scotland have no real say in the bridge closing due to weather even though their resources are stretch when ever this happens , having to have attendance at both sides of the closure. The closing was down to the road authorities and their health and safety concerns.

At talk by the fire service again was as much about the status quo in operational duties. A number of statistics were presented which show that they were reasonably pleased with the state of affairs in this Ward. The most concerning statistic was on false alarms either by the public or fire alarms going off for no particular reason. Statistics can be found on the site [www.hifrs.org](http://www.hifrs.org)

Highland Council Planning then gave a talk on the upcoming review of the Local Plan. This is to start soon and continue for a couple of years before a new definitive Plan is produced. There is to be a scaling down of the areas which will have detailed plans drawn up , and planners are to concentrate more on larger settlements such as Kyle and Plockton. Achmore is not to be covered by the map and if we wish to have representation, we need to apply to be in one of the smaller categories. Each household should by now have had a post card type information leaflet through the door with which they can use to gain information from the council. The CC shall have this subject on the next Agenda and anyone wishing to get involved is welcome to the meeting.

### 7.2 Tilhill

Nothing this month

### 7.3 Reroute of A890

Nothing this month **Action: All**

### 7.4 Highland Council

**Mary** completed budget feedback

### 7.6 Scottish Water

Nothing this month

## 8 Update from Local Groups

### 8.1 Broadband

With Phil being away the finer technical details can be found on the village web site but here are a few points about recent happenings.

We have met with Fay on the park at the head of the Glen and picked out a site which we feel is good for the purpose of receiving signal and handy for Hydro connection. Fay is happy for us to proceed with looking at how we might construct the system.

Joe and Neil followed up Phil and Hamish' visit to Lochcarron and spoke with Andrew Mackenzie (Jek) who is being very helpful in offering us the use of his property and own services to get our equipment up and running to ensure a connection through Lochcarron to make the system more robust and faster hopefully

We also have been investigating the possibility of using the raised beach at portachuillin as a relay station due to its good line of site from Plockton/N.Strome and Ardnarff.

Usage for the first month was very high and we put this down to it being Christmas time with people on holiday etc. But January figures are down at more in line with the figures for the initial volume trial.

There are more details on the website:- [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 -**

Colin reported that the AGM was held on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov and Roddy MacPherson and Dave Mockett had both been elected to the board as directors

- annual accounts have been submitted to Company's House
- The Board then met on the 9<sup>th</sup> December and 13<sup>th</sup> January and next meets on 10<sup>th</sup> February
- it is hoped work on repairs to the Office will be carried out shortly
- a workplan for 2015 s being developed and in addition to the Office, with reviews of the allotments and Trust Membership on the agenda for the year.

### **8.3 Hall Committee from Jack Bird**

Hall AGM on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

## **9 AOB**

**O**n the issue of cars parked close to the junction of the A890, it was thought the best approach would be to put leaflets on windscreens of the parked cars and monitor the situation.

Mary highlighted the need for reflectors on the newly refurbished Achmore bridge, although the new bridge is built on the footings of the old one, with the walls being higher than before it made the bridge look narrower than before. We will ask TEC services to consider putting some kind of reflector to warn traffic approaching. ACTION NEIL

### **9.1 Planning matters**

A planning application was in for a single storey dwelling house next to the house built by Ian White across from "Mulan" No one at the meeting had any concerns as far as planning so we will not be commenting on this. There were no representations made by any residents.

## **10 Calendar**

### **11 Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 th February 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Achmore Hall.

### **12 Formal close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm