

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 30th June 2015 @ 8:00 p.m. Achmore Hall

1 Present & Apologies

Present: Audrey Sinclair (part), Ellanne Fraser, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae (part), Rebecca Dean, Henry Dalgety from Scottish Salmon Farms for item 9.2, Constable Bruce Crawford for item 7.5.

Apologies: Kath Biss

2 Approve and adopt previous minutes

February's minute's 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

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

Email - Weekly - Various - Delegated list - distributed

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

Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Community toolkit - distributed

Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Monthly Bulletins - distributed

Email - March - Various - NHS - Redesign of Services - meetings attended

Email - March - various - Tech Services - Road works and closures.

Email - March - HC Local plan request for sites - see HC website

Email - April - Scottish Salmon Company - making contact

Email - April - New procedure for recycling Dingwall - see recycling: distributed to all: see HC WS. Council website

Email - April/May/June - NHS redesign of Services - see NHS updates

Email - April/May/June - NHS - Sub group Transport West Ross, Skye, Lochalsh - see NHS updates

Email - May - Transport - A890 local meeting - taken place

Email - June - Policy - Community Empowerment Bill - see SG website.

Email - June - Community Services - New Arrangements - See under Tech Services

Email - June - Highland Council - Bogus trades person leaflet - see HC WS - distributed to all.

Post - May - ICO - request for annual payment - complete

Post - May - Adopt or Post box - 5.9

Post - 13/5/2015 - HC - A890 Stromeferry Options Public meetings - complete

Post - 20/5/15 Highland Archaeology Services Ltd

Post - 21st May 2015 - Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association - AGM invitation + newsletter

3.2 By the chairman

Nothing in addition to the items listed above.

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	£ 2,201.29
Expenditure this period	£ 35.31
Income this period	£ 0.22
Closing Balance as at 30/6/15	£ 2,166.20

Unpresented cheques - £70.00

Copies of the signed CMNet loan agreements were not correctly distributed at the last meeting and this has now been rectified.

Completed

5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

5.1 AGM chair's report 2014

The status of Neil's laptop keyboard is unclear. Neil stated he will not change his Chairman's report for 2014 from the version issued in September / October.

Not Completed?

5.2 Provisions of benches

No members have received any suggestions for locations for more benches.

Completed

5.3 TEC Services

Donnie MacLeod gave us an update of all the ongoing issues in April. Since then Donnie MacLeod has been replaced by Andrew Hunter who provided a further update in June. In essence most work is planned to be tackled this summer. Andrew has suggested a site visit and Phil will organise that in due course and update the spreadsheet.

Action: Phil

5.3.1 *New issues reported*

No new issues reported

5.3.2 *Outstanding issues*

5.3.2.1 *831820 - Braeintra bridge, reported by Dave Mockett*

There will be a temporary solution to put a steel deck on top of the existing masonry walls.

5.3.2.2 *984901 - Water running across the A890, reported by Audrey*

This will be tackled this summer.

5.3.2.3 *Speed control through the village*

This was raised with Bruce Crawford and he will organise for a speed monitor to be installed near the Hall, the exact location will be decided by the speed control specialists.

Action: Bruce

5.3.2.4 *Braeintra bridge #2, reported by Calum Bulloch*

TECS have inspected the bridge and it is safe. The displaced stone from the parapet will be replaced.

5.3.2.5 *The new road from the Strathcarron junction to Coulags which ends without warning.*

More work is being done on this by Hugh Logan (HC safety officer) but the likely result is that the chicane to be removed or repositioned further to the west. **Action: Audrey**

5.3.2.6 *672709 - The Achmore Bridge over the river Ascaig*

Everyone is happy with the additional reflectors. **Completed**

Audrey has a detailed response from Dave Barber explaining that the HC had in fact given local contractors every chance to tender for the work on the Achmore Bridge. **Completed**

Dave Mockett has asked why there needs to be a sign to say the work was done by the Highland Council and asked for the cost of the sign. Mary will take this up with the HC. No progress this month **Action: Mary**

5.3.2.7 *Pothole count*

We will approach other CCs in the area to see if we can put forward a joint complaint to the HC.

No progress this month **Action: Mary**

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 taken photographs of the installation and will forward them to show the location of the unit. Mary will organise another training course. This is on hold until the problem with the cover is resolved **Action: Mary**

The protective case solenoid release is not operating properly, and has temporarily been bypassed. Please do not push the door of the case fully shut. Phil will see if we can adjust this without the need for the electrician to be called out again. No progress this month. **Action: Phil**

5.4.2 *Fundraising - Saturday April 18th / September 12th*

April the 18th came and went; a new date has been set for Saturday September 12th

5.4.2.1 *Bogey race*

No progress

5.4.2.2 *Fun run*

No progress

5.4.2.3 *Tea cake eating competition*

No progress. **Action: Neil**

5.4.2.4 *Evening quiz and social event.*

No progress

5.4.2.5 *SSE cash match initiative*

No progress **Action: Ellanne**

5.5 **Provision of recycling facilities**

We will contact the local CCs that joined forces with us. No progress. **Action: Mary**

We have received a letter from the HC complaining that their contractors is unable to empty the glass recycling bins from the square because of vehicles obstructing access. It was agreed we would ask the HC to notify us of the collection dates so we can ensure access is clear. Ongoing **Action: Mary, Neil**

We will organise another skip which this time will be located in Strome Ferry. **Action: Dawn**

Mary told the meeting that garden waste, including plastic pots, is being dumped on the village side of the river by the Achmore Bridge. This waste is carried downstream, polluting the river which is drinking water for livestock, before being washed up on the lower banks or out to sea. Please think about the consequences and the negative impact this sort of fly tipping has on our environment and please stop disposing of rubbish in this manner. You can return unwanted plastic pots to garden centres; many sell them on and give the money to local charities. Please compose your garden waste at home and please do not throw waste plastic plant pots down by the bridge. The plastic will be washed down the river and may harm livestock.

Please note the new procedures at the Dingwall Council tip which mean you must complete a form before arriving with a van or trailer, the form can be found on the HC website.

5.6 **Storage of CC records**

Mary has contacted Lizzie and Geoff to organise a meeting to go through the records. **Action: Mary**

5.7 **Winter resilience**

The steel shovels have been returned to Brendan and we have thanked him for his efforts. **Completed**

5.8 **Cars parked close to the junction of the A890**

There have been no issues in the past month, this item will be dropped. **Dropped**

5.9 **Adopt a telephone box**

We were asked if we would like to buy the telephone box opposite the Hall and we decided we will decline the offer.

5.10 **HC & Islands Core Path Review**

The core paths plan for HC access authority area was adopted by the council's Planning, Environment and Development committee on the 21st September, 2011. A new plan is currently being developed. The core paths in our community council area are as follows; Fernaig Road to Portchullin SL01.01, Strome Wood SL01.02

We had a discussion about other possible paths in our area and it was suggested that a pathway from near the redundant Scottish Water plant to the top of Fernaig Hill should be included. Mary asked those members of CC who wish to have other paths registered, to email her with the details by the **9th July**, ready for the closing date of 10th July, 2015. Mary has a copy of the map received from Highland Council. Existing plans can be viewed at Service Points, libraries, main council offices or on the council website <http://www.highland.gov.uk/corepaths>.

Action: All

6 **Update from our Councillor**

Service points, Mary has checked and the alleged missing email had in fact been circulated by Mary prior to the January meeting. **Completed**

Audrey produced a written report for the April meeting (subsequently cancelled) which she would have been unable to attend, the details answered questions raised in earlier meetings and have been included in the relevant sections.

Audrey thought she might not be able to attend June's meeting as she had a commitment to attend a meeting on the Leader project, however showing true dedication she came on to our meeting after the earlier meeting finished.

This is a combination of Audrey's written report and "live" discussion.

May was a relatively quiet month dealing mostly with ward issues, including a HT interview and Strome Bypass meetings in Achmore and Lochcarron.

June started with the surprise departure of the Lib Dems from the ruling HC Administration. There followed a flurry of negotiations trying to reach a majority grouping (ie more than 40) between the various groups (32:21:11:8:5 + 3 individuals). No agreement could be reached so the Independents have formed a minority Administration and I

have been appointed at Chair of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee. This covers planning, capital projects, housing development, design, energy management, environment, economy development, Europe, assets and trading standards. Quite a mixed bag, but very interesting. I'm trying to get to grips with the details of each of these as well as working with the other chairs to put together a list of priorities for the next 2 years. Our main work will be to deal with the predicted £46 million budget gap over the next 3 years (although there is a lot of uncertainty in these figures). We won't have the actual figures until later in the year but we are working to produce the budget in February 2016. It is going to be a difficult time!

Audrey gave us an update from the Leader meeting. The next funding round will have a budget of £400,000 reduced from the previous £800,000. This is to sponsor projects over the next few years and needs match funding by the recipients. Ten outcomes have been chosen for the Highland area and the Ward 6 Steering Group is working on choosing the 4 or 5 which are most suitable for our area.'

The changes for Service Points have been finalised; Kyle will remain unchanged, Lochcarron will be downgraded and a computer terminal installed for access to HC facilities with assistance from the librarian if required.

7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

7.1 NHS

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

The project is concentrating on two main areas at the moment.

7.1.1.1 *Hospital design style*

This phase will take place before architects are involved and is to set the high level design for the new hospital; what sort of materials should be used, what functions are required - e.g. private areas for family & doctors meetings

7.1.1.2 *Hospital access and transport*

This phase is to look at how patients and visitors gain access to the hospital through public transport, voluntary organisations, taxis etc. Mary will contact neighbouring CCs to ask for their input as they were not at the meetings.

Action: Mary

7.2 Tilhill

7.2.1 *Access*

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

7.3 Reroute of A890

The HC gave a presentation in the hall on 28th May which was well attended. Maintenance work starts on the bypass on the 14th July for a period of 16 weeks. There will be 6 day working week, with alternate weekends off. There is no Sunday working. For the Lochcarron Highland Games, traffic management will be removed from the site on Saturday 18th July 2015, so as not to delay visitors attending the event.

7.4 Highland Council

Nothing this month

7.5 Police & Fire

Sergeant Bruce Crawford from Portree attended to give an update and warned about scams and bogus tradesman.

Bruce informed us that there is a network of scammers and if someone is taken in then their details are likely to be sent to others which will increase the chances of them being targeted again. We will place leaflets in the leaflets holders on the notice boards. **Action: Phil**

There was some debate about the lack of leeway for traffic police operating in the area. Bruce informed us that there are more patrols on non-trunk roads due to the creation of a Trunks Roads Policing Group and a Divisional Roads Policing Groups; this means that patrols now cover a wider area. Bruce reminded us that we should not feel we are being victimised by individual officers, all member of the service follow a code of practise set by management and sometimes this code leaves very little discretion for the officer.

Bruce is the H&I Voice on twitter at hi_voices this week if you want to see what a typical week involves and can also be followed at @LochabSkyePol.

7.6 Scottish Water

Nothing this month

8 Update from Local Groups

8.1 Broadband - from Phil Game

There was a problem with speeds at times in the evenings in late March / early April this was not related to the increase in bandwidth to 5 Mbps; the problem was traced by our ISP and was resolved. We recently increased the number of subscribers to 25 and monthly usage is now about 220 GB an increase of 27% on previous months. Bandwidth remains capped at 5 Mbps download and 0.7 Mbps upload, speeds hold up well during the day but are

dropping off in the evenings, we suspect this may be due in part to capacity issues at the Plockton exchange. We will install another ADSL line in Lochcarron to give increased capacity. There have been some minor issues with the network in the past couple of months and these have all been caused by power cuts either here or in Plockton. One AirRouter power supply has failed and has been replaced.

We have amended the Customer Contract to drop the 5 weeks grace period at the start for all subscribers who would be connected via existing relays as these have been in operation for more than six months and are now considered to be fully tested and stable, i.e. locations in Fernaig, Achmore and Braeintru. However the concession will still apply for subscribers connected through new relays, e.g. Ardaneaskan, Craig, Portchullin etc. We have also amended the terms and conditions so that anyone exceeding their monthly quota three times in a year now has the option to have their quota automatically capped so they cannot exceed their quota again.

We completed a submission to the Scottish Government (SG) in preparation for the funding for Next Generation Broadband (NGB) roll out which the SG define as speeds above 30 Mbps. Even though our network has the capacity for speeds of 45 Mbps we have not been given the status of a NGB provider as we do not have access to high speed backhaul through Plockton or Lochcarron. It is expected that the SG will therefore fund BT to provide NGB services in the area. However BT has stated they will support no more than half the properties in the area whereas CMNet is committed to provide a service to everyone.

Several Community Broadband Groups are going to combine resources to invest in one or more leased lines. Initially this will be a line in Mallaig which will have a capacity of 1,000 Mbps this will provide sufficient backhaul speeds to allow us to offer NGB speeds.

All documentation (loans and contracts) has been issued to reflect recent changes.

Progress by location:-

Lochcarron - All the equipment has been purchased and has been configured; we are ready to visit and finalise the location of equipment.

The Glen - Our thanks to Jim Coomber for visiting the site and advising on the best route for the cable run. We have agreed the location and method of installation of relays and cables with Fay & Dolly. We now have all the equipment ready to install; once the relays are in place we will request the power supply from the Hydro. We are very grateful to Fay for her time spent on site visits.

Ardaneaskan - We have a list of the first candidates to be connected and have purchased all the fittings needed to mount their equipment. We will need to run a trial of equipment as the links will be longer than any of those currently in use. Our thanks to Roger Hornby for liaising with residents and searching out sites for relays.

Portchullin - We have made a formal application to the Forestry to install a relay, there are no issues obtaining a power supply. Thanks to Roddy, Bruce and Chris for their help.

Craig - We visited Ruth & Ian and have agreed a location for a test relay, we thank them for their support. All the equipment has been purchased and most has been configured; we will soon be ready to visit and start the installation.

No major changes elsewhere.

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 main business of the Trust meeting on 14 April was a discussion on the new Scottish Rural Development Programme 2015-20 as part of the CAP, for which the Trust is submitting a registration. We will then examine the SRDP in detail to decide on suitable projects to apply for funding. Annual rents for Holdings are due this month.

A new tenant has taken on one of the allotments. The Trust now has its own Facebook presence.

Update for May / June

1. The FCT Facebook page has been launched and shows promise as an informal/social facility.
2. The proposed Hydro project was again discussed and the consensus is that the outcome of the current Government review of the Feed-In -Tariff(FITs) is crucial to its viability.
3. The Trust has registered for the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SDRP) 2015-20, and an application to Scottish Government for grant-aid for a Whole Farm Review of Trust land has been successful. This has been followed up and a Farm Business Advisor appointed. He will conduct the Review over the coming months and help produce an Action Plan to guide future activity.
4. All annual rents due for Holdings have been paid.
5. Land Maps of the Trust have been reviewed and are now up to date with Scottish Government.
6. It was agreed to sell this year's hay crop as standing grass to a single contractor, and tenders have been sought.
7. Refurbishment of the Office will take place later in the summer.

8.3 Hall Committee - from Jack Bird

Nothing received from the Hall committee.

9 AOB

9.1 Dissolution of the CC

Mary reminded everyone that the CC will be dissolved in November and reconstituted with newly elected members and so we should all make an effort to ensure everything is up to date by then.

9.2 Scottish Salmon

We were joined by Rebecca and Henry from the Scottish Salmon Company to outline plans to expand the salmon farm in Lochcarron. There has been a farm in Lochcarron since the early 1980s and for the past 8 - 9 years it has operated with 14 cages. Lochcarron is a good location and the farm with 1,300 tonnes of fish is small in relation to other operations which are typically 2,500 tonnes. Therefore SS is looking to expand the facility. The visit to Achmore was to give a heads up in advance of the formal application. A similar meeting has already been held in Lochcarron. SS work closely with local groups e.g. Lochcarron Sailing club and the river Carron fisheries and of course the planning and environmental authorities etc.

The proposal is to add another 10 cages to give a total capacity of 3,500 tonnes. The additional cages will be to the west of the existing site. When complete there will be 24 cages each of 38 metres in diameter, the existing cages are 32 metres in diameter.

The current operation employs 25 people in Lochcarron and the expansion is expected to generate three full time jobs and two part time jobs. Feed will be delivered by sea to a new feeding barge. It is anticipated that the planning process will start in September and take about a year if successful.

There will be public open days and meetings as the project develops.

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 28 July at 7:00 p.m. Achmore Hall.

12 Formal close of meeting

The meeting closed at 10:30 pm