

# Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

### 1 Present & Apologies

**Present:** Audrey Sinclair, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae (part), Kath Biss

**Apologies:** Ellanne Fraser

### 2 Approve and adopt previous minutes

The start time on June's minutes was incorrect; subject to this being altered to 8:00pm the minutes were accepted, proposed by Dawn and seconded by Mary.

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

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 - 7 July - Ward Manager - SLWR Partnership meeting - 24th August 2015 - AOB

Email - 13 July - Robbie Bain - Armed Forces award - distributed

Email - 21 July - Derek Yule - Cost of pot holes and Signs- see item 5.2

Email - 21 July - Colin Clark - recycling - see Item 5.4

Email - 21 - 23 July - F McGeachan NHS - transport sub group - see 7.1

Email - 27 July - Charlie MacRae - Feedback on transport sub group - see 7.1

Email - July - P Game, C McAndrew - Local group updates - distributed

Email - 27 July - A Sinclair - Councillor Update - distributed.

#### 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](mailto:CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk) or 01599 577 296.

### 4 Treasurer's report

Opening Balance	£ 2,166.20
Expenditure this period	£ 70.00
Income this period	£ 0.22
Closing Balance as at 30/6/15	£ 2,096.42

Unpresented cheques - £ 0.00

We have received the audited accounts and sent these to the HC to obtain this year's grant. We will issue cheques to pay the auditor. **Action Dawn**

### 5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

#### 5.1 AGM chair's report 2014

Neil will amend his 2014 report and distribute to all members of the CC by midnight 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015. **Action Neil**

#### 5.2 AGM chair's report 2015

Neil will amend his 2015 report and distribute to all members of the CC by midnight 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015. **Action Neil**

#### 5.3 TEC Services

The spreadsheet has been updated, a copy sent to Andrew and a copy posted on the website. We are waiting for Andrew to suggest some dates for a site visit. We did not receive an update from Andrew for this meeting. We will chase Andrew. **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*

We have not received an update from Bruce and will chase. **Action: Phil**

#### 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. No progress this month. **Action: Audrey**

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

Cost of signage - Mary emailed Derek Yule, Finance Director HC, requesting the cost of signs and the cost to fill a pothole. He responded that this is not the level of detail published on HC website and someone would respond. We subsequently received a request for information notification telling us we will have an answer within 20 working days. **Action: Mary**

#### 5.3.2.7 *Pothole count*

We are awaiting the cost to fill a pothole before we approach other CCs in the area to see if we can put forward a joint complaint to the HC. **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 & Phil adjusted the coach bolts to remove as much distortion as possible from the very flimsy case and the door can now be closed properly; however it now appears the solenoid is not opening or closing properly. We will contact L2BH to see if they have a solution, otherwise we will use a bungee cord or something similar and disable the solenoid. **Action: Mary**

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 fully resolved **Action: Mary**

### 5.4.2 *Fundraising - Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>*

Dawn proposed a joint fundraising event with the Hall Committee. **Action: Dawn**

The Bogey race, fun run and Tea Cake eating competition have all been dropped.

#### 5.4.2.1 *SSE cash match initiative*

No progress **Action: Ellanne**

## 5.5 **Provision of recycling facilities**

### 5.5.1 *Emptying of Glass Recycling Bins*

We propose the following procedure; we will inform the HC that the glass bins are full and agree a date for them to be emptied, we will then post notices to say the area should be kept clear on the day they will be emptied. Mary will confirm this procedure with the HC. **Action: Mary**

### 5.5.2 *Skip*

Dawn has contacted the HC and skips are only available for village clean up days. If anyone would like to organise a village clean up then please contact Dawn who will pass their details on to the HC.

### 5.5.3 *Recycling*

Mary emailed Colin Clark suggesting various options instead of a fixed recycling plant at Auchtertyre and asking for a solution. His response was not helpful so we will pursue this at a more senior level. Audrey suggested we try William Gilfillan (director of community services) and / or Allan Henderson (chair of the community services committee). Audrey informed us that there is now a new political structure at the HC and this may help our case.

**Action: Mary**

## 5.6 Storage of CC records

Mary organised a meeting to go through the records but this had to be cancelled due to sickness, Mary will reschedule the meeting. Mary has located all the previous CC information and started to sort according to topic. **Action: Mary**

## 5.7 HC & Islands Core Path Review

Mary completed our submission for the 10<sup>th</sup> July. Dawn has a suggestion for an additional path; Mary will pass the contact details to Dawn so she can submit further details. **Action: Mary, Dawn**

## 5.8 Viewpoint above Auchtertyre

Audrey has looked into the situation; the viewpoint falls into the area covered by Lochalsh Community Council and if we want to raise any issues we should do this through them. The viewpoint is on private land and any changes will need the landowners consent. It would perhaps be possible to install a height barrier to restrict usage to cars, but this would of course also exclude campervans, coaches and lorries. If a request was made through the Lochalsh CC it may be funded through the HC discretionary fund or similar. **Action: Ellanne**

# 6 Update from our Councillor

July - Traditionally July is the quiet month for the Council – normally called the recess. However this year, with the change of Administration in June, Audrey has been involved in producing the new Programme for the Council which will lay out the main themes for the remainder of this term (just over 18 months). This will be presented to the full Council in the middle of August. Audrey has also been further acquainting herself with the detailed work of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure service with a series of briefing meetings with the relevant staff.

As part of his acquainting himself with ward issues Steve Barron, the new Chief Executive, spent a day in Ward 6 in July with three of the councillors. He was taken on a tour starting in Dornie and Kyle and then up the West Coast to Ullapool (150 miles), showing him some of the achievements and current issues of the ward (including the lack of a recycling centre in Lochalsh and the problems associated with the Strome Ferry bypass) and also to try to get across the scale of our ward and the challenges presented by this scale. It is hoped that the insight gained on the day will be of use when decisions have to be taken.

# 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*

**Completed**

#### 7.1.1.2 *Hospital access and transport*

Mary has emailed all the CCs in Lochalsh asking for local transport information; so far we have received details from Charlie from Plockton and Shona in Dornie. **Action: Mary**

## 7.2 Tilhill

### 7.2.1 *Access*

Mary sent an email last week to Phil DiDuca regarding access to “Fernaig Hill” and Peter Greening asking for an update about the Fernaig/Braeintra woodland felling and replanting. No response so far. **Action: Mary**

## 7.3 Reroute of A890

No progress this month

## 7.4 Highland Council

Nothing this month

## 7.5 Police & Fire

Phil put the leaflets about scams and bogus tradesman in the leaflet holders by both notice boards. **Completed**

## 7.6 Scottish Water

Now the warmer (?) weather has arrived we will test the odour of the sewage plant and report the results. Dawn will get pictures of the discharge from the plant. **Action: Mary, Dawn**

# 8 Update from Local Groups

## 8.1 Broadband - from Phil Game

The number of subscribers has not changed this month and remains at 25, one subscriber requested an increased quota from July. Monthly usage for July is likely to increase again to about 240 GB. The service was briefly interrupted by power cuts one evening; apart from that there were no problems.

We have started work on the tariff for year two. Phil explained that the tariff is expected to be reduced when all debts are paid off and CMNet has enough money in the bank to cover the cost of equipment failure. From the original business plan this is predicted to be year three. However it should be noted that anyone joining the scheme after year one will not see any reduction in their tariff until they renew their contracts in subsequent years. I.e. there is no advantage for a subscriber waiting to join in later years. Phil also explained that the CBS grant will expire in April 2016 and after that date the installation charge will increase considerably as subscribers will have to pay the full cost of installation and equipment which is likely to exceed £200. The actual figure will be set by CMNet and is subject to alteration. There will be an exception to this for anyone moving into the area as they will not have had the opportunity to join prior to April 2016.

There will be an open meeting in September for all to attend. At this meeting the board will give a short presentation covering the previous year's work and future plans; then the session will be opened up to all.

Progress by location:-

**Lochcarron** - We have started the installation of equipment for the next ADSL line and relay.

**The Glen** - Both relays have been erected and the power supply requested from the Hydro. We do not have a specific installation date for the power but expect we will be connected sometime in September.

**Craig** - We have installed the relay and have a temporary power supply available.

**Ardaneaskan** - We have tested a link to Craig and have decided to purchase radios that are slightly more powerful than our normal Nanostations to cover the longer distances.

**Portchullin** - The relay to serve Ardaneaskan and North Strome has been erected, we have requested a power supply from the Hydro.

We have received delivery of the electronic equipment for all the above relays and subscribers.

No major changes elsewhere; all we need now is some predictable dry weather.

The West Coast backbone project has ordered the 1,000 Mbps leased line in Mallaig which is expected to be delivered in October. Testing has started on high speed radio links to bring the service north, initially as far as Applecross.

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 -

The main business at the Trust's July meeting was the attendance of Ron Duncan, Farm Business Adviser, to begin the review process which will take place over the coming months.

## 8.3 Hall Committee - from Jack Bird

Nothing received from the Hall committee.

# 9 AOB

## 9.1 Dissolution of the CC

It was suggested that we should state who intends to stand down in November; three members made it clear they will not stand again. The CC needs at least four councillors and can have a maximum of eight. Mary will distribute application forms when they become available. **Action: Mary**

## 9.2 Ward Partnership Meeting

This will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> August in Lochcarron Hall at 1:30; no one is available to attend.

## 9.3 Recompense for voluntary work

It was agreed that the CC would contribute towards running costs to recompense anyone volunteering work for the community - e.g. pay for fuel used.

## 9.4 Hard play area for children

We will see if it possible to use the old school tarmac play area again for local children when the ground is too wet and muddy. The first step will be to establish ownership, we will contact Robbie Bain. **Action: Dawn**

# 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 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7:00 p.m. Achmore Hall.

# 12 Formal close of meeting

The meeting closed at 10:00 pm