

Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 6th May 2019 @ 5.30pm.

1 Helen, our chair, formally opened the meeting at 5.35pm.

1.1 Present & Apologies.

Present: Helen Robertson, Mary MacBeth, Biz Campbell (Councillor), Ann Gillespie, Dawn Lupton
Apologies: Neil MacRae

1.2 Approve and adopt previous Minutes

Ann Gillespie proposed the 27th March 2019 minutes and Helen Robertson seconded them.

1.3 Matters arising

We went through the actions from the previous meeting and the items which are concluded and not being mentioned in this month's minutes are:-

- Achmore has signs at both ends of the village plus signs on the A890. No Issue.
- Stromeferry and Achmore CC is registered with the Information Commissioner Office and the £35 is paid. Completed.

2 Communications received & Financial Report

2.1 By the secretary and /or chair

By the secretary and /or chair

Email - Weekly - Robbie Bain - Planning Information.

Email – Ad Hoc – C Parons – Update on Strome/Achmore paths

Email – Ad Hoc – D Mockett - removal of Achmore Bridge sign + bench siting suggestion.

Email – Ad Hoc – ICO Registration & DD completed acknowledgement.

Emails – Monthly – Lochalsh Development – Developing Community plans

Email – Ad Hoc – S Shaw – NHS Highland 3rd Section Funding

Emails – Various – Locals providing approval to use their email address for CC business purposes.

Emails – K MacLean - Information from other CCs in our Ward

Email – Gary Smith – HC re Stromeferry Bypass works autumn 2019

Emails - Biz Campbell – Providing information from March meeting

Letter – HC – Information pertaining to CC Scheme review 2018- 2019.

2.2 Treasurer's report

Treasurer Report as of April 1st

Opening balance	£3,759.39
Expenditure	0
Income	0.45
Closing balance	£3,759.84

Dawn has been in contact with RBS to get online access for the CC account. RBS have sent her forms which require Neil's and Mary's signatures.

Action: Dawn, Mary and Neil to complete paperwork for RBS online banking for Dawn.

We have had a couple of suggestions for bench siting and agree that a bench on the new path about half way along just after the double gates would be best plus a bench for the bus shelter. Dawn talked to the forestry and got an email contact and they are willing to come to a meeting.

Action: Mary to obtain a [best priced] bench similar to the bench by the cattle grid at the top of Achmore road.

Action: Dawn to pass on Forestry contact to CC.

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3 Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

3.1 Defibrillator

Ross Cowie emailed to say that Dr Wilson Banks from Lucky2bhere met with Neil to check the defibrillator. New pads were fitted and there is still life in the battery which just leaves a flat backing to be fitted between the cabinet and the roughcast.

We agreed a slightly more formal approach to checking on the defibrillator and Mary will create a monitoring form that we will sign off after our check when we have our meetings. And Helen will also ask the hall to check and sign off that the defibrillator is functioning.

Neil reported back to the meeting that he had exploratory discussions with the people at Strome Hostel about the possibility of locating a defibrillator on their building. Claudia was also looking at possible locations. There is more to do on this topic including all the funding and running costs mentioned at the last meeting.

Action: Mary has taken the new defibrillator box so that a backing plate can be cut to the required size to support fitting the new box to the hall wall.

Action: Mary will provide copies of the defibrillator instructions for CC members and leave them in the hall.

Action: Mary to email Ross to get cost of pads and procedure for ongoing renewals.

Action: Mary will create a Defibrillator check list and stick up in hall so that we can keep tabs of when the Defibrillator is checked by either the CC or the Hall.

Action: Claudia and Neil to locate suitable places in Stromeferry for a defibrillator, how to install it and how to raise funds for the defibrillator and how to pay for it's upkeep.

3.2 Infrastructure maintenance e.g bridge parapets

All problems with roads and bridges to be reported directly to Highland Council using their website.

During the meeting it was mentioned that the parapet of the Achmore Bridge has been damaged.

Action: Mary to check and report if there is an issue.

An update on the current state of the reported problems is included in appendix A.

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/roadside_problems.

3.3 Stromeferry Access to Beach

The access path to the beach at Stromeferry has been closed off with a padlocked gate for some time now. Helen has made several calls to Donald Kennedy's office since the last meeting but as yet has not spoken to Donald. It was decided at the meeting to email Donald at <Donald.Kennedy@highland.gov.uk> and ask him to come to one of our meetings so that he can update us on our rights of access. Armed with this information we will contact the owner and make sure he understands our position and acts accordingly.

Action: Helen to email Donald Kennedy and organise a meeting

Action: After the meeting with Donald Helen will contact yard owner.

4 Update from our Councillor

Biz Campbell attended the Stromeferry Bypass works drop in meeting as did Helen so this is joint update from what was billed as a drop in meeting but was actually a series of timed presentations. This work, scheduled for September will require the bypass to be closed from 10pm till 7am. There will be no heavy vehicle restriction. And there will be traffic management in place during the day.

Requests were made for better signage and rather than just saying A890 Stromeferry Bypass, that the notices should mention that this one of the major routes to Skye, so that tourists know that they have to be clear of the bypass by a certain time, if they are using the A890 to Skye. And likewise, at this end, the signs need to let people know that the A890 is a major route to Inverness.

When Garry Smith was asked if the next meeting would be held in Lochalsh he was dismissive of the idea and expects the Lochalsh residents to travel to Lochcarron. Mary will email him and let him know that we, the Lochalsh residents, expect to have meetings held in our area, as the A890 closure has a huge impact on us. The A890 is our major route to Dingwall and beyond.

Action: Mary to email Gary Smith re meeting in Lochalsh.

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5 Updates from Regional & National Organisations (As and when issues arise)

5.1 Tilhill

- Nothing to report

5.2 Highland Council

- Reported under local infrastructure and see Appendix A

5.3 Police & Fire

- Nothing to report

5.4 NHS

- Nothing to report

5.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

- Nothing to report.

5.6 Others

Mary attended a meeting of the Lochalsh Community Collaboration Group which consists of the many organisations from Lochalsh, mainly Community councils but also development trust groups and individuals who are interested in developing community-led action plans. The key is to get local communities to develop their own plans rather than being the subject of other people's plans. Jo Wawrzyczek, Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust has been able to secure some help with this process from the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC). The SCDC are funded by the Scottish Government to deliver this assistance to communities as part of their Supporting Communities Programme. Meetings are held monthly in Dornie Hall and there is a learning event being held in Glasgow with travel and accommodation paid. If anyone is interested in attending, contact Jo at development@lochalsh.uk by 13th May.

Quote about event:-

'The event will be held in Glasgow over two days to accommodate the fact that our participants will be travelling from the length and breadth of the country. The format will be as follows which we think should accommodate all of your travel requirements:

Monday 17th June, 1.00pm – 4.45pm: Day 1, beginning with a networking lunch from 1-2pm. The first day will bring together participants from Year 5 of the programme to share the work that you have been doing, and give you a chance to learn from others about their experiences of community engagement, community-led action planning and place-based approaches.

Tuesday 18th June – 9.00am – 1.00pm: Day 2, ending with lunch at 1pm. The second day will bring Year 5 participants together again to explore and further develop the learning from Day 1, and will also invite a range of national stakeholders (and hopefully Scottish Government representation) to listen and respond to the themes which have emerged, and share information on wider opportunities for support. SCDC will also present learning from across the 5 years of the programme.

Final programme details will be confirmed nearer the time. Both days of the event will be held in The Studio, 67 Hope Street, Glasgow, G2 6AE. The venue is fully accessible, further details and some useful travel information can be found on their website <http://studiovenues.co.uk/venues/glasgow/map-directions/>. SCDC will cover travel and accommodation costs for up to 3 people per organisation, please get in touch with your SCDC lead and we will be happy to help you arrange this'.

6 Updates from Local Groups

6.1 Broadband

Update from CMNet by Phil Game

The last meeting of CMNet directors was mainly taken up with the end of year accounts and reports. Subject to a small change required to correct a rounding error the accounts were agreed.

The new tariff was implemented on the 1st April 2019 which reduced subscriptions for all subscribers some by over £40 per month.

The new BT / Openreach cabinet in Achmore is now BT operational and initial tests at Fernaig show CMNet's performance is about 30% faster for download and 140% faster for upload. BT's speeds are less than those advertised due to the length and condition of the copper wires that connect Fernaig to the new cabinet. Currently BT are discounting their service by £33.60 to £6.60 per month which compares to CMNet's tariff of £7 for 100 GB. At the end of the 18 month discount period the BT rate will increase to £40.20 (plus inflation increases). At today's rates £41 would buy a quota of 1,800 GB per month from CMNet which is close to twice the current highest subscriber's quota.

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There were a few system problems; two power cuts in Ardaneaskan, slow performance for several hours which was traced to a fault in the Zen network, a damaged Ethernet cable which had to have its RJ45 plug replaced, a router on Creag Mhaol became uncontactable and was replaced, one subscriber's external antenna is showing low performance which will need further investigation.

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

6.2 Trust

Update from Fernaig Trust by Colin MacAndrew.

Current leases on all holdings expired in March, and new 5-year Short Limited Duration Tenancies have been issued, with a slight uplift in rents. One field will be vacated next year and become available.

The Trust is investigating changing our legal status from Company Limited by Guarantee to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

The footpaths completed last year continue to be well-used and popular. They have been registered with the 'Green Health' project.

6.2.1 Hall

Update for the Stromeferry and Achmore Hall from Martin Irving.

We have the Gathering fast approaching on the 25th of May. Local support would be much appreciated to help boost our much needed funds to keep the hall running. It takes approximately £3000.00p.a. just to run the hall! The event will be running from 1 to 5pm. There is a bar, stalls, bouncy castle games for the kids etc. If you have any good quality "bric a brac" for our stall that would be most welcome.

There are raffle tickets available at a pound each or a book of five. There are some great prizes that have been kindly donated by local businesses such as £100 voucher for "Home in the Highlands", MOT at SGM, a box of Strathcarron beer, £40 voucher for the Plockton Inn and many more. Please ask any member of the committee or email me for tickets (martinirving@live.co.uk).

The shed roof has now been re-felted by myself and Duncan to reduce the costs which we would have received using a 3rd party.

7 AOB

Auchertyre development.

We had a very short discussion about what the Community Council could be doing about influencing the Highland Council into making its services more environmentally friendly and how we could be doing more ourselves to protect our

Insurance for the Community Council

The CC is required to have insurance so Mary will contact Zurich Insurance to obtain this cover. It will probably cost around £120 per annum and the Highland Council has cut the grant it pays to CC's to approx £300.

Action: Mary to organise insurance for the CC.

Climate Change and the Environment

We had a discussion about the proposed development at Auchertyre but as it is out with our CC boundary we have no direct involvement with the planning, but will try and obtain as much information as we can to pass on in our minutes. environment. We will discuss this in more depth at subsequent meetings when we have more time available to us.

Action: All think 'environment' and act 'smallfoot print'.

8 Calendar

- No items logged this month

9 Next Meetings

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 26th June 2019 at 7.30pm. This will be our AGM followed by a CC meeting..

10 Formal close of meeting

Meeting closed at 6.45pm

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Appendix A

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5	Column6
Problems reported					
Problem Number	Date reported	Status	Reported By	Action	
Braeintra Road - FS89625130	26-Sep-18	Open	Margaret Arscott		
Ascraig Bridge Problem no FS110394966	21-Mar-19	Open	Mary MacBeth		
Surface of railway Bridge Stromeferry	23-Mar-19	Awaiting HC problem no	Neil MacRae	Obtain a HC number	
Lack of upright signage at Ardnaff	24-Mar-19	Awaiting HC problem no	Dave Biss	Obtain a HC number	



Column1	Column2	Column22	Column3	Column4
Highland Council Actions				
Topic	Date requested	Raised By	Passed to Councillor	Action by Highland Council
Bus shelter at Stromeferry	27-Mar-19	Claudia	27-Mar-19	Awaiting response
Removal of Achmore Bridge signage	04-Apr-19	Dave Mockett	06-May-19	