

# Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 3rd July 2019 at 8pm.

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## 1 Helen formally opened the meeting at 8pm.

### 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

#### 2 Correction to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 minutes

The treasurer's report up to 31<sup>st</sup> March should have been £3,751.39 + .45p making a total of £3,751.85

7 AOB

Auchertyre development.

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.

Climate Change and the Environment

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 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'.**

Once the corrections were completed the minutes were then approved by Dawn and seconded by Helen.

### 2.1 Matters arising

Preparation for our CC meeting with Kate Forbes, MSP for Lochaber, Skye, Lochalsh.

### 2.2 Communications received & Financial Report

By the secretary and /or chair

**Further discussion during meeting.**

Email – Policy – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day celebrations – discuss under 6.1.6 Other

Email – Community Led Design Grant Funding open 2019 – 2020 – discuss under Lochalsh Collaboration

Email – Highland Council -Local Flood Risk management Plans – discuss under Highland Council

Email – Policy – Short Term Lets – consultation closing 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019.- discuss under Highland Council

Email – Planning – Alteration to Kyle PO to make space for food outlet & Erection of House Stromeferry- discuss under local planning

**For information only – no discussion**

Email - Weekly - Maureen MacKenzie - Planning Information.

Email – Ad Hoc – K MacLean – CC minutes from other Ward 5 Councils

Email – Many – Zurich Insurance – Insurance for our Community Council.

Emails – Monthly – Lochalsh Development – Developing Community plans

Emails – Ad Hoc – Three more households have signed up for CC minutes

Email – Policy – Community Council Network Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> June, follow up email cancelling this meeting.

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

Email – a Few – Local wandering chickens & road construction at Braeintra

### 2.3 Treasurer's report

Treasurer Report as of April 1st

Opening balance	£3,751.85
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Expenditure	0
Income	0.45
Closing balance	£3,751.84

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.**

## 3 Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

### 3.1 Defibrillator

Most of the actions pertaining to the defibrillator have been completed and the instructions and 'check off' list for the defibrillator is in the hall.

Any outstanding actions have been moved to the outstanding table in Appendix A.

**Action: Mary to pay the 65 pounds for the 2 sets of pads to Lucky2BeHere and reclaim from CC.**

If anyone in the community wants to contribute towards the pads or the defibrillator then they can do so via the Lucky@BeHere website.

[www.lucky2bhere.org](http://www.lucky2bhere.org)

The Pad and battery renewal process is as follows:- the onus is on the Community that have the defibrillator to contact Lucky2bhere for renewal. Pads have an expiry date which is written on the centre of the packet. Battery life is not an exact science (when the last green bar goes out on the gauge and a red bar lights up that is the time to order) but it is guaranteed to last a minimum of 4 years from the date of insertion or you will get a replacement free. We do not invoice but seek a donation to cover the costs which we will acknowledge. This is the cheapest way for the community to do it and also allows us to maintain the information on the database. The old box will be returned to Portree. The second set of pads are held by Ann Gillespie.

**Action: Mary to return old defibrillator box**

### 3.2 Infrastructure maintenance e.g bridge parapets

An update on the current state of the reported problems is included in appendix A. Highland Council has not responded to any of the problems that have been reported, we asked BIZ for help.

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads\\_and\\_pavements/96/roadside\\_problems](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/roadside_problems).

### 3.3 Stromeferry Access to Beach

We agreed that we would invite Donald Kennedy to a meeting to discuss what access rights we have and then contact the yard owner. As yet we have not agreed which meeting.

**Action: Helen to email Donald Kennedy and organise a meeting**

### 3.4 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

This group consists for CCs, Trust and other groups from the Lochalsh area and for the last month, Led by Jo from the Kyle and Lochalsh trust and Mick from SCDM they have completed an application to get funding to employ a full time person to discuss with all the Lochalsh communities what their needs and services requirements are, so that local plans can be developed 'bottom up rather than top down'.

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

### 4.1 Tilhill

- Nothing to report

### 4.2 Highland Council

#### 4.2.1 Outstanding problems reported under local infrastructure and see Appendix A

#### 4.2.2 Bypass A890 proposed roadwork's for September 2019.

Helen, Tony and Mary plus Audrey from Kyle CC met with Gary Smith, Development and Infrastructure and Carolyn Smith Senior Civil Engineering Technician to discuss the upcoming Bypass works starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 till the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019. The works are taking place on either side of the avalanche shelter.

- The Bypass will be closed every night from 10pm till 7am.
- The weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 the road will close at 10pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> Sep and remain closed till 7am Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- The weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> October the bypass will be open from Saturday 7am till Sunday 10pm.

The funds for the Bypass works is coming from capital budget not revenue budget which is for general road maintenance. There is a 2 year capital funding allocation for the bypass with additional funding for September 2019 works. More information will be forthcoming and notices will be put in the press and broadcast via local outlets.

#### 4.2.3 Local Flood Risk Plans

We checked the map which accompanied this information and our area is not marked as a potentially vulnerable area. Topic closed.

#### 4.2.4 Short Term Lets – Scottish Government

Short-Term Lets: Consultation

The consultation asks for your views on the regulation of short-term lets in Scotland. There has clearly been a significant growth in short-term lets in a small timescale and the consultation sets out the factual background, describes the issues arising, outlines local authorities' current powers to address them and presents an overview of regulatory approaches elsewhere in the world. Your views will help the Scottish Government find the right approach for Scotland. The consultation closes on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

For more information about the consultation, please visit <https://consult.gov.scot/housing-services-policy-unit/short-term-lets/>

You can read the consultation paper here:

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/consultation-paper/2019/04/short-term-lets-consultation-regulatory-framework-scotland/documents/short-term-lets-consultation-regulatory-framework-scotland/short-term-lets-consultation-regulatory-framework-scotland/govscot%3Adocument>

Or download the consultation paper from here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/short-term-lets-consultation-regulatory-framework-scotland/>

After quite a bit of discussion – the pros and cons of regulation - the CC decided that we are not going to contribute to the consultation. Topic closed.

#### 4.2.5 Planning Applications

There are three planning applications for this area.

- There is a planning application for change of use of the Kyle PO and shop to become a food takeaway venue.

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Action: We asked Biz if she could find out where the PO is going to be located.

- Network Rail is going to work on the Fernaig Railway Bridge starting in September 2019 for about 8 weeks. Some rocks will be hauled in by road but most of the work being done is to secure and protect the railway bridge foundations using concrete and smart mattresses.
- A new house is being built in Stromeferry.

## 4.3 Police & Fire

- Nothing to report

## 4.4 NHS

See attached note from Meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

## 4.5 Utilities - Scottish Water

The septic tank by the main road in Achmore smells off and on. One benefit of the cold weather is it keeps the stink at bay.

Action: Mary to find out who our Customer Services person is and ask them about the tank.

## 4.6 Others – VE Day Celebrations

**ONE YEAR FROM TODAY**, we will be celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020, marking 75 years since the end of WW2, so have great pleasure in outlining plans for **VE Day 75**, being organised to celebrate and commemorate this important Anniversary next year.

The 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 was the day peace emerged after nearly six years of war, so the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 represents an important milestone in our history. I am sure you will agree that we cannot let this day pass without reflecting on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark period. Our celebration, **VE Day 75**, will cover the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020, and will be an international celebration of peace – a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions who played such a vital part in achieving it.

This includes the Armed Forces personnel from many countries who gave their lives, and those who returned home injured in body and mind; the hard-working women and men who kept the factories, mines, shipyards and farms operating throughout the years of turmoil; the ARP wardens, police officers, doctors, nurses, firemen, local defence volunteers and many others who put their lives on hold to safeguard the home front.

The official, exclusive charity for VE Day 75 is SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity, which also supports the Merchant Navy.

The planned activities over the weekend are as follows:

- The Playing of Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years
- The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2
- The Cry for Peace, around the World
- Churches & cathedrals Ringing out for Peace
- Street parties and parties in pubs, clubs, Hotels, on town and village greens and in halls etc
- Services of commemoration and celebration in churches, including the reading of the Tribute to the Millions and the playing of the Last Post

Registration for all participants will be solely through [www.veday75.org](http://www.veday75.org) as soon as possible over the next few months, or by no later than 1ST MAY 2020. As well as adding your details you will also be able to download important documents, including a commemorative certificate, and view messages of support from individuals and organisations.

Again after much debate we did not arrive at a conclusion so decided to C/F to next meeting and ask others in the community if they wish to host a commemorative event.

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Action: Mary to put on agenda for next meeting.

## 5 Update from our Councillor

Biz and Mary attended a which was schedule for Lochalsh, SW Ross and S Skye to meet with Cabinet Minister for Health and Sport and senior NHS personnel, we have provided an update which is attached.

Biz is meeting with Alistair MacKinnon on Friday in Achmore to show him the road and bridge problems that we have reported – Braeintra, Achmore and Ascaig Bridges – are all badly damaged and we have received no response apart from an auto generated response – this is not the best use of software and computing power.

Biz told us that at the next HC meeting in Inverness it has been suggested that members of the public get a 5 minute slot to ask questions or raise an issue. Biz has informed them that the meetings needs to be online so rural areas can participate on an equal footing with the people in Inverness.

## 6 Updates from Local Groups

### 6.1 Broadband

Update from CMNet by Phil Game

The annual accounts were completed and sent to Companies House and HMRC, for the financial year ending August 2018 CMNet made a surplus of £1,716 after paying £348 Corporation tax.

Monthly usage is still growing albeit at a slower rate, the change of increment from 20 GB to 50 GB has helped reduce the number of subscribers exceeding their quotas each month. We are starting to see the daily peak usage approach our target maximum limit, if this trend continues we will bring the "backup" line in Lochcarron into service. We are working with the Hall Committee to prepare to install a third line in Achmore.

The system has mostly been performing well, apart from one subscribers external antenna which was showing reduced performance and so was replaced.

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)

### 6.2 Trust

Update from Fernaig Trust by Colin MacAndrew.

The Fernaig Trust will again be holding an Open Day event as part of Community Land Week 10-18 August, organised by Community Land Scotland and Scottish Government. More details soon.

### 6.2.1 Hall

Update for the Stromeferry and Achmore Hall from Martin Irving.

Nothing to report that wasn't reported in the Free Press regarding the gathering.

## 7 AOB

### 7.1 Preparation for our meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July with Kate Forbes our MSP

We decide that we will present a profile of our community and the facilities provided by our nearest town – Kyle. We will emphasise how much we do for ourselves but to develop our community further we need infrastructure and services that complement our efforts and provides us – young and old - with the same opportunities and services that other parts of Scotland enjoy.

Action: Write up our prep information and distribute

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## 8 Calendar

- No items logged this month

## 9 Next Meetings

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7.30pm.

## 10 Formal close of meeting

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

### Appendix A

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
<b>Problems reported</b>				
<b>Problem Number</b>	<b>Date reported</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Reported By</b>	<b>Action</b>
Braeintra Road - FS89625130	26-Sep-18	Open	Margaret Arcscott	Awaiting a response from HC
Ascraig Bridge - FS110394966	21-Mar-19	Open	Mary MacBeth	Awaiting a response from HC
Achmore Bridge - FS118275075	10-May-19	Open	Mary MacBeth	Awaiting a response from HC
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

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	

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
<b>Outstanding Issues</b>				
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Raised by</b>	<b>Passed to</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Defibrillator for Stromeferry	Feb-19	Claudia & Neil	Claudia & Neil	Open
Benches	April 2019	All	Mary	To obtain benches

