

# Minutes for Stromeferry and Achmore CC Meeting – 28th August 2019 at 7.30pm.

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1 Helen formally opened the meeting at 7.32pm.

2 [Present & Apologies.](#)

Present: Helen Robertson, Mary MacBeth, Biz Campbell (Councillor), Ann Gillespie, Dawn Lupton, Neil MacRae, Donald Kennedy (part off), Claudia Weegen

3 [Approve and adopt previous Minutes](#)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 minutes were approved by Ann Gillespie and seconded by Dawn Lupton

4 [Path Access at Stromeferry](#)

Donald Kennedy Highland Council Access Officer attended our meeting and explained to us that since the Scotland Land Act of 2003 was implemented in 2005 it gives people the right to access land and inland waterways throughout Scotland in a responsible manner. With this in mind Donald will write to the yard owner at Stromeferry and let him know that it is the wish of the Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council that we are provided with pedestrian/buggy/cycle width access at all times to the track that leads to the shore by the yard. The members of the CC told Donald that we live in a safe environment and that we do not recall any incidents of anti social behaviour, vandalism or theft in the Stromeferry area apart from the one off attempt to nick the live BT cable. So Donald can reassure the yard owner that locking the track gate beside his yard is not required for security reasons.

**Action: DK to write to the yard owner requesting pedestrian/buggy/cycle access to the shore track at Stromeferry at all times, and seeking a response within a reasonable time**

5 [Communications received](#)

By the secretary and /or chair

HC - Highland Council: HC WS - Highland Council Website: SG - Scottish Government

[Further discussion during meeting.](#)

Email – Policy – C/F 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day celebrations –see 8.1.6

Email – HC - Consultation on BT’s proposed closing of public pay phones – see 8.1.6

Email – Carolyn Smith – Stromeferry Bypass – Calendar of Road Closures – see 8.1.3

Email – G Grimson – Recycling and speeding motorbikes – see 8.1.3 & 8.1.4

Email – Gill Harrington – Reporting road issues at Ardnaff – see 8.1.3

Email – Geoff Harrington – Highland Council Quality - see 8.1.3

By Hand – M Macdonald – P & J Article & An Carrannach article – Community transport schemes – see 8.1.3

Email – Robbie Bain – HC Funding Application for Community transport Schemes – see 8.1.3

[For information only – no discussion](#)

Email - Weekly - Maureen MacKenzie - Planning Information.

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

Email – VirginMoney, Ross Cowie – Acknowledging monies for defibrillator pads

Email – Kirk Allen re MOD access for jetties

Email – Stephanie Shaw – Resilient communities small grant scheme

Email – Mary Jane Campbell – Bypass Questions

Email – Policy – Community Council Review Phase 2

Email – Donald Kennedy – Highland Council Amended Core Path Plan – distributed to all

Email - Policy – Land Reform Factsheet for Community Councils

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Email – Policy - HSCHT Boards of Directors Nominations

Email – Colin MacAndrew – Fernaig Trust response re new path inclusion as core path.

Email – Policy – Quality Awards Highland Council

Email – Kate Forbes – Info on caring of the aged

Email – Robbie Bain – Climate Challenge Fund

## 6 Treasurer's report

### Treasurer Report 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Opening balance	£3,716.84
Expenditure	£84
Income	0.47
Closing balance	£3,633.31

### Unrepresented Cheques

<i>C MacRae, Auditing Accounts</i>	<i>£25.00</i>
<i>Hall hire</i>	<i>£40.00</i>

(Bank statement 01.07.19)

## 7 Ongoing Local Items and Progress update

### 7.1.1 Defibrillator

Mary reclaimed the £65 for the new defibrillator pads. Complete

If anyone in the community wants to contribute towards the defibrillator then they can do so via the Lucky2BeHere website.

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

### 7.1.2 Planning Kyle PO

We asked Biz if she can find out what is happening now that the shop and PO in Kyle has been sold and being converted to a food takeaway joint.

**Action: Biz to try and find out what is happening to the PO in Kyle.**

### 7.1.3 Lochalsh Collaboration Group

The next meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> September – Mary and Helen are not around so Dawn will attend. This group consists of all the CCs and other group in Lochalsh who are working with Jo from the Kyle and Lochalsh Development Trust and Mike from Scottish Communities Development Centre (SCDC) to develop community plans from the bottom up. We are currently waiting to hear if our funding application has been successful. The deadline for announcing the successful funding applications has been delayed due to the demand for funds.

**Action: Mary to forward Dawn information.**

### 7.1.4 New Community Council from November 2019 to Sep/Oct 2023

There will be elections in September/October for a new CC to start in November. At tonight's meeting we – Helen, Mary, Ann, Dawn and Neil – confirmed that we will complete nomination papers in September/October. We discussed how to get additional members as Stromeferry and Achmore CC can have up to 8 members so we are seeking 3 addition people. It would be good to have someone from the Glen and Stromeferry on the council.

**Action: Mary, Dawn, Helen, Neil and Ann to recruit additional members. See email for details.**

**Action: Mary to make sure all nomination papers are sent to Robbie by 8<sup>th</sup> October noon.**

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

### 8.1 NHS

We decided that we will approach the Kyle Practice Manager – Vicky Clark to ask her how we can get access to quality diagnosis and treatment in a timely manner. Helen will have a conversation with Vicky to see if she will come to a CC meeting.

Action: Helen to contact Vicky.

### 8.2 Tilhill

- Nothing to report

### 8.3 Highland Council

#### 8.3.1 Stromeferry Bypass roadworks

We discussed how to publish the information about the A890 Stromeferry Bypass roadworks starting September 9<sup>th</sup> to November 2019 and concluded that this time this has been well publicised and most people are aware of the closures. There are A4 calendar leaflet in the Achmore leaflet box, and some will be put up on the Strome noticeboard.

#### 8.3.2 Highland Council Quality Awards

Dawn and Claudia wish to nominate a teacher so if they pass their A4 sheet of information to Mary she will complete the form. Geoff Harrington also nominated people so Mary to follow up to get more information.

Action: People wishing to nominate HC staff must get info to Mary by 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.

#### 8.3.3 Community Transport Schemes

A new round of funding for transport share schemes was announced today with a closing date of the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The group applying for funding has to be either a) 'Company Limited by Guarantee' or b) Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation'(SCIO), complete a 17 page form giving details of a transport project and a financial justification to support the project. For our CC this is too much work in too short a space of time so we decided to do some prep work this year and be ready for the next round of funding. In the meantime Helen will talk to the South West Ross community car scheme group to see how much they can help us or what information they can pass to us.

Action: Helen to make contact with the south west ross community car scheme group and Biz to contact David Summers to see if he can help us.

#### 8.3.4 Outstanding road problems reported see Appendix A

We discussed the lack of progress from the Highland Council in responding to our problems and the complete lack of progress in fixing items. At the meeting it was clear that the HC budgets have been cut and cut so there is no money to do anything. We decided that the road at Ardanaff where it narrows from dual track to single track [going east], with large bollards protecting the single track section and the use of the Harrington's bell entrance as a passing place is really confusing and dangerous so we all agreed this was our No 1 priority road problem to get fixed. It has been reported by Gill Harrington so Mary to get info from Gill.

Action: Mary to get problem number from Gill and pass to Biz and Robbie Bain to get some action.

Other road and bridge problems have been reported and are recorded in Appendix A and there has been no response from Highland Council.

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## 8.3.5 Police & Fire

Georgie Grimson wrote to the CC asking if we could do anything about the speed the motorbikes are doing coming down the A890 brae and along the straight heading towards Achmore. Most at the meeting agreed with Georgie that the noise and the speed of the bikes are dangerous and disruptive to our neighbourhood. We also felt that with the tourist boom the traffic thru Achmore has increased and some driver do not slow down whilst travelling thru the village. At the meeting we discussed some of the unpleasant toilet habits of our visitors who think that hedges are for urinating against.

Action: Mary will email our local police and have a chat about incidents.

## 8.3.6 Utilities - Scottish Water

If we need to report issues at a Community level we call the Scottish Water Customer helpline number 0800 0778 778. We discussed the current Achmore septic tank and which is defunct and allowing obnoxious effluent to flow into the river.

Action: Dawn to forward photos to Mary who will contact Scottish Water using their helpline.

## 8.3.7 Others – VE Day Celebrations - Postponed till next meeting

Information from the VE leaflet –

**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.

Action: Mary to C/F till next meeting

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## 8.3.8 BT removing Achmore and Stromeferry Public phone Box.

Out local phone box is on BT's list to be removed. There have been 25 calls made from this box it's number is 01599 577 247 – it works but no one answers! Neil told the meeting that the box in Strome is 01599 577 249 and no one knew its status and it is not on the BT list.

Action: May to complete online survey requesting that our Phone box remains in Achmore.

## 9 Update from our Councillor

Biz attended a ward 5 meeting along with other councillors to discuss problems and issues facing the other parts of Ward 5. Biz also met with the Chief Executive and leader of the council to express her frustration at the lack of progress that is being made to sort our roads, schools etc. We asked Biz why the Scottish Government are not providing the Highland Council with more money so that they can employ staff, and fix our broken infrastructure. Biz told us that there is no money. We asked Biz to pass our thanks on to the guys who resurfaced the bit of the A890 by the reservoir.

## 10 Updates from Local Groups

### 10.1 Broadband

Update from CMNet by Phil Game

Work has restarted on the new relays on Creag Mhaol ready to connect the remaining 30 subscribers. Progress is now very dependent on predictable dry days. However we have been able to upgrade the Braeintra access point as part of our planned maintenance program.

System usage continues to grow month on month, the usage for July was the highest ever just under 3.5 TB, with Saturday the 27th recording the highest days usage just under 170 GB.

There have been a few system problems since the last report; two units failed and were replaced. The housekeeping server was spontaneously rebooting due third party software which had to be removed. We have also been having incidents of false RADAR detection which cause some radios to jump frequencies every few days. Although the radios reconnect within a couple of minutes there can be a degradation of performance if the unit jumps to a new "slow" frequency. To reduce the problem of poor performance system changes have been made but as yet we do not know the source of the false RADAR problem.

The provisional accounts for the y/e August 2018 estimate a healthy surplus and so the decision was made to distribute a portion of the excess amongst subscribers. All existing eligible subscribers will receive a refund of £60. The new joiner's premium has also been reduced by the same amount this making it cheaper for new subscribers to join CMNet.

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)

### 10.2 Fernaig Trust

Update from Fernaig Trust by Colin MacAndrew.

A good crowd attended the Fernaig Trust's Open Day and BBQ on Saturday 10 August in glorious sunshine. The now 'annual' duck race (with 41 ducks racing) was challenging due to a very low water level in the burn, but it was good fun and everyone enjoyed it.

Feedback from Core paths email.

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The proposed inclusion of the 'Braeintra Network' footpaths in the updated HC core paths plan was anticipated. Donald Kennedy informed me of his intention to do so when we were at the planning/design stage for the new paths – indeed may have been useful, as the information was included in our grant application. So there is no objection or comment to this now

## 10.3 Stromeferry and Achmore Community Hall

Update for the Stromeferry and Achmore Hall from Martin Irving.

There was no meeting this month so little to say.

Main activity is getting the paperwork sorted to reapply for the entertainment license.

## 11 AOB

- Nothing this month

## 12 Calendar

- No items logged this month

## 13 Next Meetings

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.30pm.

## 14 Formal close of meeting

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

## Appendix A

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
Problems reported				
<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 Arscott	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				
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date requested</b>	<b>Raised By</b>	<b>Passed to Councillor</b>	<b>Action by Highland Council</b>
Bus shelter at Stromeferry	27-Mar-19	Claudia	27-Mar-19	Awaiting response

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Removal of Achmore Bridge signage	04-Apr-19	Dave Mockett	06-May-19	

	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
Outstanding Issues				
Topic	Date Requested	Raised by	Passed to	Comment
Defibrillator for Stromeferry	Feb-19	Claudia & Neil	Claudia & Neil	Open
Benches	April 2019	All	Mary	To obtain benches
Return Achmore old Defrib box to Portree	May 2019	Mary	Mary	Will do next time I go to Portree