

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council AGM

Minutes of AGM held on 25th June 2013 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

Present: Audrey Sinclair, Ellanne Fraser, Phil Game, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae, Wilfar Matheson, Jim Coomber. Martin Fraser has resigned.

1) Apologies: Dawn Lupton, Jann MacRae.

2) Adopt previous AGM Minutes

2012's minutes were accepted, proposed by Mary and seconded by Ellanne

3) Chair's Report (Neil)

As ever the year has been a mixture of lively debate, mundane business and serious work for the CC, with agenda items ranging from potholes to the future of broadband provision in our community.

Water, sewerage, health services provision, defibrillators, forest workings and the political makeup of the Highland Council have all been debated.

We have witnessed the largest hill fire in many years which thankfully passed with little damage. We have had our hand in the decision making process on what we hope will be the solution to the bypass road problem.

I think the CC's success this year can be put down to good communication.

We have a very effective regime in place to ensure the community is informed fully and timely of any business we conduct and it has shown to be appreciated by the community in its feedback either by mail or verbally to members.

Our TEC services spreadsheet system is working well for residents and has been welcomed by the council as an effective way of dealing with localised issues.

The most significant development this year, I think, is our undertaking with financial backup from the CC of a pioneering broadband system.

Having had little luck encouraging BT to upgrade the exchange and difficulty getting information from HIE a subcommittee was set up to look at the work of Peter Buneman who had installed a system on Knoydart and some of the Small Isles.

After a lot of work by this committee we had a demo in the hall last week which was enthusiastically received by the vast majority of householders in our area. We hope to continue and have the first subscribers connected within the next few weeks. A lot of work has been done on this project and thanks are due mainly to Phil & his merry band of followers for having the vision and energy to bring it all together. Our thanks also to Liz MacRae (Plockton) who has supported us by donating her signal to us freely throughout all our set up and testing. All info is available on the Strome Ferry and Achmore web site.

As ever we thank Audrey and Biz for their time, support and knowledge which they give generously.

Unfortunately Martin has decided to step down from the CC as of last month. This is disappointing since we need to have a wide and varied view on the council to promote debate. I would like to thank him for his contribution and hope he may feel able to join again in the future if he so wishes.

I would like to thank the office bearers; Mary, for her ability to fire out emails so quickly and succinctly and for her forthright manner when acting on our behalf, Wilfar for keeping finances on an even keel and Phil for his accurate and timely minutes and as I mentioned earlier, his energy and vision on the broadband project.

As I see it the function of the CC is to monitor all aspects of our functioning community and so the Council should be a place of open and lively debate, should be approachable, informative and represent all who wish to be represented. I would encourage residents to contribute to the CC any thoughts or concerns they have, which they feel the CC may be able to help with.

I think this Council has fulfilled all of the above and represented all who have approached us in the last year, and so thank all members of the Council and look forward to continued work in the year ahead.

4) Treasurer's Report – adopt accounts (Wilfar)

Audited accounts for the period will be issued later.

Our main expenditure this year has been:-

- A donation to the annual Christmas Party
- A subscription to Scottish Pathways
- A donation to the hall to pay for a new fence
- Hall and other fees

We have also provided funds for the broadband project in the form of a loan.

Our opening balance for the year was £3,682.15

Our closing balance for the year was £4,710.84

We received our grant of £1,946 for the period March 2012 to March 2013, this was the full grant.

We have not yet received the grant for 2013 – 2014; this should be paid when our accounts have been approved by Robbie Bain.

5) Election of office bearers

Martin Fraser has resigned.

Neil MacRae was elected to be chair, proposed by Mary seconded by Ellanne.

Mary was elected to be secretary, proposed by Wilfar, seconded by Neil.

Wilfar was elected to be treasurer, proposed by Neil, seconded by Mary

Phil was elected to be minute secretary, proposed by Neil, seconded by Wilfar

Audrey asked if we wanted to elect a vice chair and it was decided we would nominate a member to act as chair if Neil was not available rather than elect a vice chair.

6) Next meeting.

The provisional date for the next AGM will be Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.