

# Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

**Present:** Audrey Sinclair, Ellanne Fraser, Phil Game, Mary MacBeth, Jann MacRae, Neil MacRae, Wilfar Matheson  
Jim Coomber (part)

**1) Apologies:** Martin Fraser

**2) November's minutes.**

These were accepted, proposed by Neil and seconded by Jann

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.game1@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.game1@btinternet.com) if you would like to be put on the circulation list.

**3) Secretary's report**

### Communications received – December 2012/January 2013.

Weekly Highland Council Planning list – distributed to CC

Monthly SLCVO e-bulletin – distributed

Christmas card – from The Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP – picture on the card – Westminster in the background with 2 red phones boxes in the foreground, lots of snow all set against an early evening London skyline. Quite beautiful!

Press Release re: December landslip on A890 - distributed

Highland Council – Winter Resilience – Aid to Communities – letter 7/1/12 (see 7 below)

Scottish Government – Coping with Emergencies – Building Community Resilience – letter + information booklets – December 2012 (see 7 below)

Email from Margaret Arscott – Gritting materials to be restocked at roadsides & provision of a skip.

NHS Highland Briefing Note No 6 January 2013 & Looking Forward – Distributed to CC, link to be put on our website. **Action: Phil**

Email - Robbie Bain –Launch of 2013 MOD £3M Support Fund for Schools with Service Children, there was not enough time allowed for us to give this consideration, we will put this in the CC diary and may be able to take advantage of this next year. **Action: Phil**

URS- Stromeferry Options Appraisal STAG pre – 2 meetings attended (see 8 below)

URS Recorded Mail – Maps Route Options and Corridor plans, route option summary,

Proposed SMART options, Stromeferry Options Appraisal STAG Pre-Appraisal (see 8 below)

Email – Robbie Bain - Press release - Options Appraisal report for A890 Stromeferry Bypass on target

Email – Robbie Bain – Information from Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.

Royal Mail – Community Council Scheme Evaluation 2013 from Highland Council

### Communications received – February 2013

29/1 Email – Robbie Bain – Weather warning – distributed

30/1 Email – Anke Menzinger – Stromeferry Options Appraisal Workshop 31/1/13

30/1 Email – SLCVO Local Bulletin

1/2 Email – Highland Council – Verifying CC's details – completed apart from Wilfar's preferred email id. **Action Mary**

1/2 Email - Ilona Traut – HIE – Investing in Communities – A guide to managing community funds - distributed

4/2 Email – Community Toolkit Feb – SLCVO

4/2 Email – Mark Crowe – Temp road Closure – distributed & notice board

4/2 Email – Rachael Hanna - Green Routes to feeling good – (eat grass?) Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March

5/2 Email – Anke Menzinger – Stromeferry Options Appraisal Feedback (see 8 below)  
 5/2 Email – Burnet Karen – New NHS Board Members – Distributed to members of the CC  
 6/2 Email – Robbie Bain – Community Halls event – 6/7 March, we will send a copy to the Hall committee. **Action: Mary**  
 7/2 Email – Robbie Bain – CC Insurance – Zurich Insurance  
 8/2 Email – Audrey Sinclair – Dial a Bus – distributed & on Notice Board  
 13/2 Email – SLCVO Local Bulletin – No 74  
 13/2 Email – Rachael Hanna -Government on Redesigning the Justice System & Tell Me Scotland.  
 15/2 Email – Policy - Participate in Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights - Join the Online Discussion  
 Wednesday 6 March 2013, 11.30am – 1pm.  
 15/2 Email – Caroline Nicholson – Skye & Lochalsh Local Access Forum Meeting – 22nd February 2013  
 19/2 Email – Policy – Play seminar 4 March & Health Inequalities Seminar Event – 30th April.  
 29/1 Post - Bulky Uplift Service Review – to be completed by 22nd Feb We had asked to be given a few more days so we could discuss this at the CC meeting, the form was completed and will be returned. **Action: Mary.**  
 6 /2 Post – The regeneration of Kishorn yard – A facility for the offshore energy industry – public exhibition & open day. Mary apologised as this was not distributed in time for members of the CC to attend.  
 8/2 Post & Hand delivered – Zurich Insurance letter to Lizzie Bird  
 7/2 Post – Highland Council – loads of Dial a Bus leaflets.  
 9/2 Post - Fields in Trust – securing a grassroots legacy across the highlands  
 10/2 Post – Membership renewal for SLCVO - £15 per annum, due by end of March 2013 **Action: Wilfar.**  
 23/2 Email - Tilhill scoping summary for Fernaig (Braeintra) woodland. Jim asked that a copy be sent to Lizzie Bird as the Fernaig Trust were also having a dialog with Tilhill. **Action: Mary.**  
 26/2 Email - Chris MacDonald - Request for the CC to look into plans for the new hospital for Skye & Lochalsh (see 21 below)

#### **Communications received by the chairman.**

Interpretation panels for vistas of the area, copy given to Mary.  
 SSE Invitation to an open day at the Inverness depot, copy to be given to Mary. **Action: Neil.**

**If anyone would like copies any of the above documents please contact Mary at [mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.macbeth1@btinternet.com) or 01599 577 296.**

#### **4) Treasurer's report**

Opening Balance	£ 4,765.90
Expenditure this period	£ 0.00
Income this period	£ 0.00
Closing Balance	£ 4,725.39

Wilfar explained that the previous amount reported as the HC grant was incorrect and he had now received the correct figure and checked the bank balance, hence the adjustment to this month's figures.

We have paid our subscription to Scotways twice as a standing order was already in place. Wilfar to cancel the standing order and inform Scotways to treat the overpayment as next year's subscription.

**Action: Wilfar**

#### **5) Distribution of minutes**

Several new email addresses were added to all three lists since the last CC meeting; Phil has given the Hall committee a test file to load into their circulation list. If this is OK the same procedure should be able to be used for the Fernaig Trust list. We will chase the Hall committee to see if they could load the emails.

**Action: Phil**

## **6) Notice board for Strome Ferry**

No progress this month.

**Action: Neil**

## **7) TEC Services**

Margaret Arscott raised the issue of lack of grit by the side of the roads, this was raised with Sandy and piles have now been replenished.

**Closed**

Lack of gritting on the Strome Ferry hill; we have written to Lynn asking if she has spoken to Mark Crowe, awaiting reply.

**Action: Phil**

We emailed Alistair Dodds for the HC escalation procedures, and have escalated the lack of response from Bryan Stout with Neil Gillies.

**Action: Phil**

Work has started filling the verges between Achmore & Plockton. We will ask Sandy when this will be completed.

**Action: Phil**

We received a letter and information booklet from the Scottish Government – Coping with Emergencies, Building Community Resilience. We will look at this in more detail next month.

**Action: Mary**

We received communications from the Highland Council and the Scottish Government regarding winter road and path preparedness and will look at this next August / September so we are ready for next winter.

**Action: Phil, Mary**

The road fault spreadsheet can be found by clicking [here-](#)

## **8) TEC Services – A890**

Slope inspection reports.

**Dropped**

Neil, Mary and Wilfar attended meetings of the Stromeferry Options Appraisal Joint Stakeholder Workshop and we have received documentation regarding objectives and routes. Twelve objectives have been identified and 40 different routes in three main corridors. The next step in the process is to evaluate each route against the objectives and reduce the number of routes to half a dozen. The HC will then organise a public meeting to discuss the results, probably in April. We will press the HC for a meeting in Achmore.

**Action: Neil, Mary**

It was agreed that we would put the documentation up in the hall to allow everyone the chance to view the documentation sent through so far.

**Action: Mary**

## **9) Scottish Water - Low pressure / no supply in Strome Ferry, Emergency procedures, Damage to surfaces in the Square and Achbeg Crescent**

We have asked SW to provide maps and diagrams to show the layout of the mains. We have asked to be given details of emergency procedures should there be a problem with the main from Plockton.

No reply this month, we will chase again.

**Action: Mary**

We asked TEC services if they can help put pressure on SW to fix the damaged road and path surfaces. We sent Sandy photographs of the damage and he responded to say he cannot get involved in a dispute with Scottish Water. It was decided we would try once more to see if we could get Scottish Water to accept responsibility.

**Action Wilfar**

## **10) Tilhill and Braeintra / Fernaig Woodland**

We received a felling plan and a replanting plan and both of these have been put on the website. In the past couple of days we have received a Scoping Summary which we have not yet had time to digest.

**Action: Mary**

## **11) Broadband**

No news from HIE on the deal with BT.

We have 44 households signed up for the Community Broadband Scheme, 7 rejections and 12 no response.

The Objectives have been signed off. comments have been incorporated in the Statement of Requirements (SoR) which has now been signed off and uploaded to the website.

The draft Feasibility Study has been completed and has been circulated to everyone that has signed up to the CBS. Comments and questions have been received and have been put on the website. They will also be included in the agenda for a meeting to review the project. This will take place on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the hall.

**Action: Phil**

Martin, Jim Coomber & Joe Grimson have all helped locate and test the power line that runs up to the old TV repeater. Joe has given Phil full details of the location of the cable. We will investigate and cost what is needed to repair the power supply and look at what is needed to provide a power supply on the Lochcarron side of the hill.

**Action: Phil, Martin**

HIS in Inverness sell aluminium scaffold tube at £43 per 20' length (finances in the CBS estimated £40) and will also cut it to length for a small charge. Fittings are around £3 each (estimated at £3 in the CBS)

It would appear that severe broadband performance problems have materialised in Plockton in the last few months. All test results received so far for a donor near the BT exchange reports speeds less than 2Mbps. Our original tester also reports a severe deterioration since last August. It was decided to have one last try to find someone with decent performance and if this was not possible to switch our emphasis to Lochcarron. If necessary we will look for donor in Lochcarron and change the budget for the test bed to include bringing the signal from Lochcarron to Achmore.

**Action: Wilfar, Neil, Phil**

We have contacted Lochcarron & District business association after their write up in the WHFP suggesting we work together to improve broadband in the area.

**Action: Phil**

We have signed up to HIE Community Broadband Scotland. They responded to say “once the CBS team is fully up and running” they will deal with our query!

Hamish Howat-Hurst has very kindly volunteered to help.

The latest information can be found at:- [www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827](http://www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827)

### **12) Defibrillator for local emergencies**

Mary has contacted Lucky2BHere who have asked us to nominate dates for training. Prior to installation of the equipment we need to decide on a location (which must be available 24 hours a day), provide a power supply and a light. It was decided we would talk to Dornie, who have recently been through this process.

**Action: Mary**

### **13) Fernaig Trust**

Jim Coomber gave us an update from the last FT meeting.

There were insufficient attendees for a quorum at the last meeting. Jim is to email everyone in the near future to renew their subscriptions. The FT is waiting on a quote from SSE to connect the Hydro Plant to the grid. The FT will start negotiations with the Forestry regarding the Hydro Plant. There will be a public meeting to review the situation and decide on the way forward.

### **14) Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park.**

Mary sent out chasing emails to our neighbouring CCs, we have had a response from everyone except Plockton; we will chase Plockton for a response. Everyone who has responded is in favour of a recycling centre. It was agreed we would write two letters, give one to Biz & one to Audrey to take to the neighbouring CCs to sign. Audrey will then present the letters to the HC.

**Action: Mary, Audrey, Biz**

Provision of a skip for Braeintra, this will be put on the agenda for next month’s meeting.

**Action: Mary**

### **15) How to deal with licensing issues**

We will organise a licensing officer to visit to explain the procedures in April / May.

**Action: Mary**

### **16) Why were the Independents frozen out of the executive at the Highland Council?**

No progress this month.

**Dropped**

### **17) Update from our Councilor, Highland Council budget reductions**

Audrey explained that there have been few specific cuts, all budgets have been reduced by 3% across the board and it will be up to department heads to decide where to save the money. However there is some extra money to spend on roads and Museums. There will be no rural school closures.

### **18) Capital grant funding from Sport Scotland**

We will look at funding for a tennis court or similar.

**Action: Wilfar**

We will look at the status of the old school playing field.

**Action: Dawn**

**19) Highland Senior Citizen's Network**

We have made contact with HSCN and they are happy to come and talk to us either one to one or at a public meeting. It was decided we would ask HSCN for their advice as the best way to proceed.

**Action: Jann**

**20) University of Highlands and Island – Launch of its Talking Science Community Project**

We wrote to the UHI asking them if our broadband project would be of interest, they responded to say the timing was too late for this year, but they might consider us for next year.

**Closed**

**21) NHS Review of Hospitals in the area**

We discussed Chris MacDonald's email and Audrey informed us that there would be public consultations in the near future. Initially the emphasis would be what was required rather than where it should be sited.

**Action: Mary**

**22) Rhoda Grant's questionnaire of the Lochcarron community regarding the Strome Ferry bypass.**

Jim Coomber has received a letter from Rhoda Grant's and gave a copy to the CC, Jim will respond.

**Closed**

**23) AOB.**

CC projects for 2013, this was deferred until March.

Regeneration of Kishorn yard, this was deferred until March.

**24) Calendar**

August / September, prepare for winter roads

November, MOD support fund for schools

**25) Next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall.

The meeting closed at 10pm.