

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 25th June 2013 @ 8:00 p.m. Achmore Hall

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

1) Apologies: Jann MacRae

2) April's minutes.

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

Copies of minutes are on our website at:- www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=220934

Email Phil at CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk if you would like to be put on the circulation list.

3) Secretary's report, Communications received May - June 2013.

Email - Weekly Highland Council Planning list – distributed to CC

Email - Monthly SLCVO e-bulletin – distributed

Letter - 17th May - Highland Council - Consultation on Managing Obstructions within the Adopted Road.

Email - 3rd May - URS - Stromeferry Bypass - Appraisal, Part1 / Stage 1 Report & Non- Technical Summary

Email - 15th May - Robbie Bain - Glenelg Offshore Renewables Community Engagement Meeting

Email - 16th May - Robbie Bain - Stromeferry Bypass Rock Works

Email - 16th May - M Arscott - More road problems

Email - 17th May - Tracy Ligema - NHS Meeting

Email - 20th May - Policy - Tellmesotland - Benefits for Community Councils

Email - 21st May - Jim Coomber - More road problems

Letter - 22nd May - Highland Council - Fairtrade in Highland

Email - 22nd June - Lizzie Bird - Fernaig Trust - Distributed

Communications received by the chairman.

None

If anyone would like copies any of the above documents please contact Mary at CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk or 01599 577 296.

4) Treasurer's report

Opening Balance	£ 3,860.01	
Expenditure this period	£ 300.00	
Income this period	£ 0.00	(this year's grant is pending our AGM)
Closing Balance	£ 3,560.84	

Expenditure this period:-

Secretary expenses for last year £250 (to be donated to the broadband project)

Auditor's fees £ 50

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. No progress this month.

Action: Wilfar

5) Distribution of minutes

No response from the Hall committee, regarding maintaining their email circulation list. Phil chased Jack on the 7th April and on the 17th June; Mary raised the subject at the last Hall committee meeting. No response.

Action: Phil

Jim Coomber volunteered to raise the subject of email circulation lists with the Fernaig Trust.

6) Notice board for Strome Ferry

The post holes have been dug, ready to erect the board.

Action: Neil

7) TEC Services

Chris MacDonald reports that repairs have been made to the fault he reported on the road near the Strome Ferry slip. Dawn reported the Braeintra road further up from the area already repaired and this has also been repaired. Margaret Arscott and Jim Coomber have reported what appears to be a damaged culvert under the Braeintra road up by the allotments; they both report that a temporary repair has been completed.

All Closed

The road fault spreadsheet has been updated & a copy has been sent to Sandy. Sandy has responded to say he will update and return the spreadsheet in due course; the amended spreadsheet will be loaded to the website.

Action: Phil

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

8) TEC Services – A890 reroute

We have asked the HC for a meeting in Achmore, it is unlikely this will take place in the foreseeable future.

Closed

URS survey with Lochcarron Business Group (LBG), Mary queried this with URS and Lochcarron Business group were expected to distribute far and wide, not only to a select few. URS will not expect Lochcarron Business group to this in future - they will contact us directly.

Closed

9) Scottish Water - Damage to surfaces in the Square and Achbeg Crescent

No progress this month.

Action Wilfar

10) Tilhill

Mary has spoken to Tilhill and is awaiting further information from Tilhill. We will chase Tilhill for a response.

Action: Mary

Hill Fire, Dawn obtained the number of Fire Watch - 01463 240999, this number should be phoned prior to starting a fire, this will prevent the Fire Service units arriving unnecessarily if phoned by a member if the public.

Closed

We received an email from Lizzie Bird raising the issue of installing fire beaters. There was a brief discussion on this topic and it was clear we had received conflicting advice from the various authorities. We decided we would go back to the Fire Service and Forestry for clarification.

Action: Mary

11) Broadband

A successful demonstration was held in the hall showing an internet connection of around 5.75 Mbps from Plockton. The Ubiquiti link from the hall to the hill relay station ran at 80+ Mbps duplex. We have received preferred connection dates from 30 subscribers and have started planning their installations. To that end the BSG is; setting up a CIC & registering with companies house, talking to SSE to get a power connection for the hill relay, defining wayleaves, sorting out subscriber contracts, issuing tender documents to ISPs, defining the contracts for bonds and working on a volume trial. Work testing the range of the Ubiquiti equipment and finalizing the configuration is ongoing. No one's installation can be included in the implementation plan until they suggest a preferred connection date.

Once the company has been set up and wayleaves have been signed we will start to build the backbone of the system, to that end the BSG is asking that the CC authorises a loan to cover expenditure of £2,700 to cover the cost of setting up the company and the equipment needed to build the permanent relays in Plockton and at the site of the old TV repeater. This was approved by the CC. Additional funds will be needed to pay for the remaining relays which will follow in due course.

We have had a response from Community Broadband Scotland and met with Sandra Byrne. It is clear we are some months ahead of CBS and so the BSG has decided not to wait for CBS to catch up as this would delay the project by several months. We asked Audrey if the broadband project might be eligible for a grant from the discretionary ward fund, Audrey told us it might and gave us details of how to apply for a grant.

Ofcom license; No progress this month

Action: Phil

The BSG would like to thank Liz and Islay MacRae and the Morrison family for their help over the past few weeks.

The latest information on the broadband project can be found at:-

www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

12) Defibrillator for local emergencies

Mary went to the Hall committee meeting at the beginning of June to discuss the location for the defibrillator. Some of hall committee felt it may be tampered with if located at the hall and suggested we ask the Forestry if we could use their shed. Mary and Phil helped Lucky2BHere at the Highland Cross event on the 22nd June as part of our fund raising for the defibrillator. Mary took the opportunity to ask their specialists for advice as to where to locate the defibrillator, we were told it should be located in a prominent, central position and that signs were also available to aid anyone locate it in an emergency. We will talk to the Hall committee about a suitable location.

Action: Mary

We have the telephone number of the local Lucky2BHere team in Kyle and will now contact them to obtain suitable dates for training.

Action: Mary

13) Fernaig Trust

We have received an email from the FT stating that they don't see the need to provide the CC with a synopsis in advance of their approved minutes. After some debate it was agreed by a majority that we would ask the FT for a meeting to discuss relationship between the FT & the CC. Audrey volunteered to chair the meeting.

Action: Neil

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

Audrey has seen a letter from Dr Clark acknowledging the receipt of our letter, but we don't appear to have received anything.

Action: Audrey, Mary

Skip; Dawn reported that after a little pressure the HC have now agreed the **will** provide a skip free of charge for a village tidy. This will need to be scheduled carefully to ensure the skip does not spontaneously "auto fill".

Action: Dawn

15) How to deal with licensing issues

Closed

16) Update from our Councilor, Highland Council budget reductions

Audrey has been busy on the planning committee this month; nothing was raised for our area. She has also attended the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities (CPE) Committee which amongst other things replaces the Police and Fire Service boards. There has been a move towards more ward level priority setting and there will be a ward forum in September which is open to everyone. The Area Committees are being reformed although they will be reduced from eight to five. We will be in the Ross & Cromarty Committee. They are designed to take a broader view of cross ward topics. The new committees are being funded by reducing the number of strategic committees. There will be a budget meeting next Thursday when work will start on a 10 year budget. Money has been put aside to pay for the works on the bypass and there is still work to do looking for additional savings in other areas.

17) Capital grant funding from Sport Scotland

No progress this month.

Action: Wilfar

18) Highland Senior Citizen's Network

No progress this month.

Action: Jann

19) NHS Review of Hospitals in the area

Mary has received an email from Tracy Ligema asking us if we want another meeting with her as presenter and or Paul Davidson. We will organize this for later in the year, probably September.

Action: Mary

20) Provisions of benches

No progress this month.

Action: Dawn

21) Provision of more goal posts and nets for the green

Nets are relatively cheap at around £30, but posts are expensive. We will see if we can get posts made locally.

Action: Dawn

22) Secretaries fee

Mary has donated her £250 fee to the broadband project this year.

Closed

23) Storage of CC records

Mary attended the last hall committee meeting and it was suggested that we use the shelf above the printer and the floor area below printer. The CC records need to be sorted out so Mary will ask Geoff Harrington and Lizzie Bird as previous secretaries to help. Any other present and previous CC members wanting to be involved please get in touch with Mary.

Action: Mary

24) Kishorn Port

No memorabilia received.

Closed

25) AOB.

CC projects for 2013, this was deferred.

Condition of Achmore sewage system, deferred

26) Calendar

August / September, prepare for winter roads, gritting stocks, gritting schedule for Strome Ferry hill.

November, MOD support fund for schools

27) Next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th August at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall.

The meeting closed at 10:00pm