

# Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting held on 26th November 2013 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

**Present:** Audrey Sinclair, Ellanne Fraser, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae.

### 1 Apologies

Jann MacRae

### 2 October's minutes.

October's minutes were accepted, proposed by Neil and seconded by Dawn.

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 at [CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:CC@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk) if you would like to be put on the circulation list.

### 3 Communications received September / October 2013.

#### 3.1 By the secretary

Emails - Weekly Planning Ward 6 & Skye - Distributed

Emails - Bulletins Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary organisations - Distributed

Letter - Highland Council - Community Councillors training - Distributed

Letter - 30/10 Scotways - Annual report + Xmas card list

Letter - 30/10 War Memorials trust - Distributed

Email - 5/11 Skye Services redesign - Distributed

Email - 8/11 Gunder, Anke Bypass Appraisal, Stage 2 Joint Stakeholders Workshop

Email - 15/11 Election - Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places

Email - 18/11 Sue Hallford - Training for CC members

Email - 19/11 Fiona McCreachen - SL&WR Redesign of Healthcare Workshop 2nd Dec - Bradford Hotel

#### 3.2 By the Chairman

None

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

### 4 Treasurer's report

Opening Balance	£ 3,560.84
Expenditure this period	£ ~
Income this period	£ ~
Closing Balance	£ 4,384.26

As Dawn was only given details of the bank account at the meeting it was not possible to provide full details of income and expenditure for these minutes. However we did check that we have received this year's grant from the HC at £816.14 after deduction of insurance costs.

At this meeting cheques were written for the Christmas party - £150, the annual hall rental - £120, the secretary's fees - £250 and Scottish Rights of Way and Access Association membership - £4.

Mary is to donate £200 of the secretary's fee to Lucky2BHere to kick start the fund raising for the defibrillator.

All the forms have been completed to have the bank details amended, Martin & Wilfar will be removed as signatories and Neil and Dawn added. Audrey kindly volunteered to deliver them to the bank. The bank says it will take about six weeks to amend the account details.

**Action: Audrey, Dawn**

## 5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

### 5.1 Distribution of minutes

Phil has informed Ingrid that the Hall list has been updated and should now be OK for use whenever required. To make sure everyone is on the new list Phil will also circulate a duplicate of the next notice from the Hall using the old list. Phil will set a Google group for the general circulation list.

**Action: Phil**

### 5.2 Notice board for Strome Ferry

The notice board has been erected, we need to buy more magnets to hold notices and install the leaflet holder. The key is on the back of the notice board and Anne & Bill Gillespie have kindly agreed to hold the spare key for both Achmore and Strome Ferry notice boards.

**Action: Phil & Mary**

### 5.3 Provision of more goal posts and nets for the green

We have obtained a set of goal posts which we will erect ready for the new season. Neil will source a new set of nets.

**Action: Neil**

### 5.4 Provisions of benches

Andy is happy to make the benches for us but this will now be put on hold until the spring.

**Action: Dawn**

### 5.5 TEC Services

#### 5.5.1 New issues reported

None

#### 5.5.2 Outstanding issues

Audrey raised the issue of the budget cuts resulting in the grass verges not being cut until the end of the summer with TEC services. Their response was that this had been due to an unfortunate set of circumstances and that a new grass cutter had now been purchased. There will be no more money available in the local TEC Services budget.

**Closed**

The new grass cutter has been put to good use and all the verges have now been cut. Mary cut the shrubs further back from the road to clear the line of sight to the cattle grid at the junction of the village road and the A890. All the ditches have also been cleared.

**Closed**

The parapet of the bridge over river Ascaig on the Plockton road; Sandy has been in touch with Gordon MacDonald and the bridge is in the queue for capital funding repair, no date yet for the work. The bridge is being monitored weekly and apparently there has been no sign of movement for a while. Phil will update the spreadsheet and we can then drop this item from the minutes.

Footpaths; Sandy says these are down on the schedule to be cleared this winter. We asked if we could use weed killer and the answer is no, but we could use a weed burner. It was agreed we would wait to see how much is cleared by TEC services and if necessary try a weed burner to complete the tidy up when they have done their work. This item will be transferred to the Road fault spreadsheet.

**Action: Phil**

#### 5.5.3 Road fault spreadsheet

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

Robbie Bain has asked for, and been given permission to use our spreadsheet as a model for best practice for all other CCs. We will update the spreadsheet with the latest details.

**Action: Phil**

### 5.6 Defibrillator for local emergencies

Lucky2BHere have informed us that they are concentrating on a series of installations in Harris and we are unlikely to get our machine until February 2014 at the earliest. There is also an issue about the metal enclosures which are rusting, L2BH are looking to replace these with a fibreglass case and this may delay things further. Wilfar has kindly agreed to collect the defibrillator from Portree when it is available. Mary collected certificates for the CPR training course from Alain and Lannie. They suggested if we need another training session we should organise it for the

weekend as these are often easier for people to attend. Audrey asked that we let her know if another training session is booked so she can attend.

**Action: Mary**

### 5.7 Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park

The HC review is due in January and will either be discussed at the HC TECS committee meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January or mid February. It has already been decided that glass collection will remain as it is and will not be collected in the blue bins.

**Action: Audrey, Mary**

### 5.8 Highland Senior Citizen's Network

Mary emailed them and we are waiting on a date for them to come and visit. There is a meeting in Inverness on the 5<sup>th</sup> December but no one from the CC will be able to attend.

**Action: Mary**

### 5.9 Storage of CC records

No progress this month.

**Action: Mary**

### 5.10 Condition of Achmore sewage system

We will contact Scottish Water and ask for a formal report on the condition of the tank in the summer when the aroma is more in evidence.

**Action: Mary**

Use of domestic chemicals and septic tanks; it goes without saying that hazardous chemicals should not be poured down the drain, e.g. petrol, engine oil etc. The internet (Cornell University) says that most household chemicals used in the recommended concentrations should not cause any problems with septic tanks. Some will reduce the bacteria needed to process the effluent but in normal concentrations the bacteria quickly recover and continue to work.

However there are some recommendations to keep the septic tank in a healthy condition - only use drain cleaners (e.g. caustic soda) if **absolutely** essential. Even in normal doses drain cleaners will kill almost all the bacteria in the tank which will take at least 48 hours to recover. So any regular use of drain cleaners will prevent the tank from working properly and will cause bad smells.

Dawn asked about biological soap powder and the Aberdeenshire Council website states that all washing powder sold in the UK must by law be biodegradable, so there should be no problem. However they also state that under **no circumstances** should chemical toilets be emptied into a septic tank.

**Closed**

### 5.11 Winter resilience

Nothing has yet been received; we have passed on the details to Audrey to follow up on our behalf.

**Action: Mary, Audrey**

## 6 Update from our Councillor

In addition to the items already mentioned under other items; grass cutter, waste review etc Audrey also attended the following committees & meetings:-

Planning, where there was nothing local to our area and as far ranging as Caithness.

Carbon Clever, which is looking to make Inverness more bicycle friendly. Fergus Ewing (SNP MSP for Inverness and Nairn) attended and said that there would be a series of electric vehicle charging points on the A87 starting at Shiel Bridge.

Road safety Seminar, This coordinates the Police, Fire and rescue and is looking at the best location for police officers. Due to the number of accidents the speed limit will be reduced to 50 mph on the A87 between Cluanie and Kintail.

We asked Audrey for details of her agenda for a typical month, which she duly reported. It's fair to say Audrey is kept fully occupied with HC matters.

There was some discussion about the changes to policing as reported in the West Highland Free Press and we decided we would register our interest.

**Action: Mary**

## 7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

### 7.1 NHS Redesign of Services in Skye, Lochalsh and W Ross

The next meeting is on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December; Mary will not be able to attend but Audrey will be there and will give us feedback. Mary mentioned that she is concerned that the review does not seem to be taking into account the aging population and the support that will be needed locally.

Audrey mentioned that there will be a meeting of the Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Public Partnership Forum in the Broadford Hotel on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, Mary said she would attend.

**Action: Mary**

### 7.2 Tilhill

We have not received any response from Tilhill since the last meeting.

#### 7.2.1 Access

We have asked Tilhill for a map showing the location of gates and respond with the communities view on access.

**Action: Mary**

#### 7.2.2 Stalking

We have asked Tilhill to investigate other ways to inform everyone when stalking is taking place.

**Action: Mary**

#### 7.2.3 Fire beaters

We are waiting for a response from the Portree fire station; Audrey suggested we contact Alistair Jupp at the Kyle fire station. Audrey will get us contact details.

**Action: Mary, Audrey**

### 7.3 URS - Reroute of A890

There are nine routes carried forward from Stage 2 for further investigation, and the nine have been grouped into three corridors based on their position in relation to the loch and existing A890.

- 1) The North Route - Crossing at the Strome Narrows by a suspension bridge, or causeway crossing with a retrospective fit of renewable energy generating equipment, or a tunnel are the three options being investigated plus the necessary road infrastructure required to get to the crossings.
- 2) The On-Line Route - This follows the existing A890 and will look at a 1.6Km tunnel to bypass the worst of the rock fall, more viaducts with rock face barriers, and moving the railway out into the Loch.
- 3) The Southern Route - various routes from the Strathcarron junction through Glen Udalain and joining up with the existing A890.

The resurrection of facilities at Kishorn is also being 'kept in mind' when planning for the A890 upgrade. The next A890 bypass meeting will take place in March, south of Loch Carron. Work has started on improving the stretch of road from Strathcarron/ Lochcarron junction to Coulags.

## 8 Update from Local Groups

### 8.1 Broadband

The following update was received from the Broadband Steering Group, (now CMNet CIC).

The latest minutes were circulated on the 12th October, at the time of writing these are not on the website because of the recent broadband problems. They will be loaded within the next few days.

We have one additional subscriber taking the total to 46.

RBS have told us they have set up our bank account and have given us account number. We have passed all relevant documents to our solicitors for checking. We have started work on obtaining insurance quotes to cover all backbone equipment and public liability. We have contacted the building services inspector to discuss using Plockton High School to host equipment.

Our best guess is to start building the system in January. The first step will be building the backbone relays followed by a volume trial.

At the CC meeting Phil was able to give an update to say that our qualifications to the CBS/HIE contract have now been agreed by CBS/HIE.

The latest information on the broadband project 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)

## 8.2 Fernaig Trust

We have received draft minutes of the FCT AGM and the meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> November.

After a vote at the AGM the maximum number of directors will be reduced to 9. The current directors are Georgie Grimson, Colin MacAndrew, Colin Arthur, Andy Bone, Crisdean MacRae, Lizzie Bird, Duncan Gibson, Jann MacRae & Ivor MacKenzie. The quorum was altered to five directors, a co-opted member of the board will not count towards the quorum and co-opted members will not be allowed to take part in any votes.

Colin MacAndrew has been elected to the role of Chairman.

The next meeting of the Fernaig Trust will be held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in Achmore Hall.

## 8.3 Hall Committee

We have been asked to pass on the following information from the Hall Committee.

The current oil boiler is failing and in need of replacing. The Hall Committee decided to investigate replacing it with an Air Source Heat Pump and is looking into benefits and costs of switching over. In the meantime we have to make do with the current system until a decision is made. For hall users this means that every now and then the heating does not come on and the hot water doesn't work, in which case the user should contact someone on the committee who will try to resolve it as quickly as possible. Jackie will put a list of contacts in the kitchen. We ask everyone to be patient!

There will be a quiz night on New Year's Day to raise funds for the hall.

## 9 AOB.

### 9.1 CC projects for 2014

This was deferred to the next meeting.

**Action: All**

### 9.2 Christmas Party

A cheque for £150 will sent for the Christmas party.

**Closed**

### 9.3 Damage to the forestry tracks

Ellanne has spoken to the Forestry and work is already underway to repair the damaged tracks. In addition the Forestry hopes to be able to create new roads or paths linking the Udalain track to Finlay's road and the Glen road. This will allow a new circular route which does not involve any section of the A890.

**Closed**

### 9.4 Parking at Strome Ferry for train passengers

We have been informed that there is very little space down near the slipway to park or turn. We will find out more details about the issue.

**Action: Neil**

## 10 Calendar

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

November, MOD support fund for schools; a letter was sent out covering this year's fund in October but was not sent to the CC. We have obtained copies of the letter and we will forward to the local schools.

**Action: Dawn, Neil, Phil**

## **11 Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall.

The meeting closed at 10:28 pm