

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 24th February 2014 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

1 Present & Apologies

Present: Ellanne Fraser, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Ian Carr and Cameron MacRae (police service for items 7.2.2 and 9.2),

Apologies: Jann MacRae, Audrey Sinclair, Neil MacRae (Audrey & Neil both attended the Service Point Closure meeting in Broadford and provided updates prior to the meeting.) As Neil could not attend Ellanne was voted in as chair for the meeting.

2 Approve and adopt previous minutes

January's minutes were accepted proposed by Mary and seconded by Ellanne

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 Communications received December 2013 / January 2014.

3.1 By the secretary

January 2014 - February 2014.

Email - A Allan - weekly planning lists Ward 6 - distributed

Email - Nicolson - weekly planning lists Skye - distributed

Email - R Bain - 29/1/14 - Flood Guidance Statement - distributed

Email - A Gunder - 3/2/14 - Stromeferry Bypass Options - Exhibition Stage 2- distributed

Email - Policy - 5/2/14 - Plunkett Foundation - distributed

Email - SLCVO - 6/2/14 - Community Bulletin - distributed

Email - R Bain - 7/2/14 - West Ross Biosphere Community event - distributed

Email - Skye & Lochalsh Archives - 12/2/14 - Remembering the 1st World War - distributed

Email - Ann Carey (NHS Highland) 13/2/14 - Invitation to Board meeting 4th March - distributed

Email - D Biss - 13/2/14 - Bins - emptied on Thursday instead of Wed.

Email - SLCVO - 14/2/14 -Local E - Bulletin No 97 - distributed

Email - R Snaith - 14/2/14 - Scottish Communities Climate Action Network 2nd annual gathering & AGM - distributed

Email - R Snaith - 14/2/14 - Community & Renewable Energy Conference Scotland, 5th March

Email - Various NHS - 17/2/14 - Responses to Consultation draft summary

Post - SAC Consulting - Feb - Renewables Energy for Communities - SAC - distributed.

Post - Scottish Water - 17th Feb - Feedback meeting in Inverness on Weds 12th March.

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 or 01599 577 296.

4 Treasurer's report

Opening Balance £ 4,384.26

Expenditure this period £ ~

Income this period £ ~

Closing Balance £ 4,384.26

We are still waiting for the bank to change the details of the account and send a statement to Dawn. Dawn will chase the bank.

Action: Dawn

5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

5.1 Distribution of minutes

All members of the CC have been authorised to allow them to send emails using the new distribution list.

Completed

A new Google group has been set up for the Fernaig Trust circulation list. We will test the group when the next email is due to be sent and then ask the Fernaig Trust who they would like authorised to send emails via the group.

Action: Phil

5.2 Notice board for Strome Ferry

More magnets have been installed to hold leaflets, the locks need some WD40.

Action: Phil

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. No progress this month.

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

Ellanne will report the potholes on the A890 and give Phil the ref no to send to Sandy.

Action: Ellanne, Phil

Dawn will report the blocked road drains in the village and give Phil the ref no to send to Sandy.

Action: Dawn, Phil

5.5.2 Outstanding issues

Sandy reports no progress this month; we will continue to monitor progress.

Action: Phil

5.5.3 Road fault spreadsheet

The new format spreadsheet has been loaded to the website, the latest spreadsheet can be found by clicking [here-](#)

Completed

5.6 Defibrillator for local emergencies

No news from Lucky2BHere we will chase again!

Action: Mary

5.7 Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park

Audrey informed us that this was discussed at the TECS committee meeting and there will be a further meeting to discuss this further.

Action: Audrey, Mary

5.8 Storage of CC records

No progress this month.

Action: Mary

5.9 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

5.10 Winter resilience

Neil spoke to Mark Crowe, all our equipment is in storage in the depot in Ardelve and will be delivered to us in the near future.

Action: Neil

5.11 Parking at Strome Ferry for train passengers

It appears most of the land is privately owned, we will do more research to see if parking space can be freed up. No progress this month

Action: Neil

6 Update from our Councillor

As Audrey was to attend the meeting on Broadford on Service Point closures she gave us an update prior to the meeting.

6.1 Service Point Closures

There is a meeting on Wednesday the 26th Feb to discuss a proposal to close the Highland Council Service Points in Lochcarron, Kyle and Broadford. The nearest Service Points will then be Dingwall and Portree. This is a cost saving exercise and has been done by suggesting the closure of offices that fall below a given threshold of activity. Lochcarron, Kyle and Broadford are all individually below this threshold. However when the three offices are combined they are comfortably above the threshold.

Audrey will do her best to mitigate the effect of these proposed closures.

6.2 Broadband

Two weeks ago there was a presentation to the Council from Stuart Robertson Director of Digital HIE, you can view the webcast here - http://www.highland.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/123222

The presentation was rather vague on details and timings but the following points are worth noting:- Although the usage targets for the whole of Scotland are 85% by 2015 and 95% by 2017, these drop to 65% by 2015 and 84% by 2016 for the Highlands and Islands. HIE / BT have now shifted their emphasis on the roll-out and will now **not prioritise** those who currently have the poorest service and instead will concentrate on connecting the largest number of subscribers as quickly as possible. This is a major change of policy and means that those who currently have the poorest bandwidth may not see **any** improvements within this timescale.

On our behalf Audrey asked about timescales for upgrades to the local network and details of the relationship between HIE & BT, the response from Stuart Robertson was not encouraging. It is clear that BT are the dominate partner and are deciding which areas are upgraded and when. BT regards the location of their equipment as commercially sensitive information and will not reveal locations, even equipment funded by public money! BT will only upgrade 8 out of the 380 exchange areas in the Highlands through their own funding; the remainder will only receive improvements thanks to public money.

6.3 Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park

See 5.7

7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

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

There will be a meeting on the 4th March in Inverness attended by members of the Scottish Government to discuss the recommendations put forward for our area. There will be a live webcast of the meeting at the Kyle Surgery. If possible we will try to attend.

Action: Mary

7.2 Tilhill

We discussed the issue of stalking with the Police Service, see below.

7.2.1 Access

Tilhill have promised to send a new map showing the location of gates, nothing received from Tilhill this month. We will check that the new gates comply with the right to roam legislation.

Action: Mary

7.2.2 Stalking

We were informed by Ian and Cameron that there is no statutory requirement to notify anyone when stalking is taking place on the hill. It is not illegal to carry weapons in a public place as long as you can produce "a reasonable excuse" e.g. going deer stalking. Ian and Cameron also informed us that the hill ground is about to change ownership as it is currently under offer.

Action: Mary

7.2.3 Fire beaters

No progress this month.

Action: Mary

7.3 URS - Reroute of A890

There will be an exhibition in Achmore village hall on the 28th March, we have asked if this can cover the afternoon and evening. We will contact other local CCs and suggest URS put an advert in the WHFP to inform as many as possible.

Action: Mary

7.4 Police & Fire

See 7.2.2, we are grateful to Ian and Cameron for their attendance and help, we have agreed we will contact them again when we have specific points needing their input.

7.5 Scottish Water

We have received an invitation to meet with Scottish Water in Inverness on the 12th March to give them feedback on their performance. Unfortunately no one from the CC is able to attend.

8 Update from Local Groups

8.1 Broadband

From Phil Game -

The latest minutes were circulated on the 10th February, and are on the website.

We visited Plockton High School and met Susan Galloway (rector), Finlay MacNab (building services inspector), Tam McLucas (Fujitsu engineer), Crisdean MacRae and Willie Morrison (janitors). Without exception everyone was very supportive and very helpful and we agreed external and internal locations for our equipment and a suitable route for cable runs. Susan Galloway has informed us that the next step is to get approval from Norma Young the area educational manager; we are waiting for her response.

The visit to the school raised the possibility we could use Cable and Wireless rather than BT to provide our Internet connection and we are looking into this.

We have started detailed planning for the first phase roll out, this covers; buying enough equipment for approximately half the total number of subscribers, a detailed schedule of work required to install the equipment for the first ten subscribers (who have agreed to participate in the volume trial) and a detailed test plan for the volume trial.

All documents required to set up and run the broadband scheme have been finalised and all legal contracts have been forwarded to the solicitor. Our solicitor is still looking at the documents we sent him for approval. We cannot proceed any further until the solicitor approves the documents.

See 6.2 above for more information from Audrey.

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

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

8.2 Fernaig Trust

From Colin MacAndrew -

The Fernaig Trust met on 11th February and the main items were:-

- Following legal scrutiny, a new lease regime proposed will be introduced for all Trust tenants from 1 April. These will be Short Duration Limited Tenancies (SDLTs) of 5 years duration; will replace current Limited Partnerships and Grazings agreements; and will ensure that the Trust is compliant with the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act, 2003.
- The Trust is discussing a programme of minor works of maintenance and improvements for Trust land in 2014.
- Car parking at the allotments will be improved soon.
- Arrangements are in hand to set up a new bank account.
- All Trust fields are now let, as a request from R&D Mockett to keep two Shetland ponies on Field 10 at Braeintra was approved.

8.3 Hall Committee

From Jack Bird -

The Hall Committee have nothing to broadcast this month.

9 AOB

9.1 CC projects for 2014

This was deferred to the next meeting.

Action: All

9.2 RockMoreFest

We have been approached by two local (Portree) promoters with a view to hosting a music festival weekend in late June. They came over to view the area on Monday afternoon (24th Feb) and proposed a weekend as follows:-

Friday evening, traditional music / local bands in the hall until 12:00pm /1am

Saturday afternoon, traditional music / local bands in the hall until 6pm

Saturday evening main event, dance DJ in a marquee behind the hall away from most houses in the village.

Camping facilities would be required from Friday morning through to Sunday.

The promoters are keen that the event should only proceed if the local community are behind the project and can work with the promoters to ensure that the local economy (and hall) benefits financially.

As Ian and Cameron from the police service were present we took the opportunity to ask for their input. After lengthy discussions covering noise, security, car parking, one way systems, the lack of a mobile phone signal, first aid etc etc. it was decided we should recommend the event does not take place.

One of the main deciding factors was the limited potential for local financial benefit and the considerable disruption over the weekend. We will inform the promoters.

Action: Mary

10 Calendar

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

11 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on *Monday* 24th March at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall.

12 Formal close of meeting

The meeting closed at 9:50 pm