

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 27th May 2014 @ 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall

1 Present & Apologies

Present: Audrey Sinclair, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae, Dave Mockett, Jim Coomber.

Apologies: Ellanne Fraser, Jann MacRae.

2 Approve and adopt previous minutes

March's minutes were accepted and proposed by Mary and seconded by Neil

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

3.1 By the secretary

April - May 2014

Email - Weekly - J. Robertson - Skye & Lochalsh planning x 6 - distributed

Email - Weekly - J. Robertson - Delegated list x 6 - distributed

Email - Weekly - A. Allan - Ward 6 Planning x 6 - distributed

Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Community toolkit x 2 - distributed

Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Monthly Bulletins x 2 - distributed

Email - 1/4/14 - Fiona McGeachan NHS - Public consultation - re redesign of Health services - distributed

Email - 1/4/14 - Hazel Allen - HSCN Conference - distributed

Email - 2/4/14 - Colin Parsons - A890 and CC position - To be discussed - distributed 27/5

Email - 4/4/14 - SLCVO - Funding Surgery - April - distributed

Email - 9/4/14 - Policy - Scottish Government - Streamlining planning - distributed

Email - 9/4/14 - Foundation Scotland - March E letter - distributed

Email - 10/4/14 - Robbie Bail - Ross & Cromarty Disability Access Group - distributed

Email - 11/4/14 - Liam Devine - Statutory Review of Polling districts - distributed

Email - 13/4/14 - Audrey Sinclair - contact for Public Access etc re Tilhill - distributed

Email - 14/4/14 - C Dundas - Does Stromeferry have Scotland's best loved trees - distributed

Email - 24/4/14 - Data Protection - Reminder to pay our annual fee - Done - Dawn/Mary

Email - 6/5/14 - Policy - Scottish Rural Parliament update - distributed

Email - 7/5/14 - L Farquarhson - Policing Planning Letter for Cs - distributed

Email - 10/5/14 - L Bird - FWD - Consultation event for communities - Heat generation policy - distributed

Email - 13/5/14 - F MacGeachan - NHS - Summary Document public consultation - distributed

Email - 14/5/14 - C Bulloch - Update + photo on Tilhill's solution for personal gate - distributed

Email - 15/5/14 - M Macbeth to Jack Bird - Installation of defibrillator - Achmore Hall

Email - 20/5/14 - C MacDonald - assistance to get Strome pier light fixed - to be discussed Tech Services.

Email - 25/5/14 - Robbie Bain - Notification of HC Budget meeting Lochcarron 29/5 @ 6.30pm - distributed and put on Achmore Notice Board.

Hand Delivery - 15/5/14 - Stromeferry's and Achmore Defibrillator has arrived.

Hand & Voice - 20/5/14 - Dave Biss - Extract from An Carranoch - Lochcarron CC minutes - Safety Concern for CA890 Balnacra Tie - To be discussed under A890.

Post - 3/4/14 - SLCVO - Membership renewal

Post - 9/4/14 - ICO - Data Protection renewal due - Done.

Post - 10/5/14 - Wicksteed Playscapes

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	£ 522.17
Income this period	£ 0.00
Closing Balance	£ 3,862.09

The bank information has now been changed, the year end audited accounts will be sent to Robbie Bain.

Action: Mary, Dawn

5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

5.1 Distribution of minutes

Phil emailed Colin MacAndrew to explain the origins of the Fernaig Trust circulation list.

Completed

5.2 Notice board for Strome Ferry

The locks have been “WD40ed”, a new lid has been made for the leaflet box and it will be reinstated and secured by an elastic strap.

Action: Phil

5.3 Provision of more goal posts and nets for the green

No progress this month.

Action: Neil

5.4 Provisions of benches

No progress this month.

Action: Dawn

5.5 TEC Services

Sandy MacVarish retires at the end of this week and as yet we do not know who will replace him. We will have to wait for the appointment of his replacement before chasing progress.

5.5.1 New issues reported

Ellanne’s potholes; Phil gave Ellanne the telephone no. to report the fault with the Highland Council. We believe this fault has been fixed, but couldn’t confirm as Ellanne was unable to attend. As there has been no progress on this item for the past three meeting this item will be dropped.

Dropped

Dawn’s drains, Phil gave Dawn the telephone no. to report the fault with the Highland Council. As there has been no progress on this item for the past three meeting this item will be dropped.

Dropped

Dave Biss has raised the issue of the new road from the Strathcarron junction to Coulags ending without warning just before a narrow bridge which creates a blind summit. It was noted that work has now started on a “chicane” to slow traffic before the bridge. It was decided we would wait until works were completed and then decide whether any action is required.

Action: Phil

Chris MacDonald has reported the bulb has blown in the light by the slipway. This has been reported on numerous occasions by Chris and is a major hazard. It was agreed we should contact TECS immediately (Mark Crowe)

Action: Phil

5.5.2 Outstanding issues

434898 - The spreadsheet has been updated.

Completed

831820 (Braeintra bridge, reported by Dave Mockett) Phil has updated the spreadsheet, we will chase progress. Dave reported a further problem with water constantly running over the road just beyond the bridge. Dave will keep an eye on the problem and will let us know should it get any worse.

Action: Dave Mockett, Phil

Speed control through the village; we agreed before we proceed with this we should talk to TECS to understand what options are available. So again we are waiting to find out who will replace Sandy.

Action: Phil

5.5.3 Road fault spreadsheet

The spreadsheet has been updated to reflect last month’s changes; new items will be updated as soon as we have a replacement for Sandy, click [here](#) to view.

Action: Phil

5.6 Defibrillator for local emergencies

The defibrillator arrived on the 15th May. We have agreed the installation with the Hall and we will follow this with a further training course.

Action: Mary

We will organise events to raise money for Lucky2BHere towards the cost of the defibrillator.

Action: Neil

5.7 Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park

We are waiting on a response from the HC, no update this month.

Action: Audrey, Mary

5.8 Storage of CC records

We are still sorting the old records.

Action: Mary

5.9 Condition of Achmore sewage system

No progress this month, waiting for the warmer weather to release the aroma.

Action: Mary

5.10 Winter resilience

We will contact TEC services as soon as we know who is replacing Sandy.

Action: Phil

5.11 Parking at Strome Ferry for train passengers

As there has been no progress on this item for the past three meeting this item will be dropped.

Dropped

5.12 Improving the relationship of CCs to the HC and other Public Bodies

Mary contacted John Boocock, Kilmuir & Logie Easter CC, John has had a good response from CC's and he will be progressing the suggestions he has received. We will keep in touch.

Action: Mary

6 Update from our Councillor

Audrey has attended the usual committees since we last met. Audrey has been appointed to the board to review the Service Points. The original plans were for staff in Kyle to be replaced by a computer terminal or telephone service which would mean a journey to Portree or Dingwall for anything that must be done in person, e.g. registration of births and deaths. It has to be recognised that savings are expected to be made as part of the review, so if Kyle is maintained other Service Points will have to close. It has been agreed by the HC that no changes will be made before June 2015.

Audrey reported that changes to the structure of the committees (amalgamating more functions into fewer groups) has led to large agendas, heavy workloads and longer days for committee members.

Strict budget control has also meant that departments are being more careful with expenditure, e.g. TECS services have reduced summer maintenance as they must now keep funds available in case winter 2014 / 2015 is severe.

7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

7.1 NHS

7.1.1 *Redesign of Services in Skye, Lochalsh and W Ross*

There are four possible sites for the new hospital in Broadford. The next step will be a period for public consultation on the plans. We will continue to monitor developments

Action: Mary

7.1.2 *Interim Service for Survivors of Sexual Violence in the Highlands*

Details were posted in the hall and on the notice boards.

Completed

7.2 Tilhill

7.2.1 *Access*

Calum Bulloch has sent us photos showing that the gates have been chained to restrict their opening and prevent them being taken off their hinges. Audrey has given us contact details so we can check that the new gates comply with the right to roam legislation.

Action: Mary

7.2.2 *Fire beaters*

Mary contacted Alistair Jupp again but has not yet had time to complete discussions.

Action: Mary

7.3 URS - Reroute of A890

The meeting took place on the 28th March, and was well attended. Phil proposed and all agreed to send a vote of thanks to Anne and Bill Gillespie for standing in at short notice to make sure URS had all the facilities that needed to make the meeting a success.

We have received an email from Colin Parsons asking if the CC is lobbying for a favoured route. It was agreed we would continue to work with URS and wait until a preferred route was recommended to the HC before the CC would pass judgement. If necessary, once the preferred route has been established, we will survey local opinion and contact the HC. So far the CC has concentrated on making sure everyone is kept informed and has the opportunity to pass comment individually.

Action: Mary

7.4 Police & Fire

We have received a letter from Chief Superintendent Julian Innes stating his priorities for the Highland region are; 1) Road Safety, 2) Alcohol and Drugs Abuse, 3) Antisocial behaviour, 4) Crimes of Dishonesty, 5) Protecting people.

7.5 Scottish Water

Nothing this month.

8 Update from Local Groups

8.1 Broadband - from Phil Game

The latest minutes were circulated on the 12th May, and are on the website.

Progress has been limited since the last report due to various directors having other commitments, but we have made progress in some areas. The new solicitors are proving much more helpful and we have now agreed the loan contract with them. Some documents are still to be finalised and these are waiting on more details about insurance cover. The initial insurance quote was much higher than expected so we will have to go through this in more detail before we can progress the documents. We have ordered and taken delivery of most of the equipment needed to set up the volume trial, some equipment was out of stock at the supplier so we will need to place further orders before we can complete the installations. We have set up a scaffold test rig and agreed a "design". We have been given approval to install our relay on Plockton High School. We have heard nothing from Alastair Nicolson at CBS regarding the possibility of us using Cable and Wireless for our Internet connection. However there is now the strong possibility that several community broadband groups are going to join forces to buy a leased line which we all can share. Technically this is feasible although more work needs to be done on the financial viability. Hopefully this will increase speeds and reduce costs for everyone.

Our thanks to everyone who has pledged to lend us money and sent in cheques.

To find the latest information on the broadband project click [here](#)

8.2 Fernaig Trust - From Colin MacAndrew -

Colin reported that there is nothing to broadcast from the Fernaig Trust this month.

8.3 Hall Committee from Jack Bird

There was no response from Jack Bird.

9 AOB

Audrey told us she had made enquiries on behalf of locals regarding the signage at the Strome Ferry junction and had been assured by TECS that new signs would soon be erected.

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 Tuesday 29th July at 7:30 p.m. Achmore Hall, to be confirmed.

12 Formal close of meeting

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm