

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 30th September 2014 @ 7:00 p.m. Achmore Hall

1 Present & Apologies

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

Apologies: Jann MacRae.

Neil welcomed Kath as a new member of the CC. Kate had been voted on unanimously by email as a co-opted member.

2 Approve and adopt previous minutes

August's treasurer's report was incorrect, see item 4 below, otherwise the 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

3.1 By the secretary

September 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 - 2/9/14 - Donnie MacLeod - Road Faults - distributed

Email - 2/9/14 - Emma Ashman - Draft Notes from Last Friday's focus group - done

Email - 2/9/14 - Senior Highland Citizens Network newsletter - distributed

Email - 10/9/14 - Linda Plenty (NHS Highland) - Transport & access sub - group - request for participation - distributed - See NHS

Email - 10/9/14 - LEADER Consultation - Feedback wanted - distributed

Email - 10/9/14 - M Arcscott - Notification of Star Party - distributed

Email - 11/9/14 - Linda Plenty (NHS Highland) - Transport & Access sub - group - Participation requested - distributed

Email - 15/9/14 - Alison MacLeod - R & T - Winter resilience - distributed to CC + S & A Community - See no 9

Email - 15/9/14 - Policy - LGR committee call for evidence - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill - distributed

Email - 15/9/14 - Neil MacRae - Winter Resilience Community Aid - The Highland Council - distributed to S & A Community

Email - 17/9/14 - Community empowerment - LGR committee call for evidence - distributed

Email - various - Dawn, Phil, Jan, Ellanne - Co-option of a new member - complete

Email - 19/9/14 - C Bulloch - Winter Resilience - See No 10

Email - 19/9/14 - E Ashman - Final notes from focus group meeting - completed

Email - 25/9/14 - URS - Update on A890 - distributed

Email - 25/9/14 - Dawn - Highland Resilience - done

Email - 29/9/14 - Policy - Highland Communities Panel - an invitation - distributed 29/9.

Email - 29/9/14 - Robbie Bain - Community Grant Programme 2014/15 - distributed 29/9.

Email - 29/9/14 - Robbie Bain - Scottish Rural Parliament local event - distributed 29/9

Post - 30/8/14 - Scotways - Receipt for subscription - pass to Dawn

Post - 18/9/14 - SLCVO - Organisation Registration Form

Mary went through some of the items she has received as they had come in too late to be circulated in advance of the meeting.

No one on the CC was available to attend the Scottish Rural Parliament at the Strathcarron hotel on the 9th October. It was decided we would forward details to the Fernaig Trust.

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

There was an error in last month's figures, the opening and closing balances were correct but we now know we have not yet received the annual grant from the HC and the cheque for the loan to CMNet had not been cleared. These two items at £813.48 and £800.00 more or less cancel each other out.

This month's figures are:-

Opening Balance	£ 3,682.47
Expenditure this period	£
Income this period	£ 40.29
Closing Balance	£ 3,722.76

Financial reporting is being hampered by the RBS still not providing monthly statements for Dawn. We will chase the bank to get monthly statements sent to Dawn.

Action: Dawn

We will check with Robbie Bain what has happened to this year's grant.

Action: Mary

5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

5.1 AGM chair's report

Neil has sent a copy of his chairman's report to Mary, but this was received too late to be circulated prior to the meeting. So it will be deferred to be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Neil

5.2 Provisions of benches

Phil circulated details of three benches available as flat pack from Fettes sawmill near Muir of Ord ranging in price from £100 to £150. It was decided we would purchase one example of the £150 bench as this looked the most substantial. The first bench will be located on the Fernaig road half way between the village and the beach.

Action: Phil

5.3 TEC Services

Phil met with Donnie MacLeod and went around all the locations in the area where problems have been reported. Donnie pointed out that TECS services are not responsible for obstructions from vegetation that strays onto the public highways with roots on private land. That the responsibility of the landowner. E.g. growth through fences, however where possible TECS will clear lines of sight of all obstructions when controlling "council" weeds. After the meeting Donnie emailed a list of work to resolve the problems.

5.3.1 New issues reported

As a result of Donnie's visit the following items were noted:-

Branch cutting on the Braeintra road, there is a need for some branch trimming along the downhill RHS of the Braeintra road. This should be completed before the work starts on the bridge over the river Ascaig.

The ditch above the smaller Braeintra Bridge (which can be identified by the "temporary" red plastic fencing) is blocked and is causing water to run across the road and down by the bridge's foundations.

Potholes on the Braeintra road, these will be filled by the new Jet Patcher - already completed.

Abandoned overland BT Cable Fernaig, Donnie will report this to BT.

Audrey mentioned the water running across the A890, Phil will give Audrey contact details so she can report the fault.

Action: Phil, Audrey

Phil will update then spreadsheet.

Action: Phil

5.3.2 Outstanding issues

831820 (Braeintra bridge, reported by Dave Mockett) Donnie reports a regime of regular monitoring will be put in place.

Action: Phil

Speed control through the village. No response from Donnie to Phil's email chasing progress, but since the CC meeting was only confirmed late on Thursday and consequently the email was not sent until Saturday we can't really expect to have a response in time for the CC meeting.

Action: Phil

The new road from the Strathcarron junction to Coulags ends without warning just before the narrow bridge. No progress.

Action: Audrey

672709 - The bridge over the river Ascaig will be closed to vehicles from the 13th October for two months but will still be open for pedestrians and cycles.

Action: Phil /Mary

Grass cutting, Donnie has organised for the verges at the Braeintra junction to be cut back further, this has already been done and is a great improvement. The lines of sight at the Bridge on the bend near Achnacraig have also been cut and visibility is much improved

Noisy cattle grid, Donnie and Phil checked this and all bolts are tight unfortunately there is nothing else that can be done to reduce the noise.

Fernaig Barrier gap, Donnie will organise for a single strap rail to be fitted to guard the opening below the barrier.

Blocked ditch above the Dairy, there was no obvious sign of a problem; this will be checked again after grass cutting.

Potholes in the Braeintra road, patching has already been completed and the road much improved by the new Jet Patcher.

It was agreed we should send our thanks to Donnie & TEC services for their prompt action.

Action: Phil

5.3.1 Road fault spreadsheet

Click [here](#) to view the latest spreadsheet.

5.4 Defibrillator for local emergencies

5.4.1 Installation

The defibrillator has been installed at the hall and is now fully operational, the access code which is displayed on the unit, is 2888. The door is hinged along the bottom edge. To open the door key 2888 and then press the "tick" button this will actuate the solenoid and release the door lock. The door can then be opened by pulling out and down from the top. The defibrillator can then be removed from the box. It is a self contained unit and when opened it will give instructions as to how it should be used.

The electrician's invoice for the installation will be sent to Mary and will be forwarded to Dawn for payment.

We will organise another first aid training session.

Action: Mary

5.4.2 Fundraising

Neil made a couple of suggestions for events but no decisions were made; our target is to raise at least £1,200.

Action: Neil

5.5 Provision of a recycling centre at the Auchtertyre Business Park

No progress this month, Audrey suggested we write to Graham MacKenzie who is the chair of the Community Services Committee.

Action: Audrey, Mary

Dawn has organised a skip for Achmore for the weekend of the 4th / 5th October.

5.6 Storage of CC records

Mary has asked whether our records should be held centrally either in Inverness or Portree, she will get more information. Space may be available in the Fernaig Trust Office.

Action: Mary

5.7 Winter resilience

Donnie MacLeod, reports that from last year's request there are four Salt bins available to be located as we choose.

TECS also have 6 pairs of gloves, 6 Hi Viz waistcoats and 6 shovels to be dispensed. These are obtainable from Brendan the Broadford foreman. TECS hope to make a start on salt stock piles in October so filling our salt bins should be matched accordingly.

Mary circulated details and collated responses for this year's requests which she has submitted to the HC. This means there should be some equipment in addition to that listed above.

Neil volunteered to organise the delivery and distribution of the equipment.

Action: Neil

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

We have heard nothing further from John Boocock, Kilmuir & Logie Easter CC so we will drop this item.

Dropped

5.9 Vodafone initiative

No one has come forward to pursue this.

Dropped

6 Update from our Councillor

The referendum slowed all Council business this month. However the Service Point subgroup is now close to detailing their recommendations. The unions will be the first to be consulted. No changes will be implemented before March 2015. Audrey attended the referendum count in Dingwall.

7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

7.1 NHS

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

A subgroup is being formed to look at transport and access to the new hospital. The first meeting is on Thursday 16th October, no one from the CC is available to attend.

7.2 Tilhill

7.2.1 *Access*

No progress this month.

Action: Mary

7.2.2 *Fire beaters*

See item 7.4.

Action: Mary

7.3 Reroute of A890

Mary chased URS for an update and received a reply which states that as yet no decision has been made. Originally we were promised an update in July / August. Audrey informed us that the next committee meeting is on the 5th November so there will be no decision before then. In future we will contact Colin Howell at the Highland Council rather than URS as their work is now complete.

Action: Mary

7.4 Police & Fire

Mary has emailed Alistair Jupp regarding fire beaters and is waiting for a response. It was agreed we would only contact the police when we had items relevant items on the agenda; however Audrey pointed out that we should be getting regular updates from the police, we will follow this up.

Action: Mary

7.5 Scottish Water

Nothing this month

8 Update from Local Groups

8.1 Broadband - from Phil Game

All 10 volunteers for the volume trial have now been connected to CMNet and are ready to start testing. We have installed one 7 Mbps ADSL line at the school and this has been stress tested by four simultaneous SD TV sessions with no buffering. With just one 7 Mbps ADSL line the maximum bandwidth per household has been set at 1.75 Mbps for the start of the volume trial. We will circulate the results of the trial.

The trial has highlighted the amount of data being transferred by "smart" devices. One download can be 2GB or more, we have taken measures to ensure that these large data transfers do not occur during the volume trial as this would distort the results. It is clear CMNet will have to offer tariffs above 10GB per month.

We have run a successful test from the relays on Creag Mhaol to various locations. The Glen has a good signal but some work will be required to find the best location and it seems likely some trees will have to be pruned / felled. Tests at Ardnarff show it will need a better signal and there are also some problems with line of sight, so we will trial an access point in Lochcarron. The test to Craig was not successful due to a poor line of sight; we will pursue another location for the Craig access point.

We now have our own dedicated power supply for the relays on Creag Mhaol, our thanks to Eric Morrison and family for their help and patience whilst providing a temporary power supply.

We will start the next group of installations as soon as we have the first results from the volume trial.

Peter Buneman has told us that progress on the West Coast Backbone has slowed, although HIE/CBS are still keen to fund the project.

Audrey informed us that CMNet's application for a discretionary grant to help with the first year's running costs has been successful. CMNet will contact Robbie Bain for more details.

There are more details on the website:- www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

8.2 Fernaig Trust - From Lizzie Bird for Colin MacAndrew -

1. Car parking area at allotments extended
2. Trust Office – quotes for building work being sought (re-cladding, gutters, downpipes). Looking at any available grants to assist.

The office area is dry and workable. Knowing the CC are looking for filing cabinet storage space would they be interested?

3. Drystane Dyke Course – run by Historic Scotland. Application for grant from them not successful but they offered in lieu a training course but only for six people. First cast for interested parties was only to existing field tenants of the Trust. Possible future opportunities as we are continuing the wall project.
4. FCT land maps – need updating as some agencies have old maps with redundant info/numbers/field boundaries
5. Date for AGM to be decided at next meeting Oct.

8.3 Hall Committee from Lizzie for Jack Bird

1. Seeking funding for replacement boiler – awaiting reply re grant application
2. Spooky Bingo planned end October

9 AOB

Renee asked what is happening to the polling booth frames as they were still in the hall on the Saturday after the referendum. Ellanne and Dawn said this should have been referred to the Hall committee and they would resolve this.

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 28th October at **7:00 p.m.** Achmore Hall.

12 Formal close of meeting

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm