

Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 25th February 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. Achmore Hall

1 Present & Apologies

Present: Audrey Sinclair, Kath Biss, Ellanne Fraser, Phil Game, Dawn Lupton (7:00 - 7:40, 8:55 - 9:25), Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae. Dawn's attendance was interrupted by a surprise parent's open evening at the school.

Apologies: Lynda Allan

2 Approve and adopt previous minutes

January's minutes were accepted, proposed by Dawn 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.

There are a few issues to resolve with January's minutes; Phil is to send copies of January's minutes to the remainder of the ward 6 councillors. Phil is to send a copy of October's approved minutes to Robbie Bain. For completeness these minutes include the status of some items in progress in October but omitted from January's minutes.

3 Communications received

3.1 By the secretary

Email - Weekly - Various - Skye & Lochalsh planning x 4 - distributed

Email - Weekly - Various - Delegated list x 4 - distributed

Email - Weekly - A. Allan - Ward 6 Planning x 4 - distributed

Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Community toolkit x 1 - distributed

Email - Monthly - SLCVO - Monthly Bulletins x 1 - distributed

Email - 29/1/15 - policy - Call for Sites & Ideas West Highland & Islands Local Development Plan - distributed

Email - 30/1/15 - HQ Planning - Contact Details for Consulting on Planning Applications- Done

Email 30/1/15 - Community Empowerment - Stage 1 debate on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill – Tuesday 3 February 2015- distributed

Email - 3/2/15 - Lochcarron Beat Report for January 2015 [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED] - distributed

Email - 4/2/15 - CC Members - CMNet Loan Agreement document - to be discussed

Email - 4/2/15 - Richmond.Clements@highland.gov.uk - Emptying recycle bins in Achmore - distributed & to be discussed.

Email - 5/2/15 - Robbie Bain - Highland development plan meetings - distributed

Email - 5/2/15 - Policy - FW Community Council contacts - distributed

Email - 8/2/15 - HH Howat/Audrey Sinclair - TS - Objection To Traffic Speed Proposal A87 - Clunie

Inn to Kintail Lodge Hotel - distributed all in community

Email - 10/2/15 - Fiona MacGeachan(NHS) - Cabinet secretary decision - Broadford as site for delivery of NHS services for our area - distributed to all in community.

Email - 11/2/15 - Policy - HITRANS - North Highland Lines Seminar - distributed & discuss

Email - 11/2/15 - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill – Stage 2 amendments - distributed

Email - 12/2/15 - L Robinson - Wester Ross Biosphere Project - distributed

Email - 17/2/15 - C Nicolson - Skye and Lochalsh Local Access Forum Meeting - 27 February 2015 - distributed

Email - 18/2/15 - E Holmes -Coming up in the Kyle area - Family Fun day - see notice board + distributed to all in community.

Email - 18/2/15 - E Holmes - Courses at WHI Auchtertyre starting Feb 2015 - distributed + see notice board

Email - 20/2/15 - H Howat - A87 Speed Limit -distributed to all in community

There was some debate about the effort required to produce this list as it is very time consuming. It was agreed, subject to agreement with Robbie Bain that we would be more selective when we construct the list or find a more efficient way to report correspondence.

3.2 By the chairman

Nothing in addition to the items listed above.

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	£ 2,201.29
Expenditure this period	£ 0.00
Income this period	£ 0.00
Closing Balance as at 25/2/15	£ 2,201.29

Phil handed Dawn the loan agreements from CMNet, which was completed at the meeting. Mary handed Dawn a claim for the chain and padlock used to secure the bench, Dawn gave Mary a cheque to cover the £35.31. Mary is to give Dawn a copy of the invoice for the CC's records. **Action: Mary**

5 Ongoing Items, progress reports

5.1 AGM chair's report

No progress this month, as Neil's laptop keyboard has packed up. **Action: Neil**

5.2 Provisions of benches

Phil has assembled the bench and Mary has bought a chain and padlock (see item 4) and it has been secured to the cattle grid towards the A890. Bill Gillespie has been asked to test drive it for us. It was agreed we would ask everyone in the area for suggestions for locations for more benches. **Action: Phil**

5.3 TEC Services

Donnie MacLeod has given us an update of all the ongoing issues, Phil will update the spreadsheet. **Action: Phil**

5.3.1 *New issues reported*

The second Braeintra bridge fault, after talking to Calum it appears we may not have correctly reported the status of the **two** small bridges at Braeintra to Donnie MacLeod. Phil is to clarify the situation with Donnie and follow up with photographs if required. **Action: Phil**

There was a general discussion on the state of roads and the number and severity of potholes, particularly on the road by Achnashellach. Mary questioned why money was being spent on signage when it was so obviously needed to be spent on basic maintenance of roads. It was agreed we would approach other CCs in the area to see if we can put forward a joint complaint to the HC. **Action: Mary**

5.3.2 *Outstanding issues*

5.3.2.1 *831820 - Braeintra bridge, reported by Dave Mockett*

There will be a temporary solution to put a steel deck on top of the existing masonry walls in the near future.

5.3.2.2 *984901 - Water running across the A890, reported by Audrey*

Regarding water running over the road this item and 5.3.2.1 Donnie says he will try to "promote towards some meaningful combined drainage improvements as the winter weather will best allow"

5.3.2.3 *Speed control through the village*

We are waiting for the opportunity to discuss this with the police. **Action: Mary**

5.3.2.4 *The new road from the Strathcarron junction to Coulags which ends without warning.*

Audrey is waiting for a response from Hugh Logan (HC safety officer) to discuss this. **Action: Audrey**

5.3.2.5 *672709 - The Achmore Bridge over the river Ascaig*

Work is now completed. Everyone present was happy with the work; Phil is to contact people who raised issues to confirm they are happy with the additional reflectors. **Action: Phil**

Audrey is to find out why local contractors had not been given the chance to tender. **Action: Audrey**

Dave Mockett has asked why there needs to be a sign to say the work was done by the Highland Council and asked for the cost of the sign. Mary will take this up with the HC. **Action: Mary**

5.3.1 *Road fault spreadsheet*

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

5.4 Defibrillator for local emergencies

5.4.1 *Installation*

Mary has taken photographs of the installation and will forward them to show the location of the unit. Mary will organise another training course. **Action: Mary**

Ellanne has given Mary contact details for the paramedics. **Completed**

The protective case solenoid release is not operating properly, and has temporarily been bypassed. Please do not push the door of the case fully shut. Phil will see if we can adjust this without the need for the electrician to be called out again. **Action: Phil**

5.4.2 *Fundraising - Saturday April 18th*

5.4.2.1 *Bogey race*

No progress

5.4.2.2 *Fun run*

No progress

5.4.2.3 *Tea cake eating competition*

Neil has contacted Tunnock's to see if they will donate teacakes and it seems likely they will help as long as we can organise transport from their factory in Glasgow. **Action: Neil**

5.4.2.4 *Evening quiz and social event.*

Dawn thought that this might conflict with a bingo night planned by the Hall committee, Dawn to check dates.

Action: Dawn

There were no additional suggestions of ideas from local residents.

5.4.2.5 *SSE cash match initiative*

Ellanne has confirmed that SSE will match any cash raised by an approved fundraising event to a maximum of £200.

Action: Ellanne

5.5 *Provision of recycling facilities*

Although the HC have stated there is no money to set up a recycling plant at Auchtertyre we are not yet ready to give up on this topic. We will contact the local CCs that joined forces with us when we raised the issue with the HC and see if they will support an alternative solution; e.g. a mobile recycling facility, or recycling skips dedicated to particular materials (metal one visit, timber another) or at the very least provide free skips for areas over a certain distance from a recycling centre. **Action: Mary**

We have received a letter from the HC complaining that their contractors is unable to empty the glass recycling bins from the square because of vehicles obstructing access. It was agreed we would ask the HC to notify us of the collection dates so we can ensure access is clear. **Action: Mary, Neil**

5.6 *Storage of CC records*

No progress this month. **Action: Mary**

5.7 *Winter resilience*

All the distributed shovels have been recovered, swapped for the replacements and are ready to return to Brendan, It appears no one has thanked Brendan for his efforts, Mary will email Brendan with our thanks and organise the return of the shovels. **Action: Mary**

5.8 *Vodafone initiative*

The window of opportunity has now been closed and this item has been dropped. **Dropped**

5.9 *Skye Bridge Closure*

Audrey assured us the situation will improve. **Completed**

5.10 *Cars parked close to the junction of the A890*

There have been no issues in the past month, Neil will monitor the situation. **Action: Neil**

6 Update from our Councillor

The HC is drawing up a consultation documents to define its policy on aquaculture (fish farming etc), onshore wind farms and Marine protected areas.

The Scottish Government has funded money to work up an application for Wester Ross and Lochalsh to gain UNESCO Biosphere status. The approach is to identify an area with significant environmental status (eg a National Nature Reserve) which is then supported by a buffer area which in turn is surrounded by a transition zone. At the moment there is only one in Scotland (Galloway and South Ayrshire) but this initiative may establish one in Wester Ross and Lochalsh. This is seen as a boost for tourism.

There was a presentation to the HC from trading standards about cold callers. This is significant organised crime with teams of people sweeping through areas of the country. It is difficult to define the scale of the problem as often victims do not report crimes as they do not want to admit they have been taken in.

Service points, we appear to be missing an email that was sent out to CCs at the start of the month about the consultation which is due to be completed on the 15th March. The consultation can be accessed via the Highland Councils Website <http://www.highland.gov.uk> look in the box on the top right hand side Future of Service points. Audrey asked that as many people as possible make their views known by responding to the consultation. It is proposed that the Kyle service point will be kept open and that the service points in Lochcarron and Broadford will be moved to the libraries, however this will reduce the hours the facility is available. In these locations computer terminals will be used to answer queries and where a physical presence is required there will be an appointments system so, for example, a registrar can visit. Audrey hopes that the jobs will be kept in the community and when staff are not busy dealing with clients face to face technology will be used to connect them to the main centralised telephone service helpline.

Mary will check emails received and circulate the missing email. **Action: Mary**

7 Update from Regional & National Organisations

7.1 NHS

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

The Scottish Government minister has approved the recommendations put forward. The new hospital will be in Broadford with a smaller unit in Portree. There may be an objection to this decision from residents in North Skye which may result in a delay while a judicial review is conducted.

7.2 Tilhill

7.2.1 *Access*

No progress this month. **Action: Mary**

7.3 Reroute of A890

The URS documentation was discussed at the HC committee on the 5th November and the cost benefit analysis was too low on all 3 options. As a result a task force (of HC officers) has been set up to better define the direct and indirect benefits of the various options and to investigate possible sources of funding. They are proposing a workshop with stakeholders in March to help keep the local communities informed of progress. We will continue to monitor developments. **Action: All**

7.4 Highland Council

Nothing this month

7.5 Police & Fire

Nothing this month

7.6 Scottish Water

Nothing this month

8 Update from Local Groups

8.1 Broadband - from Phil Game

Geoff Harrington has resigned from CMNet, our thanks to Geoff for his contribution over the past two years. Sandra Byrne has left CBS, our thanks to Sandra for her help.

We have completed all the outstanding administration, by the time the CC minutes are distributed all subscribers should have received copies of their contract and everyone who has loaned money to CMNet should have received a copy of the loan document.

As we gain experience we continue to tune the system, we increased the speeds again this month, current speeds are 4 Mbps download and 600 kbps upload. So far the increase does not appear to be causing any problems. Usage in January was inside our quota, February is estimated to be close to the 200 GB limit. We have 24 subscribers live and are now running at full capacity on our two lines. Three subscribers have asked for an increase in their monthly

quota. Although we do not have enough capacity to increase current quotas or make new connections the directors have agreed that a minimal connection with a very low usage quota will be made available to anyone who does not currently have a broadband connection. We now estimate we will have over 60 subscribers by the time the project is complete.

Progress by location:-

Lochcarron; We have sent Andrew Mackenzie an outline of the work required to his barn and are now waiting for Openreach to tell us what they require from us.

The Glen; the Hydro have suggested we bury the power cable; we need to check this and agree it is acceptable to Fay & Dolly.

North Strome; three residents have asked for more details, we need a clear day to visit and check lines of sight.

Strome Ferry; work is pending the visit to North Strome and the location of a good site for an access point.

Ardaneaskan; waiting for a suitable date to visit to check the lines of sight to Creag Mhaol, Portchullin, Craig and North Strome.

Portchullin; there is a good site on the raised beach which needs to be checked for line of sight from Ardaneaskan and North Strome.

Craig; waiting for confirmation of the Ardaneaskan location.

Ardnarff; work is pending the visit to North Strome and the location of a good site for an access point.

Arinackaig; we have been asked to look at providing a link, possibly via an access point at Coulags.

As soon as the issues at Lochcarron are resolved we will proceed with the installation of our third ADSL line which will increase capacity by another 100 GB per month.

Installations will be prioritised as follows:-

1) Anyone who does not have a broadband connection.

2) Any existing subscriber wanting an increase in their monthly quota.

3) Anyone with line of sight to one of the existing relays, which currently cover Fernaig, Achmore & Braeintra.

4) Anyone with line of sight of the next proposed relays.

If you are in groups 1, 2 or 3 and you want to join CMNet please email broadband@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk now.

Residents in group 4 will be notified when access points become available, we cannot give dates for these connections as some relay installations are dependent on third parties.

As soon as the first Lochcarron line has been tested and shown to be fast and stable we will install a second line and install more subscribers.

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

8.2 Fernaig Trust - From Colin MacAndrew -

A monthly meeting was held on 10 February with Bruce Taylor, FCS, in attendance. The main business of the meeting was information exchange between the Forestry and the Trust. Also discussed was finalising the Trust workplan for 2015 and awarding a contract for repairs to the Office, two quotes having been received.

Colin has forwarded a copy of the chairman's report to the AGM which we will distribute with the CC minutes.

8.3 Hall Committee - from Jack Bird

Nothing received from the Hall committee.

8.3.1 *Grant to help the Hall Committee replace the hall boiler*

We have heard nothing from the Hall committee and assume this is completed. **Completed**

9 AOB

9.1 SLCVO + 3rd Sector Interface survey

Mary circulated details of the 3rd Sector interface to members of the CC. **Completed**

9.2 NHS 24 Survey

Mary submitted our response. **Completed**

9.3 HC Budget Reductions

Mary submitted our response. **Completed**

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 28 April at 7:00 p.m. Achmore Hall.

12 Formal close of meeting

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm