**Contin Community Council Meeting**

**Contin Hall**

**7pm on Tuesday 10 January 2017**

**Minutes**

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Pam Courcha (PC), Lisa Daines (LD), Sid Fraser (SF); Charlotte Clough (CC); Carol Elliot of Foundation Scotland; Ian Cockburn, Councillor (IC).

Apologies: None

1. **Welcome**

NR welcomed everyone.

1. **Expressions of Interest**

No expressions of interest were reported.

1. **Introduction of Councillors**

The councillors all introduced themselves to each other and the audience members, explaining a little of their past and current vocations and time lived in Contin.

1. **Co-option of Councillors**

NR introduced Charlotte Clough. She has volunteered to be co-opted as a Councillor to assist in keeping the Council quorate. Proposed by NR, seconded by PC.

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes / Matters Arising**

The previous minutes were approved by Councillors. Proposed PC, seconded SF.

Under matters arising, NR reported that PC has now been set up as a signatory. Signs for the Church and football pitch are to be reinstated by Bear Scotland. House numbers in Tor View will be erected in due course. NR not yet secured map for marking paths on. Regarding the play park, Robbie Bain has made some enquiries but nothing further has been heard.

1. **Policy Regarding Planning Applications**

Whilst it is always regrettable when any member of the community might experience upset regarding a planning application, there is an appeals process for use. The Councillors all **agreed** that the CCC will follow the Highland Council’s guidelines on p3 of their ‘Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Highland’ updated August 2016 and only consider applications for proposed developments that are “being of national or major scale or of significance to the community.”

1. **Advertisement of Meetings**

It was been **agreed** that meetings will be advertised in the following places:

* The Contin Community Council Website and Facebook page
* The Community Trust newsletter (which also goes to Tarvie and Jamestown)
* The Community Trust Facebook page
* The Contin What’s on Facebook page
* The Contin Shop
* The petrol station

The CCC are concerned to engage with Jamestown and Tarvie better and are to consider advertising meetings in the Strathpeffer shop and newsletter. It was decided not to hold meetings in Strathpeffer. **Action LD** to check out whether there is a notice board in Jamestown. **Action IC** to contact a well-known person or persons within Jamestown and Tarvie to advertise by word of mouth.

It was confirmed that the CCC meeting minutes, once approved, will appear on the CCC website. **Action LD** to send link to Contin What’s On.

1. **Windfarm Update**
2. **Corriemoillie EDF**

Carol Elliott (CE) of Foundation Scotland (FS) joined us. She explained that EDF of Corriemoillie windfarm were using FS to administrate the distribution of funds to the five affected local communities. Contin have been allocated 7% of the fund, amounting to £13,566 in the first year. A mechanism for allocating these funds within the community is required. The CCC have **agreed** on a single fund whereby multiple developers can feed into one fund with one panel. This is because it is difficult to recruit enough people to form multiple panels. Eneco from Lochluichart *may* be content to use this mechanism, thereby solving an issue and releasing this funding to the community. EDF have agreed to pay FS the fee for administrating this, however, Eneco *may* charge the community fund for administration. The CCC have rejected a request by Eneco to set up a panel of 8 people to distribute £3000 per year as too onerous.

There was a discussion about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CCC and FS and the set-up of the panel to distribute the funds. The Councillors **agreed** that there should be:

* **7 members of the panel**
* **The quorum is 4 members**
* **1 member must be from the Community Council**
* **Panel members must be aged 16 or over**
* **Panel members must live in the area covered by the MOU**
* **The CCC member should be re-elected annually**

CE and the Councillors discussed the MOU and **agreed** that, once some minor tweaks had been made by CE, we are happy to sign it and go ahead. NR asked members of the public interested in sitting on the panel to leave their name with us! The Councillors thanked CE for her assistance.

1. **Fairburn – SSE**

NR reported that there was a change to the MOU at point 1.7. We all **agreed** to accept the new paragraph. **Action NR** to sign the copies and return to SSE.

1. **Lochluichart – Eneco**

A representative from FS will contact Eneco to see if they would be content to pay into the single fund we have agreed with FS. It has been difficult for this fund to be accessed by the Community.

1. **Repair to Footbridge into Five Acre Wood**

NR reported that this bridge has been repaired using a grant from SSE’s Fairburn windfarm. The bridge itself has been replaced, some steps repaired and a new, much larger handrail put in for safety. It was sadly noted that someone has since vandalised one of the steps. A member of the public very kindly offered to fix the step. There were quotes requested for this work and it was someone who lived locally, though not in Contin, who undertook the work. The Council welcomes business cards from local tradespeople to help us ask for local quotes in future.

1. **Forestry Commission Review with CC**

The CCC had been unable to attend the Forestry Commission Review open day. NR had met with them separately. The FC representative explained that there were no plans to install further paths as they felt there were plenty. They agreed to move a large stone at the entrance to the forest at Old Rogie Falls Road so that prams could gain access there. The FC very kindly donated some wood towards the repair of the footbridge.

1. **Progress with Speed-Activated Signs**

NR read a report from Bear Scotland showing that Contin is 12th and Achilty 42**nd** on the list for speed-activated signs and that there was no funding available for such schemes in 2017/18. It was, therefore, **agreed** that the CCC would put a bid into the SSE Fairburn windfarm panel in February to apply for funding for speed-activated signs. This would depend on Bear Scotland providing some awaited information timeously. **Action NR** to contact Bear Scotland.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

PC reported that as at end Dec 2016 the account balance was £2816. A grant payment is awaited from the footbridge repair which will increase that amount by £670. £800 of this is restricted for payment of microgrants. To apply for a microgrant of up to £250, please write a letter to the CCC. Two audience members offered to do the flower tubs at the war memorial area, NR expressed thanks and encouraged a microgrant application to cover costs.

PC also reported that the part year grant from the Highland Council had not arrived. **Action IC** to chase Robbie Bain.

1. **Community Police Report**

Allyson McGregor is our Community Police Officer. She is unable to attend meetings and will send a report instead. NR read out the main points of this report. The problems were mainly speeding vehicles and two incidences of disorder. Allyson reported that the Police would continue to carry out speed checks.

1. **Comments from Members of the Public**

A village tidy-up was requested. **Action LD** to put on next agenda and to liaise with the youth team who were considering organising one.

Concern about the access onto the main A835 from the road leading to the football pitch – poor visibility. **Action NR** to raise with Allyson our Community Police Officer.

Disappointment expressed by two members of the public who had received a visit from Bear Scotland to requesting hedge trimming for pedestrian safety on the main road. A visit from members of the CCC would have been preferred. The CCC offered apologies that this may have appeared as the wrong approach, but that a request had gone through from Highland Council to Bear Scotland, whose responsibility it is. The previous CCC and the Community Police Officer had worked hard to get Bear Scotland to address several issues in Contin/Achilty.

1. **AOCB**

None.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

Meetings all at 7pm in Contin Hall:

**7th March 2017**

**16th May 2017**

**13th June 2017 - AGM**