**Contin Community Council Meeting**

**Contin Hall**

**7pm on Tuesday 24 October 2017**

**Minutes**

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Pam Courcha (PC), Lisa Daines (LD), Laurence Gunner (LG), Ian Cockburn, Councillor (IC), Selina Rennie (SR). Guest speaker: Clara Hickey, Strathpeffer Community Centre Manager.

8 members of the public observed the meeting.

Apologies: None received.

1. **Welcome**

NR welcomed everyone.

1. **Expressions of Interest**

No expressions of interest were reported.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

PC proposed the previous minutes and LG seconded. LD reported that, after phoning several agencies, she is waiting a return phone call from the Energy Savings Trust Transport Department regarding grants for an Electric Vehicle charging point. PC reported that the dog warden is going to visit Contin and that the warden had said that naming and shaming is the best method of encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dogs. IC explained that dog fouling notices can’t be put up by the HC on property which is not theirs. Other matters arising are on this meeting’s agenda.

1. **History Project**

PC introduced the project and that, having spoken to Susan Cruse of ARCH, there are lots of interesting places in Contin and lots of stories to be captured for future generations. Councillors welcomed Clara Hickey, manager of Strathpeffer Community Centre. Three years ago Strathpeffer CC ran a history project with Heritage Lottery funding utilising Susan Cruse which lasted about 9 months. They ran a range of activities including 6 workshops with Susan where attendees talked about different buildings in Strathpeffer and brought along old photos, documents and information which were scanned by Susan and uploaded to the Highland Council and National Heritage Database to be available in the future. There were walks, projects with schoolchildren, an open day attended by 120 people up the Heights, an exhibition and a creative writing workshop. A leaflet was produced detailing the history of the buildings in the village. Clara explained that there had been great social and community benefit from the project. Funding could be obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Big Lottery, or the discretionary fund. LG thought we should go ahead with this project as we owe it to future generations. NR thought the next step was to formulate a plan to know how much money to apply for.

1. **Resignation and Co-option**

Charlotte Clough has resigned from the CCC and Selina Rennie had very kindly agreed to be co-opted in her place. LD proposed and NR seconded. Thanks to CC for her assistance over the last year.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

PC reported that the bank statement of 20 September 2017 showed £17657 of funds but she believed EDF had since deposited funds of £678 for the microgrant scheme to total £18335 of which £15102 is restricted (£13420 for the speed signs). She noted that the HC grant had not yet been received. The CC Trust have not provided their promised £50 contribution to the speed signs. The CCC will provide that instead.

1. **Community Police Report**

PC Allyson McGregor submitted her report which NR read out. The main issue is still speeding, though there had been one theft and two domestic incidents since the last report.

1. **Request Made at Contin Community Matters Meeting 7 Sept 2017**

NR reported that, at the CCM meeting on 7 September 2017, a member of the community had requested that the CCC represent the community by meeting with the CC Trust. The Councillors had a meeting with Ross-shire Voluntary Action and the outcome of this was to request a meeting with the Trust. All **agreed** that we would do this. This will be a private meeting and the Councillors will report back at the next CCC meeting or we may call a special meeting, potentially before the start of the next CCM meeting on 21 November.

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

NR updated on the EDF Education and Training fund. There have been three applications including help to fund a 4 year apprenticeship (tools and travel costs) and assistance for a student in Ullapool to purchase a laptop and with travel costs to travel to Inverness to do a PGDE. This gives an indication of the sort of thing that can be funded. There are three representatives from Contin on this panel.

All **agreed** that we are content to run a microgrant scheme using funds from EDF Corriemoillie windfarm.

NR has created an end of project pro-forma for use with both EDF and SSE microgrant schemes. This will be available on our website.

All **agreed** to an application for £250 by CCM to fund a senior’s Christmas party from the EDF microgrant fund.

1. **Fairburn – SSE**

NR applied for a defibrillator and training and a village notice board from this fund. Nigel Haw is happy for both the defibrillator and the notice board to be situated outside the shop. LG asked about interest on the windfarm money, IC explained it remains with SSE until paid out for a project. The small bridge repair and LG’s bluebell wood project with be funded from the Fairburn microgrant pot.

1. **Lochluichart – Eneco**

NR reported extreme frustration that this is still in stalemate. Foundation Scotland are going to chase from their end as we wish to use the same panel with the same conditions etc.

1. **Five Acre Wood**

NR reported that the gate into the wood should be put up soon using a microgrant. There is also a small repair to the small bridge being funded via a microgrant. There is no update from SSE presently.

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

The speed reduction signs have been installed but are not working. NR has emailed Bear Scotland (Update - they are due to be commissioned on the 1st Nov).There was little choice in the positioning of the signs as they required to be within sight of the 30mph speed sign. A member of the public suggested cutting the bushes back southbound (i.e. near Tor View).

1. **Priority List from Action Plan**

The defibrillator and the notice board were mentioned under the windfarm update. IC reported that the war memorial is on the HC list of things to do. All agreed that it looks better since the grass has been getting cut. LG thought it would be nice to clear the gutter by the war memorial since it is coming up to Remembrance Sunday.

1. **Bus Shelter**

IC reported that it is on the top of the list but that there will be nothing done until after the next HC budget meeting in November. Members of the public still feel aggrieved that other villages all have new bus shelters.

1. **Footbridge to Church**

NR put an application into the SSE windfarm but it was turned down because it was thought that if the CCC did this we would be deemed liable for it. The Church is not allowed to apply for funding. NR has found a document which suggests the Church agreed to pay for maintenance of the bridge in perpetuity. NR to talk to Fiona Morrison at SSE after her leave (1 Nov).

1. **Correspondence**

NR noted that we have not received any of the correspondence sent to our mailbox at the Hall.

There is Red Cross slips, trips and fall training, organised by the CCC, happening at Strathpeffer CC tomorrow (25 Oct).

We received a letter complaining about posters put up in the village regarding the Contin Hall. All agreed that this was not the way to voice concerns. NR will respond.

The HC Community Services asked for nominations for larger bits of road for their rolling programme of repairs. Members of the public suggested Tor View and the Contin to Strathpeffer road. **Action** LD to respond and to forward the request email to IC. (Done 30/10).

NR updated on planning application notifications received by the CCC. IC updated on the outcome of the appeal on planning permission in Munro Park. No notification of any planning application has been received regarding Contin Hall.

We have received notification of the review of polling places. LG suggested using the Church as it has disabled access, should Contin Hall become unavailable. It is felt that a polling station is required in Contin so as not to disenfranchise villagers. This is to be put on the agenda for December.

Letter received from Sid Fraser at the CCM meeting on 5 October. NR explained that the first paragraph was inaccurate and, in fact, SF was referring to a CCC matter to which NR had sent a paper copy to SF as other Councillors had received it by email. A decision was taken by the CCC at a meeting on 13 June not to write in support of the football match but Councillors wish SF every success in his endeavour. He received a letter to this effect in June.

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

None.

1. **AOCB**

None.

1. **Next Meeting Date**

5th December 2017 at the new time of **7.30**

1. **Proposed future dates**

6 February 2018

17 April 2018

12 June 2018 – AGM and ordinary meeting