**Contin Community Council Meeting**

**Contin Hall**

**7.30 pm on Tuesday 5 December 2017**

**Minutes**

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Pam Courcha (PC), Lisa Daines (LD), Laurence Gunner (LG), Ian Cockburn, Councillor (IC), Selina Rennie (SR).

5 members of the public observed the meeting, 3 sent apologies.

Apologies: Sid Fraser.

1. **Welcome**

NR welcomed everyone.

1. **Expressions of Interest**

No expressions of interest were reported.

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

SR proposed the previous minutes and LG seconded, with one typographical amendment in point 6 to the cost of the speed signs. NR updated Councillors that she had given the public a report on our meeting with the CCT at the Contin Community Matters meeting held on the 15th November. She gave a brief report to those present, essentially that only one Director had attended and they, though enthusiastic for new members, could answer few of our questions.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

PC noted that no Highland Council grant had yet been received, despite writing three times. IC emailed Robbie Bain during the meeting and would follow up with a phone call.

As of 20 November there was £17384 in the bank account, with 3 cheques to come out and, ignoring the restricted funds, this leaves £3136. There had been £600 paid out in microgrants for the Bluebell Wood style, steps and rail, for the gate in 5 Acre Wood, and repairs to the small bridge. It was noted with thanks that the contractor had fixed the bench by Mid Coul Lodge free of charge.

1. **Community Police Report**

NR read out PC Allyson MacGregor’s report. There had been four incidents, all four of males being stopped for having no MOT, no insurance or not wearing a seat belt. Vehicle speed remains the main priority.

1. **History Project**

PC would like to Councillors to think of a new name for the project, possibly ‘Oral History Project’. PC has spoken to Susan Cruse and Susan explained that there were proposals drawn up several years ago with the Secretary of the CCT. How do we access this? Maybe via Susan herself. Regards timing, LD suggested that, with all that is going on in the community presently, this project should be run later on in 2018, though it is a good project for community healing. PC agreed but that the groundwork needs to be put in in advance of this. She also appealed for volunteers to assist. IC suggested PC speak to the UHI History Department in Tain and also the Archive Centre in Inverness for assistance. They will have people trained in interviewing techniques, crucial in an oral history project.

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

NR reported that this is going well and gave a summary of awards by the panel at the beginning of November: CCM awarded £1176 for a marquee, Strathpeffer Primary School Parent Council awarded £1500 for a slide and a climbing net, and the Puffin Hydrotherapy Pool awarded £1500 towards a new water filtration system. The next deadline is 5 February 2018 and the panel will meet on 19 March 2018.

1. **Fairburn – SSE**

NR applied for a defibrillator and training and a village notice board from this fund. Nigel Shaw is happy for both the defibrillator and the notice board to be situated outside the shop and he has very kindly agreed to pay for the electrician to install it. The CCC will pay for a replacement battery every four years. We are awaiting to hear the result (update 6/12/17 - award granted). We will organise defibrillator training with posters in the shop etc in the New Year.

1. **Lochluichart – Eneco**

NR reported that we are no further forward with this. **Action IC** agreed to speak to someone about this.

1. **Five Acre Wood**

NR reported no further progress.

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

The speed reduction signs have been installed but are not working properly. They are not triggering until a vehicle is travelling in excess of 40mph and are triggering too close to the offending vehicle. NR has emailed Bear Scotland with no response but will now ask PC Allyson MacGregor to help. The bill will only be paid when they are properly adjusted. The work has actually come in slightly under the quote. The signs measure speed and send information to Bear. The hope is to get vehicle speed to below the average of 37 mph that they were travelling before their installation.

1. **Priority List from Action Plan**

The defibrillator and the notice board were mentioned under point 7.ii. LG noted that we should raise the matter of clearing the gutter by the war memorial a month before Remembrance Sunday next year. **Action LD** to set a reminder (done 6/12/17). IC reported that the repair of the war memorial has gone out to tender and these should be closing shortly.

1. **Bus Shelter**

IC reported he has raised this at Director level but that there will be nothing done until after the next HC budget meeting which has been moved to February. There was some discussion whether a bus shelter could be paid from out of another pot, i.e. education or Routes to School, since most use is by the school children. 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. The problem is how to apply for funds on behalf of the church. NR contacted James Mackay from the Church and asked him to put up signs on the bridge to warn users that they do so at their own risk. **Action NR** to email Phil Waite, Access Officer, to see whether this is a core path. **Update 6/12/17**: Phil confirmed it is a core path, though maintenance on core paths is discretionary. NR has sent the quote to Phil.

1. **Correspondence**

NR updated on 1 planning application notification received by the CCC for a new house.

Regarding the review of Polling Places, it was agreed that there was little we could do at present until the future of Contin Hall is known. To be placed on next agenda.

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

A member of the public raised concern about abandoned cars in an area of the village. IC explained that the Police and the Council are aware.

1. **AOCB**

The CCT EGM on 11 December. It was **agreed** after some discussion that the CCC’s view is that we wish the Trust members well in their endeavour and that we ask that the Constitution is followed to the letter. LG is going to open the meeting to this effect. NR explained to the public that this was an open meeting but that only members of the Trust could vote. IC voiced a concern that the building is not safe and should be closed until such time as fire and electrical and other safety checks are up to date.

Printing of papers – it was **agreed** that, to save on time and cost, members were happy to either bring their papers electronically or print out their own copy. If anyone needs assistance they are to contact LD and she will provide paper copies.

1. **Next Meeting Date**

6 February 2018 at 7.30pm.

1. **Proposed future dates**

17 April 2018

12 June 2018 – AGM and ordinary meeting