

# **Contin Community Council Annual General Meeting**

## **Contin Hall**

**7.30pm on Tuesday 12 June 2018**

### **Minutes**

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Lisa Daines (LD), Laurence Gunner (LG), Sid Fraser (SF), Selina Rennie (SR), Ian Cockburn, Councillor (IC).

Apologies: Pam Courcha (PC).

One member of the public observed.

#### **1. Welcome**

NR welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting**

All were content with the previous minutes. SF proposed and IC seconded.

#### **3. Chairperson's Annual Report**

Firstly I would like to thank all Councillors for their support, preparation before meetings and their attendance at meetings. We have been quorate at each meeting. Thank you also to Councillor Dr Ian Cockburn for his regular attendance, advice at meetings and his attention to our requests. One co-opted Councillor resigned and we were fortunate to fill the vacancy immediately. We are grateful to Selina for agreeing to become a co-opted Councillor.

The Community Council has had both a busy and a successful year in terms of addressing issues raised by members of the public from their priority list. Indeed it will be time to collate a new one.

Our projects have all been made possible by utilising the wind farm funding available to Contin. In many ways it is fortuitous that the four major projects have been completed, as we hope the fund will be closed very shortly to enable the Community Trust to access a lump sum of five years of funding. This will be used towards the cost of a New Hall. Exciting times ahead!

The first of our major projects was the vehicle activated speed reduction system. The cost of this was almost £13,000. Highland Council and Contin Baby and Toddlers, SWRI, Bowlers, Community Matters and Community Council all donated funds towards this project. We thank them all wholeheartedly for their support. The lights are now installed and working, although there have been a few issues with the one from Achilty, which has required several adjustments. It is not as effective as it could be. This is due to the electricity supply being at Tor View and not further back towards Achilty. There is nothing we can do about this. I have asked them to increase the trigger distance so that it comes on earlier.

Our second major project was the refurbishment of the footbridge over the Blackwater which is owned by the Church. As religious organisations are barred from making wind farm applications the Community Council applied on their behalf as the bridge timbers and anti-slip matting were worn and dangerous. It was a condition of receiving funding from SSE, that

the height of the bridge was raised and the slats were vertical not horizontal. This means that children cannot climb on it. Handrails have been added and the path on the island side improved. Again this was a costly project. Highland Council funded the core path refurbishments, the Church granted £3000 towards the repair and SSE funding paid the balance. We thank all our funders who have made this possible.

At the request of the community at a public meeting regarding Contin Hall, it was agreed that communications in Contin were difficult and that not everyone used social media. After receiving permission from the shop owner, the Community Council applied to SSE for a windfarm grant for a noticeboard for Community Notices. This is now in use and we are grateful to the shop owner for giving his permission and for paying to have it fitted. (There is a group trying to revive a community newsletter at present.)

The shop owner also gave permission for a defibrillator to be fitted, again paying for the installation costs. This is now available and registered with the Scottish Ambulance Service. Grateful thanks again from the Community Council. The defibrillator was supplied by a charity called Lucky2Bhere and it came with emergency first aid training. Some 15 people from Contin attended the training one February evening. The cost of the defibrillator and training was £2500 and was paid by SSE wind farm.

The Community Council also arranged First Aid training for over 60's, from the Red Cross, at Strathpeffer Community Centre. We advertised in Contin and in the Strath Times. This was fully subscribed. The training was free, the only cost being the hire of the hall which was paid for by the Community Council.

We had some success with micro grant applications this year too.

- A super Christmas party at the hall
- Leaflets to support the Bonnie Prince Charlie gift shop to promote Contin.
- New steps in Bluebell Walk
- Erection of the previously commissioned safety gate into Five Acre Wood
- Improvements to steps to Five Acre Wood from Coul House Hotel Lane.

The War Memorial has been re-pointed and we had the grass cutting re-instated around the War Memorial and the Church. We are still working on the bus shelter, as the one installed is a temporary one.

We are extremely grateful to SSE for allowing us to rescind the lease on Five Acre Wood seven years early thus removing the personal liability of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. It came as a shock to us that we leased it with such a liability in the first place!

Furthermore the Community Council agreed to the closing of the SSE fund for five years to enable that funding to go towards a new hall.

It also agreed that the Community Trust could use the ENECO / Lochluichart wind farm funding to go towards a new hall in Contin rather than the Community Council running the fund through Foundation Scotland.

The Chair of the Community Council introduced the LEADER funding availability to Contin Community Trust. A grant application has been made and approved in principle. There should be enough funding for a NEW HALL.

The Community Council was sad to hear that the annual grant has been cut by 50% and is now about £400 after paying our insurance premium. This year our cost to run the

community council was £432 and we have been careful with our spending. We will have to do our best as a reduced budget will eventually curtail our activities. We have some reserves at the moment.

#### **4. Treasurer's Submission of Financial Statement**

In PC's absence, SR presented the Financial Statement for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Total income £25864, expenditure £22409, surplus £3455. This leaves £7530 in the bank. We are expecting that figure to drop to around £3400 after payment for the works to the bridge. The nominal £1 for Five Acre Wood has been removed as it has been handed back to SSE. There are funds to run for a few years with the lower Highland Council grant. Some of the hall rental payments were catch-up payments from the previous year. The financial statement was agreed unanimously and proposed by LG, and seconded by NR.

#### **5. Demit of Current Office Bearers and Election of Office Bearers**

All office bearers stepped down. For 2018/19 Norma Ross is Chair, Selina Rennie is Treasurer, and Lisa Daines is Secretary. NR proposed and LG seconded SR as Treasurer.

#### **6. Date of Next Annual General Meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.55pm.