**Contin Community Council Meeting**

**Contin Hall**

**7.30 pm on Tuesday, 6th February 2018**

**Minutes**

Present:

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

8 members of the public observed the meeting.

Apologies: none received. (SF sent apologies after the meeting)

1. **Welcome**

NR welcomed everyone.

1. **Expressions of Interest**

No expressions of interest were reported, though see point 7iii.

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

SR proposed the previous minutes and NR seconded.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

PC reported that the latest statement dated 19 January showed £4363 and that there is nothing outstanding. The Highland Council (HC) grant is due to arrive shortly and is £881.94 for 2017/18 minus insurance of £84.70 = £797.24 due, giving a total of £5160. As from the new financial year HC will not be arranging insurance directly. The CCC are to arrange insurance and the insurer will charge HC directly. We have been contacted by Zurich but we can look around for other insurers. **All agreed** for PC to simply renew the insurance policy if it is the same or similar to this year.

Microgrants - the EDF Corriemoillie microgrant fund of £678 has come in. £250 of that has been spent, leaving £428. SSE top their microgrant fund up to £1000 every year, there is £400 left.

The vehicle-activated speed reduction signs have been paid for and they are working. All contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

The SSE grant for the noticeboard and defibrillator is due shortly.

1. **Community Police Report**

NR apologised on behalf of PC Allyson MacGregor as she had been unable to file a report this time. She will report next time. PC MacGregor was aware of the parking issues during the Strathpuffer. We will plan this better for next year by making contact with the Police earlier on. **Action NR** to contact the Strathpuffer organisers in due course. LG suggested finding positive solutions such as another field. The Trust are also going to speak to the Strathpuffer organisers. **Action LD** - Plan for October 2018 meeting.

1. **History Project**

PC emailed Susan Cruse following the last meeting and she has sent the old CCT proposal through. A member of the CCT was asked to confirm that they are content for the CCC to take over this project, which was started by the old Trust. PC proposed setting up a small group for an initial meeting consisting of 2 Councillors, a member of the CCM, the SWRI and others to look at the proposals and to discuss what we would like to do and what we want to achieve. They will then produce a proposal to the April CC meeting. LG noted Jean Cummings would be interested as she was the school mistress and her husband had written a booklet. Beth King suggested it could be raised at the CCM meeting on 9th February. Phil Bardaa was involved in an oral history project on the Black Isle and would be keen to help again. PC explained that this is a project to share knowledge and stories, a people’s history. Maggie Bridges offered to be the SWRI representative. PC and LG offered to be the CCC representatives at this first meeting. Can LG be the Trust’s rep too?

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

NR reported that this is progressing well. The next meeting is on the 19th March. There is also an Education and Training Fund which covers the whole area and rewards are reported to us. Recent awards include fees for a Pitman training course, silversmithing course fees, an award towards a laptop for someone studying product design, and fees towards an HNC in electrical engineering. This is advertised on posters locally and in the press and our website.

1. **Fairburn – SSE**

NR explained that this is the biggest funder at around £27k per year. It has awarded the CCC money to pay for a noticeboard and defibrillator to go outside the Village Stores. The defibrillator comes with training, which is on the 27th February at 7-9 in Contin Hall. It is free of charge and anyone can come along. The CCC has agreed to buy the new battery every four years. NR will get keys cut for the noticeboard to share with CCT, CCM, CCC and the Wind Farms. **Action NR** to inform the ambulance service that Contin has a defibrillator.

The Church have agreed to pay £3000 towards the cost of repairs to the bridge to the Church. NR contacted Phil Waite at HC and he confirmed that it is a core path and has agreed to pay £1000 towards the cost of path maintenance. The CCC has £400 of SSE money left from the speed lights which can be used here. The Wind Farm panel have agreed to pay for the rest. Beth King suggested that the Youth Team could do a sponsored walk and grand opening. Timescales are to be confirmed.

1. **Lochluichart – Eneco**

NR reported that we are no further forward with this. There was no response to the last email, however the company have moved to Inverness and we have a new contact. The new CCT has asked the CCC if they could approach Eneco and ask for the release of the full 25 years of funding for the building of a new hall, as suggested by Robbie Bain. Contin area receives 3% of the fund, which is approximately £4800 per annum. The new contact in Inverness explained there would be some loss of income due to loss of inflation and legal costs. **All agreed** in principle to pursue this line of enquiry, it may be we impose restrictions on release of the funds at another meeting. **Update** as LG is a Trust Director and this would represent a conflict of interest, LG’s vote is discounted. LD was nominated onto the Trust after this vote.

1. **Five Acre Wood**

NR explained that the three officers of the community council were shocked to find that they were personally liable for 5 Acre Wood. It was discovered that it was actually leased from SSE on a 25 year lease, with 7 years to go. None of the officers would have signed up to this had they known! SSE have kindly given a lease renunciation, are taking 5 Acre Wood back, and the deed has been signed. It is protected woodland so it should remain as it is. PC proposes that we write to them to thank them and stress how important this wood is to the people of Contin and could they give an indication of their intentions. **Action NR** to write to SSE, once the final document is received, and to speak to Phil Waite regarding core paths through 5 Acre Wood. LG encouraged the resumption of the litter day. Beth reported that Miranda is organising one. She will bring it up at the CCM meeting on Friday.

1. **Nomination of a Council Representative to Board of the Contin Community Trust**

LD is content to be the representative. This nomination was unanimously **agreed**.

1. **The Village Forum**

After some discussion it was decided that an open morning to join all groups together would be the most sensible option currently, possibly in May. **Action** **NR** to report back to the CCT.

1. **Polling Places**

IC reported that Contin Hall has remained on the list as a polling station. **Action NR** to write to Robbie Bain confirming this.

1. **Bus Shelter**

IC reported that HC have found a smaller, but enclosed, bus shelter in a store which we **agreed** to being installed in Contin. Should there be another, larger one available later then it can go at the Contin Woods stop. Thanks to IC.

1. **Footbridge to Church**

Taken at point 7.ii.

1. **Correspondence**

NR explained that she had posted on Facebook regarding the GP contracts consultation. There is a meeting on the 19th February. PC is attending this and will report back.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have launched an asset register for folk who have particular skills or assets who could provide support e.g. someone with a boat in times of flood or 4x4s to help in times of snow. **Action NR** to put on the new noticeboard.

Police Scotland have launched an online safety campaign against scamming. **Action NR** to put on the new noticeboard.

The Winter Resilience programme from HC – Highland Council will provide salt, grit bins, snow shovels, high vis vests, insurance etc to people in the village helping to clear the paths if organised through the CCC. NR asked for volunteers to come forward by sending an email to the Community Council. She is happy to be the liaison person. This is to be put on the noticeboard and Facebook. IC suggested organising a map marked with where bins are required.

Two requests for microgrants were received today. CCM would like funding for PVG certificates, they have been advised to contact Ross-shire Voluntary Action who may pay for these, but the CCM should come back to the CCC if not. The second is from the owner of a new start business for leaflets which will advertise the local area. **Action NR** to take advice on whether the microgrants can support private businesses and email Councillors.

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

A member of the public asked whether there is a lower age limit for microgrants. It was confirmed that recipients should be adults.

1. **AOCB**

IC reported that the War Memorial will be re-pointed shortly.

LG would like to minute recognition of the new Trust and encourage them.

Village Newsletter - Beth King explained that the consensus was to print some newsletters to be available in the shop and to email distribute the majority. There are some people interested in taking this forward. NR suggested using the Strath Times to capture some people in Jamestown.

PC would like to record the CCC’s appreciation of the huge amount of hard work of our Chair.

LG asked for a note calling for agenda items a week before the agenda is produced. All **agreed.**

1. **Next Meeting Date**

17 April 2018 at 7.30pm.

1. **Proposed future dates**

12 June 2018 – AGM and ordinary meeting