

Contin Community Council Meeting

Contin Hall

7.30 pm on Tuesday 28 August 2018

Minutes

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Pam Courcha (PC), Lisa Daines (LD), Ian Cockburn, Councillor (IC), Selina Rennie (SR), Sid Fraser (SF).

8 members of the public observed the meeting.

Apologies: Laurence Gunner (LG)

1. Welcome

NR welcomed everyone and noted the good turnout from the public. Members of the public informed Councillors that some had seen our meeting advertised in the North Star, on the notice board or by word of mouth.

2. Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

SR proposed the previous minutes and NR seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

SR, in her first report as Treasurer, informed Councillors that there was £7237.85 in the bank account as at 20th August, £4097 of which is unrestricted. The remainder is restricted with £1020 in the EDF microgrant fund, £1150 in the SSE microgrant and £970 for the bridge repair.

5. Community Police Report

NR informed Councillors that PC Allyson MacGregor's report contained no instances of speeding detected in Contin in the last session across three separate occasions and that instances of detected speeding are reducing, according to their records. There were two minor traffic offences and one speeding incident in at Achilty. NR noted that, in her experience many vehicles are paying attention to the flashing light and slowing down as they enter the village from the East. The West side flashing light is not working and has never really worked. Bear Scotland are not returning emails and calls at presently. They were due to attend to fix this w/c 6 August but have not done so to date.

6. Wind Farm Bid for History Project

NR updated Councillors that the History Project group have applied to the EDF Corriemoillie wind farm fund for £2600 to develop the oral history project. This includes 3 short talking head videos, production of a leaflet for a walk round the island, and a seat outside the

cemetery. PC explained that theme of the video is 'What Contin Means to Me'. The panel meeting is on the 8th October. In phase 2 the group aim to use the artwork and photography from the leaflet to produce a trail board and to do work on Preas Mairi.

NR then presented a microgrant request entitled 'Making Preas Mairi a Valued Village Asset'. £250 has been applied for to identify the ownership of the site, then, once permission is obtained from the owner, to clear the rhododendron using volunteers and a hired chipper. An audience member noted that he may be able to obtain a cheaper chipper hire price. **Action NR** to liaise. **All agreed** to grant this application.

7. Priority List

NR explained that the previous Council had held an open morning in 2015 which identified a priority action list for the council area. This was updated at an open morning in 2017, though few people attended. Many of the items of the list have been achieved, bar major undertakings such as a cycle route to Moy Bridge. **All Councillors agreed** that a new priority action list is required and that it may be best to hold it on the same day as CCT consult on the new hall plans. **Action LD** to contact CCT and CCM to organise a date.

8. Highland Council Community Council Update

Councillors are in the midst of preparing a response to a consultation by Highland Council on a review of the scheme under which Community Councils operate. HC have identified that many community councils are running with vacancies and that there is a risk of CCs falling into abeyance. NR noted that this council only formed on the third attempt and was almost lost altogether. There is a drop-in consultation event in Dingwall at 2-4pm on 18th September. One of the key questions is whether community councils should merge with other nearby councils. There was a general discussion about the consultation. Councillors have each filled in a consultation form and NR is collating the results and will send in a response. IC assured Councillors that this is not a money-saving exercise but a genuine consultation to gather ideas particularly in how to encourage people to become Councillors. Audience members tended to wish to keep the Council local, because that is the community we live in and is our identity. NR noted that we already have developed informal links with Strathpeffer, Garve, and Lochcarron CCs.

All Councillors **agreed** that the information we include in the survey can be shared with COSLA and the Scottish Government.

9. SF's points from letters of 18/7 and 14/8

SF explained that he wished to see greater attendance from the public and is delighted to see 8 members of the public here this evening. He asked whether the date and time of the meeting suited all. **All agreed** that Tuesday evenings at 7.30 suited. SF mooted that a meeting might be better every month rather than every two months. The majority of Councillors voted to retain the frequency at two-monthly, particularly due to budget restrictions and time required for work to progress in between meetings. IC reminded that these meetings are Community Council meetings which are held in public, rather than being public meetings and that, if anything is pressing, an emergency meeting can be called.

10. Contin Community Trust

NR updated Councillors that the CCC member on the CCT has resigned. If anyone is interested in this role they should contact NR.

11. Windfarm Update

NR explained that there was nothing to report, however PC requested a reminder of amounts etc, which NR gave as follows:

i. Corriemoillie EDF

This fund is around £13,500 annually, the panel meets twice a year and the maximum grant per application is £3000. The closing date for the next round of funding was 27th August with the panel meeting on 8th October. There is also a micro grant scheme of around £700 per annum. There is the potential for a little more money from this wind farm in the future as more turbines go on-stream.

ii. Fairburn – SSE

This fund was around £28,000 annually but has been closed after a public vote and the agreement of the CCC for five years to provide funds for the new hall. There is a microgrant scheme of £1000 per year available.

iii. Lochluichart – Eneco

This fund was around £4000 annually, however, no funds have ever been forthcoming and the CCC agreed that the whole fund could be given to the CCT for the building of the new hall.

12. Strathpeffer Saves

NR informed that the Council has been contacted by Cameron Duncan of the Strathpeffer Saves project. It is a project that offers free, confidential advice to people in the Strathpeffer area, including Contin, on energy saving in the home, recycling, producing your own food, reduction of carbon footprint amongst other things. It was **agreed** that it might be best to invite Cameron along to our proposed joint open morning because this would reach the largest number of people. **Action LD** to organise.

13. Correspondence

NR explained that a request has been received from Contin Community Trust to for the CCC to put in the planning application for the new hall on their behalf, saving 50% of the fees. IC explained that this discount is available for CCs for community projects only. He also explained it does not commit the CCC to anything; it is purely that the CCC could do the submission. **All agreed. Action LD to inform CCT.**

The Moy Bridge is to be closed for inspection on Monday 24th September from 9-5.

There was a discussion about the winter resilience programme, whereby volunteer path-clearers would be provided with insurance, high-vis jackets and snow shovels, if they sign up

through the scheme. NR volunteered to be the co-ordinator. **Action NR** to put on the notice board. This is to be included at the proposed open morning.

14. Comments from Members of the Public

A member of the public asked whether the new bus shelter was actually 'new' because it was very dirty and flaking upon installation. IC explained that was new and that it is a temporary one. There is not enough room at the site for an enclosed bus shelter to allow safe passage of wheelchairs and prams. **Action IC** to ask for the mouldy area to be cleaned.

15. AOCB

None.

16. Next Meeting Date

30 October 2018 at 7.30pm.

17. Proposed future dates

4 December 2018, 5 February 2019, 23 April 2019, 11 June 2019.