

Contin Community Council Meeting

Contin Hall

7.30 pm on Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Minutes

Present: Norma Ross (NR), Selina Rennie (SR), Lisa Daines (LD), Pam Courcha (PC), Sid Fraser (SF), Laurence Gunner (LG), Ian Cockburn, Councillor (IC), Phil Baarda (PB).
No members of the public observed the meeting.

Apologies: none.

1. Welcome

NR welcomed everyone and SF kindly shared some chocolate.

2. Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Paths behind the Church – NR has spoken to the Church. The next session meeting is on the 8th May and they will respond in due course. James Mackay confirmed the Church owns the land. Arguably the Church should maintain a path that they know people are walking along. Is it a right of way?

Village Forum - SR got in touch with CCT, no further progress. Trish at SCC is happy to field enquiries from groups and share information but not to hold a diary, due to other commitments.

SR reported that the Public Liability Insurance has been paid.

LG proposed the previous minutes and PC seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

SR reported that the latest statement received was 20 March, which will likely be roughly the year end. There is a balance of £8956.35 with £279 still to come out.

5. Community Police Report

NR read out PC Peter Holling's report. From 1 Feb to 31 March 2019, 12 motorists charged with speeding in Contin. They will continue to monitor regularly. The west-end vehicle-activated speed reduction sign is not working. NR has made a complaint and received a response but no action as yet.

6. History Project / Gaelic in the Landscape

Phil Baarda joined us. It would be best practice to acquire permission of the landowner to do the tidying up work and waymark the trail to the Preas Mairi. No response has been received from the landowner as yet. By mid-June Phil will write again to the landowner explaining that,

unless he hears from her, community volunteers will go ahead and do the work, after the birds have finished nesting.

PB has been in contact with Iain Sarjeant. He is going to take photographs shortly when the bluebells come out. PB has also asked him to take photographs for the Gaelic project. Please let Phil know if there is anything that should be included. Foundation Scotland is to be acknowledged. PB to discuss with the owners of the Old Manse. The all-access path should be marked and the fact that the rest of it is a rough path, perhaps using a key. Drafts may be available as early as June.

PB has a list of people to talk to for the Oral History Project. He will arrange a time to chat to them individually.

NR recapped – What Contin Means to Me is done, the visit to the Archive Centre has been done. Good progress is being made.

Gaelic in the Landscape Project – Roddy MacLean is booked to do a workshop looking at maps and Gaelic names which will bring the landscape alive. It will likely be held at the Strathpeffer CC after the summer holidays.

7. Windfarm Update – Allt Dearg

NR reported that she had been approached by this community-owned wind farm to say they have £250/annum to give to Contin for constituted groups. NR agreed with them that they would hold the money and people could apply to them.

8. Remembrance Sunday

LG explained that the British Legion in Dingwall no longer recognise responsibility to outlying areas. LG thought Remembrance Sunday in 2018 was very good but more needs to be done in future to encourage the involvement of children. After a general discussion the following actions were agreed: **Action LG** to speak to James Mackay from the Church regarding their involvement. **Action SR** to speak to the CCT events group to see if they wish to be involved. **Action NR** to provide an article for the Contin Post nearer the time. **Action IC** to remind HC to do a wreath for Contin this year.

9. Village Tub Plant-up

NR proposed and it was **agreed** by all that the CCC organise an event on the morning of **Saturday 1st June** to plant up the village tubs. A microgrant will be used by the CCC to buy plants and compost and take them to the hall where volunteers can collect them and choose a tub to plant up. **Action NR / LD** to book the hall and organise plants and compost. **Action SR** to check the dates with Strathpeffer, and prepare a poster.

10. Contin – The Future

SF presented a map of the old Moray Firth development plan for the village. IC explained that it is a plan for where housing might go in the village and is currently being consulted on ready for replacement. NR noted that there was a new email just received regarding the next plan. **Action NR** to forward to all. The old plan is to be placed on file.

11. Correspondence

- i. Recycling Centre Change – tyres are now to be taken to a garage for recycling.
- ii. Proposed Splitting of Ross and Cromarty Area Committee – IC explained that he and colleagues have put forward a resolution at council to establish Ward 5 as a separate area committee. It is the largest Council ward in Europe with its own distinct needs. A separate area committee with its own budget could see the ward react faster and more appropriately to solve problems. The motion was accepted at the last meeting but there are other steps to go through before this motion is successful. IC will keep us informed of progress.
- iii. Airport on Skye – an email was received from SALAD, a group campaigning against the reopening of an airport on Skye. NR received a response from Ian Blackford MP:

I am aware that the council in tandem with Hi-trans and HIE are working on a proposal that has not yet reached the final stage and I would imagine that would have to result in a proposal to the Scottish Government. I can't comment on the figures in this message. As a principle if it can be ascertained that the reopening of the airport would present an economic development opportunity it should be properly assessed and I would be supportive of this. I am aware that many individuals as well as businesses in Skye and Lochalsh have long argued for the re-opening of the airport.

It was **agreed** that no further action should be taken on this point for the moment.

- iv. An email has just been received from Ability Net offering training to the over 55s and disabled persons in IT related matters. It is thought that others have already offered such courses locally. **Action NR** to research.

12. Comments from Members of the Public

N/a

13. AOCB

- i. Scam Poster Feedback – NR reported that there were two likes on Facebook and no other comments received.
- ii. NR noted that the village litter pick was very successful. Thanks to Nigel Shaw for donating refreshments and the Easter egg and to Selina for her lovely poster.

14. Next Meeting Date

AGM and ordinary meeting – 11 June 2019, 7.30pm