

Contin Community Council Meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday 1st December 2020, by Video Conference

Present: Norma Ross (NR), Selina Rennie (SR), Lisa Daines (LD), Phil Baarda (PB), Laurence Gunner (LG), Frances Welton (FW), Cllr Ian Cockburn (IC).

Apologies: Gerry Lowe.

No members of the public joined the meeting.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

NR welcomed everyone to this meeting held by video conference. NR noted GL says he will join the meetings when he can attend at the new hall.

2. Expressions of Interest

None reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Following a call for suggestions, LD and NR agreed to give the seven Foodbank volunteers a thank you Christmas cake baked by local business the Coffee Bothy and £25 Tesco vouchers, costing £259 in total. It was **agreed** to use COVID funding to pay for this.

NR put forward GL's ideas for the transport solution. Gerry suggested we need a really snappy name. He also suggested a TV programme by Susan Calman is worth watching and contacting.

SR proposed the previous meeting minutes and PB seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

SR reported a balance of £14,743.56 in bank on 20 November. £2744 from Foundation Scotland for History Project 2 has arrived. We have had a kind donation towards use of Zoom of £20, SR has allocated to COVID fund. The Coffee Bothy has very kindly donated the money from their uncashed cheques, SR will allocate this back to the pots it came from. The Information Commissioner cheque has still not come out but they say they will cash it soon. Strathpeffer CC banked an outstanding

cheque at beginning of November, SR will follow up. There is £180 still to come out for the Contin Post. NR explained that she has written a cheque today for the transport charges for the nursery children for November, to come out of the COVID fund.

Nothing heard back to date regarding the online banking. SR will chase in the New Year.

Action NR to chase Foundation Scotland for microgrant top up.

5. Community Police Report

NR read out PC Holling's report. Between 13/10/20 to 29/11/20 there were 5 motorists charged with speeding offences through the village and one driver charged with other road traffic offences. PB asked about statistics about how often the speed checks are undertaken. It is random, depending on the time available. It is difficult to judge whether any measures are working. PB asked if we can find out more info from Police **ACTION NR**. NR explained Bear Scotland had more statistics in the past, we could contact them again. We could compare to see if the average speed has dropped.

6. Community Transport Project

NR has had a reply from the New York Villa Trust. They have turned down our application and wished us all the best. NR has emailed them for some feedback on the application.

NR is waiting for a Zoom meeting to be arranged with CSI Ross-shire. They are acutely aware of our issues and they are concerned about it and trying to help.

Information received from HTSIF regarding setting up an SCIO, which will take around 6 months. NR would like to wait until she has had the meeting with CSI Ross-shire before investigating any further. The children who are attending nursery with assistance from the COVID fund and CSI Ross-shire are really enjoying it.

7. Plan of Action

NR noted that everyone was sent the action plan in priority order.

She is working on a pro-forma for a hardship grant to come out of the COVID support grant. NR is to keep names confidential and destroy at end of financial year. It was **agreed** in this instance that it would be acceptable for NR to write a cheque to herself to hand hardship fund applicants cash. SR content as long as record kept. Councillors **agreed** £50 per application as a starting point. We think January and February may be a critical time to offer that support. It was **agreed** to rename to Emergency Support Fund. It was **agreed** to put a notice on notice board, a post on Facebook with a link to our website, and a form in the Foodbank Christmas goodie bags.

PB noticed the cycleway between the forest and the village, it could be used as a cycle path just now. NR thinks the main road path is not safe enough for children. To be reviewed. LD suggested a FB poll to decide on priorities. **Action LD/NR.**

8. History Project 2

PB explained that the funds have arrived for the new history project. The main areas are:

- drone and ground surveys of the land around to church looking for evidence of mediaeval buildings – initial imagery suggest a possible wharf to the south of the Old Manse, and some other possible structures;
- a churchyard survey (to include Preas Mairi) – which is of historical value, as well as for family history research;
- photogrammetry of the two carved stones in the church – a multi-photo technique to create an enhance image of what the stones originally looked like. It's hoped to get full-sized replicas for display at the new hall and/or the church, possibly through 3-D printing.

All this will involve working with the Contin community, and will include training and interpretation of the findings, and working with several organisations including the Applecross trust, the North of Scotland Archaeological Society, UHI, and the Highland family history society.

PB also mentioned his request to get the Mackenzie of Coul papers currently in the

National Archives in Edinburgh to be relocated in the Inverness archive centre, and will keep the CCC updated.

PB is to keep in contact with Calum Macdonald – who has stepped in as the Church's property manager.

PB will also produce a Preas Mairi info sheet to be placed outwith the mausoleum, and put into the next Contin Post.

2021 is the 200th anniversary of the construction of Coul House. The hotel is planning a year's worth of events, and the CCC is requested to please come forward with any thoughts for events and funding. PB would like to put on a version of Sir George Mackenzie's play, Helga, as a community outdoor summer pantomime.

LG mentioned the north east corner path on the island. **Action PB** to speak to WF. FW has noticed that the steps going down to the bridge, two risers broken and a bit of a dip where a board is broken. **Action NR** to ask Iain Macdonald. FW would like to thank the kind member of the Community who has been voluntarily weeding in that area.

9. Community Larder

LD updated Councillors on progress to date. The group is gathering costs and have requested a meeting with the CCT. LG noted community concern about mess. LD explained it would be run by a group of volunteers and utilise children and parent volunteers to check and clean the larder daily after school as part of an educational approach e.g. children would help grow the food in the community garden, the food goes to the fridge, waste is composted.

10. Update from CCT

LG explained how crucial he believes the relationship between CCC and CCT will be in the future. The Trust is changing its nature from being a building project to a community project in running the hall, sensitive to how community life will change

after COVID. The Trust invited the CCC to see the hall in present state. NR agreed that the community council and the community trust will require regular meetings.

LG noted that the bottle bank is a disaster area. The Foodbank ladies are fed up tidying up this area. The CCT are considering the question of where it ought to be in future.

The new hall overspend is £50k presently. This is partly to do with demolition of the two wings of the buildings and partly to do with the cost of a new stage. Items such as funding for stages and lighting could be applied for separately. HC and SSE being supportive due to COVID-related delays. LG confirmed broadband is to be installed.

NR thinks it is time for the community to come together and start to fundraise for the hall, orchard etc so that they feel that they are part of the future of shaping the hall and its environs. LG reports that the Trust have worked extraordinarily hard and it has been very demanding.

11. Comments from Members of Public

N/A

12. Correspondence

NR reported all correspondence has been forwarded to all Councillors including a consultation about tourism.

The Council has been asked to write a letter of support for Highland Woodturners. They have lost premises and had to go through the process of creating a charitable trust and are now trying to ask for community asset transfer for old Maryburgh school, some are from Contin. NR has done this. They have a Mens' Shed and Maryburgh Matters have signed up to using the same complex.

Complaints of dog mess in Tor View. IC very swiftly arranged for notices to be put up. Thanks to Ian and HC.

A microgrant application has been received from the Community Foodbank. Councillors **agreed** to the application for £250 microgrant for a Christmas goody bag. LG suggested liaising with CCT re funding. Councillors **agreed** to use the SSE microgrant for this. The Foodbank will not be running hot meals from 8th December

13.AOCB

IC discussed the boundary commission letter. There is recognition that our ward is the biggest in Europe but this re-jig puts an extra councillor into Dingwall which means that outlying villages get swallowed up with Dingwall with the risk that money will be spent in Dingwall instead of in the villages. IC has fought for a local committee to help talk to HIE and other officials with a more local voice. They are currently working on facilities for camper vans and tourists. This change also means more work for the three other councillors, with larger distances to cover. **Action IC** will provide some pointers and the CC can write. Individuals can also complain.

14.Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 2nd February 2021, 7.30pm by video conference. Please email if there are any pressing items needing an extra short meeting.

Proposed future meeting dates:

20 April, 15 June 2021 (AGM)