

Contin Community Council Annual General Meeting

By Video Conference

7.30pm on Tuesday 16 June 2020

Minutes

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Selina Rennie (SR), Lisa Daines (LD), Phil Baarda, Laurence Gunner (LG), Cllr. Ian Cockburn (IC).

Apologies: Frances Welton (FR), Gerry Lowe (GL).

Three members 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. SR proposed and NR seconded.

3. Chairperson's Annual Report

After a quiet start, it has turned into a very busy, productive year for our Community Council and one in which we have raised our profile considerably.

Firstly I would like to thank Cllr Ian Cockburn for all his help, advice and attendance at our meetings over the year. Grateful thanks also go to retiring Councillors Pam Courcha and Sid Fraser for all their hard work. Pam was institutional in getting our history project up and running. To the remaining councillors a huge thank you for keeping the Community Council running smoothly.

At the elections in November, we welcomed new Councillors Gerry Lowe, Phil Baarda and Frances Welton who join Selina Rennie, Lisa Daines, Laurence Gunner and Norma Ross. Pam is our co-opted representative on the Dingwall Medical Practice forum. There is also the prospect of another co-opted councillor joining us once we meet in public and face to face again. Things are looking up as greater numbers of councillors really enable us to do more for our community.

Projects this year, enabled by micro grants, were junior football club equipment, repairs to small bridges in Jamestown and Contin, P7 leavers party, strimming the path around the Island, Christmas presents for children, a bus feasibility study, flowers for village tubs last summer and support for the Scottish Dancing group. The Praes Mairi tidy up has not yet been completed due to difficulties obtaining access permission but we have a plan in place now.

We continue to support The Contin Post by making funding applications on their behalf and having a councillor on the team.

Our History project is almost complete and Foundation Scotland is really enthusiastic about what we have been doing and have accepted happily that it has meandered from its original brief to go with community interest and links to a Gaelic in the Landscape project. This made

use of our much loved Island Bluebell Walk, on a balmy Autumn day. We have a superb leaflet printed ready for a launch Covid 19 permitting.

At the end of 2019 the Community Council was devastated to read about the bus cuts that were being introduced to Contin. The new timetable had been sent to the Traffic Commissioner before we were aware of the problems as we had not been either informed about or consulted on by Stagecoach. Since then we have been working very hard to try and find some solutions to the cuts which have left almost no service from 10 am to 5pm each day. Funding of £5000 has been awarded for a feasibility study by Foundation Scotland along with £1500 from Highland Council, our £250 micro grant and a further £250 from Strathpeffer Community Council. We have a steering group working with our consultant Derek Halden and hope to have an initial scoping report ready by the end of this week. The next step is to inform the public through a series of meetings and online presentations.

We arranged and paid for a wreath for the Remembrance Sunday Service at the Contin Memorial. There was a good attendance with Council and Trust being represented.

The Defibrillator is checked monthly. New pads were purchased.

Covid 19 rapidly followed the bus cuts and the Community Council has worked very productively with the Contin Foodbank by helping them with funding applications to support their free food packs and a weekly meal for 62 residents within our area. The group delivering food and meals are very much appreciated by residents. Everyone says they are marvellous. Well done and thank you to them all.

Funding secured by the CC for the Foodbank is £500 from Highland Council, £500 for Northern Highland Initiative, £1000 from Ross-shire Voluntary Action and £1060 for much needed equipment from a Foundation Scotland emergency fund. The CC is funding travel costs for the volunteers. We have also written and distributed a flyer with all the help available for people in our area and initiated a sunflower competition to keep people cheerful during lockdown.

Our Facebook page and our website have been better used this year and it is clear from comments made that the village history is of interest to many people.

4. Treasurer's Submission of Financial Statement

SR presented the annual financial statement. There was a total income of £6467.30, expenditure of £5881.37 and £10384.26 is carried forward. This includes funds for other groups such as The Contin Post and the History Project. The financial statement was agreed unanimously by Councillors.

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

NR handed over to IC. All office bearers stepped down. For 2020/21 Norma Ross is Chair, proposed by LG and seconded by PB. Lisa Daines is Secretary, proposed by SR, seconded by PB. Selina Rennie is Treasurer, proposed by NR, seconded by LD.

6. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

15th June 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.55pm.