

Contin Community Council Meeting

Contin Hall

7.30 pm on Tuesday 11 February 2020

Minutes

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Selina Rennie (SR), Lisa Daines (LD), Phil Baarda (PB), Laurence Gunner (LG), Gerry Lowe (GL), Frances Welton (FW), Ian Cockburn, Councillor (IC).
3 members of the public observed the meeting.

Apologies: were received from 3 further members of the public.

1. Welcome

NR welcomed everyone.

2. Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Action IC to obtain 2 paper copies of the new constitution. NR to send the link to all.

PB proposed the previous minutes and GL seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

SR reported that there was little change since last time, apart from kind donations from the tin in the shop for the Contin Post. SR to pay the CCT 3 hours for the public meeting on 27 January.

5. Community Police Report

NR read out PC Peter Holling's report. In the period 25 October 2019 to 9 February 2020, 5 motorists have been charged with speeding and one person with another offence. One person has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal on an anti-social behaviour charge. The vehicle speed-reduction sign at the west end of the village is working.

6. Windfarm Update

NR explained that there is a vacancy for a member of the public on the Corriemoillie panel, should anyone wish to come forward. The next deadline for the Education and Training fund is the 4th March.

7. Cuts to the Bus Service Update

LG reported that he has spoken to Spa Coaches. They can offer a 15 seat bus to do 4 runs a day from Garve to Contin and Strathpeffer for £250-300 / day. It was **agreed** that this is not affordable. **Action LG** to thank Spa Coaches. LG also reported that Alness have a mini-bus

which runs on demand by volunteers and that Applecross have a community bus which charges £11.50 to run to Inverness. IC noted that these are both organised through the communities who have applied for funding themselves. To secure this kind of funding we would require business plan and a feasibility study.

NR reported that she has written to the Traffic Commissioner, who has not yet acknowledged the letter, the Transport Minister (who has acknowledged) and the Environment Minister (not acknowledged as yet). She has also written to Stagecoach again since the public meeting reiterating the public's concerns. They have responded saying that reinstating the bus to Contin would mean using an additional bus in the cycle and that would cost £100,000/year. The Chair had questioned the accuracy of their data but Stagecoach have argued that our points are only anecdotal.

A member of the public noted that they would very much like the service reinstated for one year until the community can organise an alternative option. It was also requested that the Community Council write to Stagecoach again asking how much Stagecoach were losing by running the Strathpeffer to Contin leg of the service. It was **agreed** that NR would do this and invite the Managing Director of Stagecoach Highland to a meeting along with Maree Todd, MSP. Update 24/2/20 – this meeting been agreed for the 20th March. David Beaton has responded to say *'As part of a PLC, I am not in a position to reveal specific costs or losses as these are commercially sensitive material. The Contin - Strathpeffer daytime off peak part of the route cost us a bus and a driver per year to operate. The revenue received from that section of route including concession card holders (for which we are only reimbursed a percentage of the single fare) for the whole year was less than 5% of our costs.'*

NR explained that the community is looking at a fresh enterprise and a different routeway to link local communities. IC is organising a joint meeting between Garve, Strathpeffer and hopefully Marybank. Strathpeffer has contributed towards the cost of the feasibility study and £1500 has been awarded from the Ward Discretionary Fund. NR is speaking to Foundation Scotland regarding an application for funding on 12 February. Update: Garve are unable to contribute because the development trust rules preclude anyone outside of Garve being a recipient.

Meantime, the CCC has compiled a composite bus timetable and links to the Ross-shire Voluntary Action Community Transport and Lift-Share for the Contin Post and the village noticeboard, FW kindly offered to deliver updates.

8. Contin Community Trust Update

LG reported that the CCT are very close to having the building warrant and will call a public meeting as soon as it is confirmed.

9. History Project

PB reported that the leaflet, including a Gaelic version, is in its final stages and will be ready to launch at the Smiddy on Wednesday 13 May with another walk around the island, when we will launch a place name booklet with Roddy Maclean. PB hopes to invite Harold Pridmore to the launch. Harold worked at the Smiddy during WW2.

PB is currently writing scripts based on the recordings for actors to record next week. The podcasts will be ready in the next two months.

All Councillors **agreed** for PB to write to the owner of Preas Mairi informing her that we will start work on tidying up the rhododendron in September, unless we hear before. PB has written to the owner several times with no response.

PB presented several ideas regarding the path near the bank on the bluebell walk. SR noted there is money left over from the bridge repair which could go towards this. PB is to contact the Church and farmer first. To go on next agenda.

10. Gaelic in the Landscape

Taken in point 9 above.

11. GP Liaison Group Update

Pam Courcha kindly agreed to be the CCC representative on this group. PC explained that this group, led by Dr Mack, is to meet quarterly and 11 CCs are invited to attend. There have been two meetings so far. Dr Mack is keen to engage with communities in the Dingwall Medical Centre catchment and to co-ordinate activities by networking and sharing information such as community resources, service developments and social prescribing. The next meeting is in May. Please note that Strathpeffer Medical Practice also have a Patient Participation Group.

12. Correspondence

- I. NR encouraged Councillors to complete the UHI's research into the role of Community Councils.
- II. A request has been received from a former Councillor requesting copies of all previous minutes.
- III. A letter from a member of the public regarding speed of traffic along Loch Achilty. NR has passed this to the Community Police Officer for his thoughts.

13. Comments from Members of the Public

N/a

14. AOCB

PB will kindly repair the steps into 5 Acre Wood. Update – this has been done, thank you.

15. Next Meeting Date

21 April 2020 at 7.30pm.

16. Proposed future dates

16 June 2018 – AGM and ordinary meeting