

Contin Community Council Meeting

7.30 pm on Tuesday 21 April 2020

By Telephone

Minutes

Present:

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

1 member of the public listened in on the meeting (Pam Courcha).

Apologies: Gerry Lowe (GL)

1. Welcome

NR welcomed everyone.

2. Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Cuts to Bus Service – NR reported that the feasibility study requirements had been sent out with a deadline for responses for 17 April. One response has been received. NR, David Summers of HC and Marion from Foundation Scotland will look at the response on Thursday 23rd April.

Corriemoille Wind Farm Panel – NR reported that a new panel member has been found, completing the panel.

LG proposed the previous minutes and FW seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

SR reported that the last bank statement was received on the 20 March, just short of the end of the financial year. The balance was £10846.60 with £4k approximately in the general pot and the rest in projects. We have received with thanks £269 from the Allt Dearg wind farm which has been allocated to the Contin Post fund and £71.23 from the change pot in the shop.

We have received £1500 from Highland Council and a £250 microgrant for the feasibility study. NR noted that she will ask Strathpeffer for their pledged £250 when the feasibility study bill becomes due.

There is £500 left from the bridge repair money. The EDF wind farm fund is down to £89 and SSE there is £1k left.

Nothing further received from Bòrd na Gàidhlig as yet.

5. COVID-19

- i. Additional funding from SSE

NR explained that additional funding has very kindly been offered to the CCC area by SSE, somewhere between £3-4k. We asked for ideas from the public via Facebook but didn't receive any suggestions. NR suggested that the CCC could fund the Coffee Bothy to offer free soup and sandwiches one day a week. After some discussion it transpired that the Community Foodbank are already offering this service and delivering it to homes. It was suggested that the two could liaise. **Action NR** to speak to the Coffee Bothy and the Foodbank.

PB suggested paying for taxis to take people who have no transport to the doctor, for prescriptions, to the supermarket. Another idea was to subsidise fiddle lessons with Rachel Campbell who is offering lessons online. **Update 27/4** NR spoken to Ross-shire Voluntary Action. One lady, Shona Street, is willing to take people to Doctor, collect prescriptions and do Tesco shopping as she is fully aware of the bus cuts to Contin. This information will go into the flyer. The Foodbank has been made aware. CC to pick up the costs. 01349 862431

NR further suggested creating a flyer that is delivered to every home with all the up-to-date information about local services to help support, in particular, those who are not online. We could ask the Contin Post to do a special edition for this. FW kindly offered to help deliver these. **Update – 27/4** The Contin Post team has kindly agreed to provide the community council with a special covid19 Contin Post template. CC to arrange their own flyer. The CC will do a special edition to be delivered to every home in Contin, Jamestown and Tarvie. PB and NR to work on this. FW and Rachel from Bothy kindly offered to help with leaflet distribution. Update 28/4 Jessica Cowley will do some deliveries too. We will keep these to the easier and safer ones eg Tor View. Small remuneration will be much appreciated!

If anyone has further suggestions, please email NR.

LG mentioned the Heights Hub website <https://www.heightshub.scot/>. NR thought that Contin certainly need to develop a cohesive community website and that the CCC could look at this in due course with some funding and liaison with other local partners such as the CCT.

ii. Community Foodbank

Our thanks are given to the volunteers at the Community Foodbank who are working very hard to help everyone at this time. They even took food to the firefighters at Garve during the wildfire. Lack of volunteers is an issue but generous donations have been received.

NR has applied to the Highland Council and the North Highland Initiative for grants on their behalf. IC suggested thinking long term and not spending the money quickly. It was agreed that the CC would release funds slowly in, for example, £250 chunks. NR explained that the foodbank are buying food from local suppliers including a local farmer and have been donated eggs from a local supplier. They would also order food in bulk through the local shop to help support that. **Update 27/04** both grants have been awarded.

Some concern was expressed as to how we get help to those who really need it. IC explained that systems are in place at Government level and by the Highland Council. The foodbank is on the Council's list of community support organisations. The foodbank volunteers are working hard to cover everyone who may be in need of assistance. **Update 27/04** IC has provided NR with a list of contacts for all help available form HC.

6. The History Project

i. The Bluebell Walk

PB reported that the leaflet is finished but that the launch has been postponed. An electronic version can go online first with a launch when safe to do so. PB proposed putting laminate copies on the noticeboard and by the bridge to the Bluebell Walk. All **agreed**. LG thanked PB on behalf of the community for his hard work on this project.

Regarding the path, PB is to chat to the farmer regarding the space where the stile was to come to a mutually agreeable solution. It was **agreed** that £200 would be allocated for the boards to shore up the dangerous stretch of path on the walk. PB explained that a risk assessment would be sensible, the CCC are not the owners but feels we have a duty of care as promoters of the Bluebell Walk to do regular risk assessments. PB offered to do this. PB also offered to make a small handrail for the bridge where the rope is currently.

ii. Gaelic in the Landscape

PB reported that 5 people have signed up currently. This will go ahead when safe to do so, possibly in the Autumn.

7. Correspondence

- i. NR asked Councillors to add anything of concern regarding the condition of the roads to the spreadsheet sent from Highland Council by 28th April. She has asked Vicki Ross for comments on Tor View.

8. Comments from Members of the Public

N/a

9. AOCB

LG asked for the Community Trust update to be on every agenda. He reported that work had has to stop for the moment but that the steel frame is ready to be installed once lockdown is lifted.

IC will advise regarding how to carry out an AGM virtually, if necessary. He also reminded us that, as ever, he is available to assist us with his advice and help.

10. Next Meeting Date

It was **agreed** that an extra meeting should be held in May to cover COVID-19 community support issues only. It is planned for 19 May 2020 at 7.30pm by telephone.

11. Proposed future dates

16 June 2018 – AGM and ordinary meeting