

Contin Community Council Meeting

7.30 pm on Tuesday 19 May 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).
No members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies: Gerry Lowe (GL)

1) Welcome

NR welcomed everyone to this is extra COVID-19 update meeting.

2) Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3) Community Response to COVID-19:

i. Update on actions so far:

NR reported that the Contin Post COVID-19 flyer has been delivered to all households. Thanks to all helpers including PB and FW. A name has been missed from the Contin Food Bank acknowledgements, for which we apologise.

The Sunflower seed competition has proved very popular in the community and has been a cheerful news story in the Ross-shire Journal.

NR has completed and sent in application to Foundation Scotland for £1060 for equipment to aid the Food Bank continue producing meals and meeting Highland Council food safety guidance. NR has also completed and successfully gained £1000 from Ross-shire voluntary action for the food bank. This is for the purchase of food to produce meals for 60+ residents within Contin Jamestown and Tarvie.

Discussion regarding the Food Bank resulted in agreement that this is a social need that would go beyond the short term COVID-19 crisis. **Action NR** is to reiterate our offer to pay expenses to the staff at the Food Bank and to offer to assist re money management.

ii. Fiddle lessons project

Following email suggestions from Councillors, NR contacted fiddle tutor Rachel Campbell to suggest that the first lesson would be free then three lessons for price of two. This will cost the CCC £30 per person and the recipient £30 also. Rachel to let NR know when she had 10 takers as that would be £300 – just over the microgrant level. It was **agreed** that Councillors could take part in this scheme if they wished. SR noted that we could use the SSE COVID fund as a project to reduce social isolation during lockdown.

iii. Further ideas for funding from SSE:

Suggestions from the community regarding the COVID-19 funding have largely been around gardening and composting. NR sent links to MOO Food and Zero Waste Scotland

to the interested parties for the moment. One community member was very keen to get a community garden going. NR forwarded that to the CCT as the area behind the new hall is due to be a community garden space. FW reported that her son, who is a professional gardener, is also keen to set up a community garden. It may be possible to use windfarm funding for this. Further discussion is required between different community groups.

A member of the community suggested a doorstep photo project. After discussion, all councillors were in agreement regarding donations to be sent to the CCC for the Contin Food Bank. **Update** – due to complications in organising donations etc it is proposed that this project goes ahead free as just a bit of fun for the community to remember this time by.

NR noted that more suggestions are most welcome.

4) Transport Feasibility Study

NR reported that Derek Halden of DHC is the expert who has been offered and has accepted the contract to come up with a community transport service. He has read the brief carefully and clearly knows what he is talking about. The steering group is having their first meeting with Derek on 20th May at 2pm by Google meetings or phone. Maree Todd is trying hard to join in from Edinburgh between parliamentary meetings. NR will report back afterwards. The price is a little below budget but NR would like more conversations with Contin residents included. NR hopes to get a press release out regarding this with advice from Derek.

His contact details are:

David Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1AW

Tel 0131 524 9610, email info@dhc1.co.uk, web www.dhc1.co.uk

5) Member contacts for Highland Council

LD reported that she has been asked by HC to provide member contacts with a note of whether Councillors would authorise their information to be available outwith HC. All Councillors asked that data is only shared internally with HC and not externally. **Action LD** to return information to HC.

6) AOCB

IC noted that it would be acceptable to undertake the AGM on Zoom. SR explained that the accounts would likely not be signed off by an accountant in time for the AGM. IC said that was ok.

7) Date of next meeting

16 June 2020 at 7.30pm – AGM and ordinary meeting by Zoom.