

Contin Community Council Annual General Meeting

By Video Conference

7.30pm on Tuesday 15 June 2021

Minutes

Present:

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

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

No 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 and PB proposed and SR seconded them.

3. Chairperson's Annual Report

In this extraordinary year of reporting, I feel that I firstly need to say thank you to the Contin Community Councillors, and the many groups and individuals who have provided community support during the worst of the pandemic. Contin community has responded exceptionally well and I hope this support will continue. I appreciate all the effort and time provided. Thank you.

As a Community Council we have worked in many ways, both small and large, to support our community. A tallest sunflower competition last summer, Hallowe'en village trail, a newsletter outlining all the support available, podcasts about 'What Contin means to me' postings on Facebook, and our recently upgraded website, showing the beautiful scenery around, have all kept us informed and cheerful. A free leaflet about Contin Island was delivered to everyone to encourage enjoyment of the outdoors and there are free Gaelic lessons happening at present, as is a repair to the steps leading to the Church footbridge.

We also acknowledge the support of the North Highland Initiative, Foundation Scotland, Highland Council and CSI Ross-shire, formerly Ross-shire Voluntary Action, in providing COVID support funding to our community. This funding made a significant difference during the cold winter months when we were in lockdown. We also acknowledge the support of Contin Filling Station and Contin Village Store in helping us to deliver aid to our residents. Contin Foodbank liaised with us over funding applications and we were delighted to be able to help them with that as it enabled them to provide a weekly hot meal and food parcels to those in need. The new Contin Hall has become a beneficiary of a Foundation Scotland equipment bid for the Foodbank and also of a large Fridge freezer from the North Highland Initiative. The Community Council made the funding applications. These are lasting benefits.

The business of the Community Council has been conducted successfully over Zoom with members of the public also attending some meetings.

Councillor Cockburn has attended all our meetings and has always been on email to help us solve any problems, as has our Ward Manager Dot Ferguson. Thank you to them both.

For Remembrance Sunday this year, Karen Hedges of the Food Bank group laid a wreath on our behalf at the war memorial, in recognition of the support they provided for the area. This was conducted in line with social distancing requirements.

Participation in a joint Ward 5 community council meeting hosted by the police on 18 February has meant views on issues caused by wild camping and dumping of rubbish and other waste have been heard and are being addressed with Highland Council appointing Rangers to try to educate those visiting our area. Several measures have been put in place to help and inform visitors.

Our transport feasibility study from July 2020 has been used by CSI Ross-shire to find funding for travel between Contin and Dingwall during daytime periods when no buses are running. This has slowed due to COVID restrictions but there is lots of work and some Zoom meetings going on in the background. CSI Ross-shire are also part funding and providing travel from Contin to the Strathpeffer Nursery with the Community Council paying the balance. This has enabled 3 children to take up their entitlement to nursery education which they would otherwise have missed.

A small Sharing Shed located outside Contin Village Store has been established by the Community Council, as a trial, to see how well it is being used. New Start Highland Food Hub as well as local donations are keeping it stocked. The idea is to cut down on food waste so we are encouraging everyone to use it. There is a sharing shed team helping to collect foodstuffs from the Inverness depot and ensure it is stocked and tidy. Grateful thanks to Liz at the shop for offering her premises for the location. This has been funded by a micro grant.

At the request of Contin resident and business owners a village website is underway with the aim of representing all that is available in and around Contin. We are hoping this will raise the village profile and be of benefit to business and residents alike as a one stop shop. This has been funded through a Community Council application to Foundation Scotland.

Following advice from Highland Council, the Community Council has made the decision to start a SCIO, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, as we are unable to participate in the projects that are being requested by our community. This is due to the way we are constituted. We have 4 volunteers which is more than enough to establish the SCIO. At present we are writing the constitution and receiving help and advice from HTSI - Highland Third Sector Interface. It will take about 6 months.

We are now looking forward to our Summer pantomime, Helga, written by our own councillor playwright Phil Baarda, and even more history projects!

LG offered, and IC seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chair for steering us so adroitly through this past year.

4. Treasurer's Submission of Financial Statement

SR presented the annual financial statement. There was a total income of £19525.38, expenditure of £16173.98 which is a surplus of £3351.40 and £13735.66 is carried forward. Unrestricted funds are £4011.54 and restricted £9724.12. This includes funds for other groups such as The Contin Post and the History Project. We have been busy with fundraising for COVID-19 support and this is reflected in the accounts. The financial statement was agreed unanimously by Councillors. Thanks to Melissa MacLennan of MacLennan Accountants for signing off the accounts.

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

NR handed over to IC. All office bearers stepped down. For 2021/22 Norma Ross is Chair, proposed by LG and seconded by PB. Lisa Daines is Secretary, proposed by SR, seconded by LG. Selina Rennie is Treasurer, proposed by LD, seconded by PB.

LG proposed and NR seconded PB to be the Contin Community Council representative on the Contin Community Trust.

6. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

14th June 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.45pm.