

## Contin Community Council Meeting

### By Video Conference

7.30 pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

#### 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 observed the meeting.

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**

LD explained that there was a one digit correction to the previous minutes. **Action LD** to amend and send as final minutes.

LG proposed the previous minutes and NR seconded.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

SR reported £14,966.62 in the bank account as at 19 February 2021. This includes funds from both NHI and HC. The NHI funds have been spent and there is approximately £300 left in the HC resilience fund. The SSE COVID support fund has £2125 remaining after the £500 allocation for nursery travel. **Action SR** to chase up online banking and send out a financial report.

#### **5. Community Police Report**

NR read out PC Peter Holling's report. Between 25/01/2021 and 08/03/2021 one motorist was charged with speeding offences and two others with RTA offences.

#### **6. COVID-19 Repsonse**

NR reported that funding from NHI and HC has been very well used and extremely helpful. It has been generous enough to make a real difference to people. There is about £300 left but demand has dropped so we should be just about right. Following FW's suggestion and community feedback regarding the expense of fresh fruit on a budget, 12 fresh fruit pots will be available at the local shop on 10 March as a trial. FW's other suggestion regarding cooking for a neighbour has been difficult to establish a paper trail. Councillors **agreed** to approach the Coffee Bothy to provide soup and a roll one day a week and for Rachel to

liaise with the Foodbank regarding delivery. A pay it forward scheme was also suggested.  
**Action NR.**

## **7. Community Transport**

NR presented a summary sheet by way of an update. Foundation Scotland are happy to accept a funding application, CSI Ross-shire are looking at other forms of funding, and the £500 left over from the feasibility study could go towards it. Marybank would be welcome to join if they wish. The car scheme could potentially cover Raigmore Hospital.

## **8. Starting an SCIO**

NR explained that the community has lots of projects which the CCC is not able to run under its constitution. Some form of charity is required and an SCIO, which provides protection for Directors, is one option for projects in Contin, Jamestown and Tarvie. The CC does not need to start their own company, any group in Contin can start up an SCIO.

NR asked Councillors whether the Community Council wishes to set up a SCIO. The next step would be to find members of the public who are keen to progress projects for the benefit of Contin and surrounding area. Directors don't necessarily need to live in Contin but people with financial and management skills would be required as well as those with blue sky thinking! Examples of the kinds of projects which could benefit from being run under an SCIO are The Contin Post, Community Transport, Community Website, the Foodbank, The Sharing Shed, The Community Garden Project, the cycle route from Dingwall to Aultguish project. IC confirmed that Councillors could also be Directors on the SCIO.

After discussion, in which concern was expressed about finding enough volunteers, the consensus amongst Councillors was that Contin Community Trust, as a Company Limited by Guarantee, was already operational and could potentially accept further Trustees to form sub-groups to run these projects. Councillors acknowledged the huge amount of work the current Trustees have done to deliver the new hall and the fatigue amongst the team. **Action LG** to request a meeting with the CCC and the Trustees to discuss this.

## **9. CCT Update**

LG reported that the builders are due to leave the new hall on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. The CCT have had to trim back their programme to keep in budget. There is a £75k shortfall. The CCT wish to thank Liz and Iain Kerr for helping with the water connection. The planners have now agreed that the old building doesn't impede the sightlines but have asked for the exit ramp to be raised. An AGM is to be held in May regarding the widening of scope of the CCT after the completion of the build. Two Directors will be replaced then and then two will be replaced every year per the Constitution. The bottle bank has been moved.

## **10. Correspondence**

NR explained that any relevant correspondence had been emailed to Councillors. A joint online meeting of all Ward five Community Councils took place on Thursday 18 February 2021 hosted by Highland Council. The main points from the meeting were that Highland Council will try and fund extra crews/vehicles to help keep on top of known 'hotspots' for dumped waste/overfilled roadside bins, but hopefully more people will take their rubbish to the Recycle Centres or take it home. Recycling Centres may become the place to empty

chemical waste along with existing camp sites due to the restrictions placed on Highland Council and others by SEPA. Education/leaflets/social media would all be needed to help people do the right thing with their waste. NR was not present but sent residents' concerns regarding Loch Achilty to both the HC and Forestry and Land Scotland.

HC is posting a weekly community resilience group briefing. These are very helpful and NR has used some of the information to put in the noticeboard and on FB. NR emails them to Councillors if relevant and passes on to the Trust or business folks when applicable.

#### **11. Comments by Members of the Public**

The member of the public asked when the next Contin Post is due out. NR replied the closing date for submissions is mid-April with the issue due out late April.

#### **12. AOCB**

- i. A microgrant has been used to repair further parts of the island path and small bridge. The rubber on the bridge has stretched both ways and chicken wire will be placed on top of it to prevent slips and trips. PB reported that lockdown has slowed down the repair of the path on the dyke, including a lack of sarking. This will be fixed as soon as possible.
- ii. The Sharing Shed - Liz Kerr reported that, as an interim measure, a small storage shed has been ordered for dry goods only which will be placed outside the shop and be open during the shop hours. This is to start the process of sharing food and reducing waste. A microgrant has funded this.
- iii. Whole Community Website – three quotes have been received and all businesses and groups in the village who have been contacted have indicated that they are happy to join in. Councillors discussed the quotes and agreed that an application to Foundation Scotland can be made to pay for the cost of creation of the website and the first year's running costs. After this contributions will be requested from users. **Action LG** to ask CCT regarding the previous community website and participating in this new website with an events booking page. Domain name tbc.

#### **13. Next Meeting Date**

20 April 2021 at 7.30pm.

#### **14. Proposed future dates**

15 June 2021 – AGM and ordinary meeting