

Contin Community Council Meeting

By Video Conference

7.30 pm on Tuesday 20th April 2021

Minutes

Present:

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

Tina Hartley, Community Engagement and Development Officer of Garve and District Development Company observed the meeting.

Apologies: Gerry Lowe (GL), Laurence Gunner (LG).

1. Welcome

NR welcomed everyone and we all introduced ourselves to Tina.

2. Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- The Sharing Shed is now open at the village shop. A call-out for donations and volunteers is being made. **Action LD** to chase FareShare for the provision of food.

SR proposed the previous minutes and PB seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

SR reported £13631 in the bank account as at 19 March 2021. There are a few cheques still to be cashed. SR will contact the accountant to sign them off in good time for the AGM. **Action SR** to chase up online banking and send out a financial report.

- i. Online banking – some details of the application didn't match and signatories have been asked to go into the branch and reapply. This prompts the question, should we reapply with the current signatories, remove the old signatory first and reapply or switch to a new bank. It was **agreed** to remove the old signatory first and then reapply. If that is problematic, Councillors **agreed** to try moving to a new bank.

5. Community Police Report

NR read out PC Peter Holling's report. Between 09/03/2021 and 18/04/2021 5 motorists were charged with speeding offences through the village and one for other road traffic offences.

6. COVID-19 Repsonse

NR reported that funding from NHI and HC has now run out and we have not applied for further support. After discussion, Councillors **agreed** that there doesn't seem to be the same need at present but we will keep listening to the Community and apply further if necessary.

The Foodbank are thinking of using their remaining funding to give vouchers for the shop or filling station to people who were receiving assistance. NR apologised for not moving the soup and roll idea forward as yet.

Regarding the Big Lunch idea emailed to Councillors recently, if anyone is interested in running this, please contact NR.

7. Community Transport

NR explained there is little to further report presently. CSI Ross-shire is seeking funding to cover minibus driver costs. There is potential for the bus to be used to do unscheduled trips such as to nurseries, if users are willing to cover the costs.

8. Starting an SCIO

NR spoke with Alistair Rennie, Chair of the Contin Community Trust on 29 March and received the notes of the meeting today. **Action NR** to send these out to Councillors.

Both parties recognise they serve different functions but are often on similar paths. The Trust is, understandably, not ready to take on any such project initiatives at present as there are significant works still to undertake at the hall and grounds.

NR therefore proposed to start a Village Projects SCIO run by a minimum of 3 skilled volunteer Directors. It does not have to be controlled or run by the Community Council, although the CC will likely require to make an application to Foundation Scotland for funding the cost, unless a microgrant would cover it. The CCT agree that an SCIO is a good idea to keep projects separate. Any projects on CCT land would fall under the CCT. It may fizzle out in a few years if the Trust take over projects, but it would have served its purpose. The CCC has plenty to keep us going at present.

If any Councillors are interested in being a part of this group, please email NR.

Action NR to investigate start up costs and advertise for other interested residents.

9. Summer Play

PB reported that 'Helga!' will be going ahead on 30/31 July and 1 August. PB is re-writing the play in a pantomime format. It is intended to be skills sharing and celebratory and have lots of community members involved script-in-hand. TH's kind offer to advertise in Garve was accepted. An application for funding has been made to Foundation Scotland.

10. Community Website

An application has been submitted on behalf of the community to Foundation Scotland for the village website. There is a meeting on 21 April to discuss it.

The CCT understandably wish to have their own website. SR reported that the Chair of the CCT had asked her to inform Councillors that the CCT would like a page and link on the village website. NR noted that that can be organised.

11. CCT Update

NR read out a report sent in by LG. The hall is almost ready and the Trust is looking forward to a launch party at the end of June/beginning of July. The AGM is on 3 June by videoconference. Two directors will retire at this meeting, one of whom is LG. There is, therefore, a space for one Councillor on the Trust. Please contact NR if interested.

LG suggested joint meetings of the CCC and CCT, with the first in May. After discussion, Councillors **agreed** to propose two joint meetings per year and one village forum to which the whole community is invited. **Action LD** to propose dates. **Update 23 April:** the first meeting is on **Thursday 13 May at 7.30pm** by videoconference. Other dates and agenda to follow.

12. Correspondence

Foundation Scotland have offered mental health training for the third sector, if you are interested, please contact NR.

The internal brief email sent to the CC seems to have upset some folks. It was never intended for public consumption, rather a way of letting everyone know what was happening, as so many emails were flying around. NR was particularly busy at the time so just sent a very brief report to all.

This is what was reported:

- Red phone boxes not going ahead - too complicated
- CC majority Yes to Phil's summer play
- No from the Trust to joining the Community website.
- Website Application sent to FS by CC for other interested groups.
- No from the Trust to letting the CC use the Trust as an umbrella for funding applications.
- CSi Ross shire has secured a mini bus from Highland Council, as part of their support for travel issues in Contin. They are making funding applications for drivers.
- NR has said that the just under £500 left in the transport feasibility fund can go to advertising promotional materials for any new transport availability.

13. Comments from Members of the Public

TH thanked Councillors for their warm welcome. It is good to hear some new ideas and also reassuring that we are faced with similar issues in the CCC as in Garve.

14. AOCB

NR reported that a quote for repairing the steps down to the Church bridge had come in quite expensive at £780. Nr has contacted Phil Waite at HC and he is considering a contribution.

PB asked why the Contin Post was not available online. NR explained that it was due to Child Protection. It would be nice to put it on the new website, if caution is exercised over children's data.

NR attended a Visitor Management meeting held by Police Scotland on Friday 16 April. Most CCs in the area attended. This was to gather concerns about the management of the volume of tourists this year. Police Scotland are working with lots of groups including SEPA, HC, and Forest and Land. NR raised our local concerns regarding camping and human waste at Contin Forest, Loch Achilty and Rogie Falls, including the rubbish in a layby regularly reported by a member of the community and that coaches reverse onto the main road to exit Rogie Falls. NR also raised that the volume of traffic through Contin made it increasingly difficult for villagers to cross the road.

PB provided a brief update:

- Gaelic lessons are to go ahead at the Coffee Bothy – they will be Covid-compliant, and from end May to end June;
- Geocaching at Contin Island – there are four microcaches hidden around the island, and PB suggested he could contact the cache owner to see if she could use some of the locations in the Contin place-names project for new caches;
- Place-Names of Inverness and Surrounding Area by Roddy Maclean – contact PB if you would like a copy of this fabulous, free book.

15. Next Meeting Date

15 June 2021 at 7.30pm – AGM and ordinary meeting