

Contin Community Council Meeting

By Video Conference

7.30 pm on Tuesday 24th August 2021

Minutes

Present:

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

Apologies: Gerry Lowe (GL), Ian Cockburn, Councillor (IC).

No members of the public observed, Liz Kerr sent her apologies.

1. Welcome

NR welcomed everyone.

2. Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The previous minutes were agreed, subject to the addition of LG to the list of who was present at the meeting. PB proposed the previous minutes and LG seconded them.

4. Treasurer's Report

SR reported £16738.94 in the bank account as at 20 July 2021. There is expected to be quite a lot of change in August as around £4500 predicted to come out. Zoom has been also renewed for a further year with a 20% discount. Income expected is £390 from HC towards the bridge repair and £431.52 HC annual CC fund top up. There have been no further funds received from Bòrd na Gàidhlig for the Gaelic lessons which took place in May/June. **Action SR** to update Councillors after the bank statement has arrived. NR asked and Councillors **agreed** that the £336 left over from the SSE church bridge repair money could be included in the application for the island path repairs.

- i. Online banking – It was **agreed** that Frances Welton is to be a new bank account signatory. **Action SR** to follow up.

5. Community Police Report

NR read out PC Peter Holling's report. Between 14th June and 23rd August, eight motorists have been charged with a speeding offence through the village, two for other road traffic offences, one theft by shoplifting, and one disorder.

6. Microgrant Update

NR has received a new completion form from Foundation Scotland and is expecting the microgrant top-up funding shortly. Community Council have recently funded: £250 to Rachel

Hardiman from the Coffee Bothy for the Museum project, £250 for strimming around the island path, £250 for a new defibrillator battery which should last 5 years (new pads will be needed by November), and £250 to the newly re-started Contin Baby and Toddler group for start up costs, subsidised hall rental, art supplies, and an outdoor shed. NR noted that these applications use up all the £1000 microgrant funding we receive from SSE for this financial year. This leaves us with £700 from Foundation Scotland.

After some discussion, it was **agreed** to request the Contin Baby and Toddler Group (CBTG) **not** use any of the microgrant money granted for an outdoor shed until there is a minuted decision from the CCT agreeing to it. NR reported that she had also been approached by a member of the CBTG asking whether the Community Council might fund a safety gate after a child was able to get out a door. Councillors **agreed not to fund** this, given the recent microgrant and healthy funds in the CBGT account. **Action NR** to communicate these two decisions. It is noted that Councillors are delighted that the CBGT has restarted, and that there were 26 children at the first meeting who enjoyed a musical activity.

NR also reported that she had sent Foundation Scotland an application for £8000 for the shoring up of the island path.

7. CCT Update

PB reported that there have been some bookings taken and that more CCT Directors will be working on that area to improve response times. The licensing is almost organised. It is looking positive. LG asked about the tarmac near the doorway to protect the beautiful hall floor. PB replied that it is complicated and expensive. The CCT are looking at options. It was **agreed** that CCT update no longer needs to be a standing agenda point.

8. SCIO

NR reported that help has been received from the Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI), the application form is ready and should be finalised and sent on 25 August.

9. Correspondence

NR noted that:

- Two consultations have been forwarded to Councillors to consider responding to.
- NR is to attend a meeting on 7 September with other Community Councils on Cybercrime and Scams.
- The nursery transportation is to continue a little longer until the family have moved.
- There has been a delay to the Community website due to illness.

10. Comments from Members of the Public

N/A

11. AOCB

Summer Play - It was noted that Helga! was an excellent event. It was well-attended, the weather was super and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves very much. It did, however, take a lot of hard work behind the scenes. We should consider carefully before committing to

another play next summer, though we have various aspects of our local history ripe for storytelling. Thank you to PB in particular and to everyone else who helped. **Action NR** to put on the priority list.

Remembrance Sunday - PB raised this matter. LG noted that has been in touch with Rev. Gall and they are to discuss plans on 25th August. **Action LD** to place on the agenda next time.

Preas Mairi – after discussion, it was **agreed** that PB should write to the owner’s solicitor once again before any work is undertaken. **Action PB** to email Cllr. Ian Cockburn to ask his advice on any liabilities or legal implications if a community group were to do tidying work without express permission. PB reported that he has been in touch with Historic Environment Scotland to make them aware of the situation.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig – PB reported that there is £800 spare from the Gaelic in the landscape project. PB suggested submitting a re-budgeted application for a historical trail around Contin with a leaflet and QR codes in Gaelic and English. **All agreed.**

Artist in Residence – PB reported that a filmmaker has got in touch wishing to make a feature length film in a community this autumn as an artist in residence. He proposed that, in return for circa £1k allowance for living costs, he would provide a short promotional video for the community and run a series of workshops on filmmaking for the community. After discussion, it was **agreed** that this is an interesting proposition but that further information is required and it is considered too early for the community with the ongoing COVID pandemic. Other community cohesion and healing activities may be required before this one post-pandemic. **Action PB** to respond to the filmmaker.

This lead to a brief discussion of what people might want from the Community Council for the future. A revisit to the action plan will be necessary in the coming months.

Education and Training Fund – NR noted evidence of a lack of engagement and uptake in the Contin area with this fund. SSE suggested a survey might be helpful, Councillors **agreed. Action NR** to reply to SSE.

History Project and Graveyard – PB reported that this project has been in abeyance since the discovery of the new stones, COVID has made moving forward more difficult. The drone survey has been completed and next is a plan to pinpoint each grave marked and record each one spatially. An article is due to be in the Ross-shire Journal shortly.

Next Meeting Date

26 October 2021

14 December 2021

15 February 2022

26 April 2022

14 June 2022 – AGM and ordinary meeting