

Contin Community Council Meeting

By Video Conference

7.30 pm on Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Minutes

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Lisa Daines (LD), Laurence Gunner (LG), Frances Welton (FW), Ian Cockburn, Councillor (IC).

2 members of the public observed the meeting.

Apologies: Gerry Lowe (GL), Selina Rennie (SR), Phil Baarda (PB).

1. Welcome

NR welcomed everyone.

2. Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Under matters arising NR reported that:

- the microgrant top-up was now in the bank account;
- that Community Police had suggested HC Road Safety Dept might hold the information on accidents we are seeking;
- feedback from the New York Villa Trust suggested that our application had been very good and they wished us well;
- CSI Ross-shire is keen to help with the community car scheme but lockdown has prevented action.

LD explained that the Facebook poll on the Action Plan is still to be done at a more appropriate time.

FW proposed the previous minutes and LG seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

NR reported, on SR's behalf, that the bank balance to the 20th Jan 2021 is £13,903.26 with £582.70 still to come out. We still have £2,126.13 in the Covid fund although £500 of this is allocated to the nursery travel costs. This leaves just over £1600 in the Covid pot. SR will chase up the online banking.

5. Community Police Report

NR read out PC Peter Holling's report. Between 30/11/20 to 24/01/21 one motorist was charged with speeding offences. The roads are quieter due to lockdown. NR reported that

the speed reduction lights are both in working order presently. The positioning of the lights was dictated by the electricity supply.

6. COVID-19 Repsonse

NR reported that the initial £400 of support which we set up from the SSE funding has all been used. A survey was posted on Facebook asking what people would find helpful in terms of support. Only 1 person responded but did confirm the support we are providing is what is wanted, which is help with fuel and food costs.

We have been awarded £1000 of funding from the North Highland Initiative (NHI) COVID Response fund. We have agreed a set of criteria to use to ensure a paper trail for audit. £700 has already been distributed, providing support for a number of households.

We have just been awarded £1500 from the Highland Council COVID response fund. This will enable us to continue the much needed support already in place through the NHI.

7. Starting an SCIO

NR explained that Community Councils are not permitted to apply for funding for projects. One option to move our current community projects forward is the formation of a charity. Councillors were directed to a comparison sheet from OSCR on the common types of legal form used by Scottish charities. After brief discussion it was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. **Action LD.**

8. History Project Update

NR presented an update from PB. There is little to report due to lockdown. PB and NR participated in a Zoom meeting with Dan Lee, Lifelong Learning & Outreach Archaeologist, Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA), Archaeology Institute University of the Highlands and Islands and agreed to start with a drone and ground survey concentrating on the possible wharf area as that would create community involvement. The funding has arrived from Foundation Scotland. There has been no further progression with Preas Mairi.

9. CCT Update

LG reported that the hall is expected to handed over by the contractors on the 28th February, though it won't be quite ready due to COVID-related delays. It is even better than the Trust had hoped for. The water supply is expected to be installed in the next two weeks, though a camera survey is to be done on the drains. The solar panels are already generating electricity and cash through the FITS scheme! It is hoped that an opening ceremony can take place in the summer. The Trust is aiming to consult with the public after Easter. There are also major decisions regarding the old hall, the bowling room, the school house and the bottle banks still to be taken. LG will write an article for the Contin Post.

NR thanked LG and the noted CCC will think about where it can help the Trust. There is possibly funding available from NHI for infrastructure e.g. bins.

10. Correspondence

NR explained that any relevant correspondence had been emailed to Councillors.

11. Comments by Members of the Public

A member of the public thanked the CCC for all their hard work, noting that they have hopes and concerns for the future and hoping that a can-do attitude can be developed for the community.

12. AOCB

NR and LD met with Fair Start Scotland today. They work with unemployed people to aid return into long term, sustainable employment. They will send us information to pass on.

LD wondered whether an online blether session, such as that promoted by the Garve & District Development Company, might be of benefit to our community currently.

13. Next Meeting Date

9 March 2021 at 7.30pm.

14. Proposed future dates

20 April, 15 June 2021 – AGM and ordinary meeting