

Contin Community Council Meeting

7.30 pm on Tuesday, 24 August 2022, Contin Hall

Minutes

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Lisa Daines (LD), Phil Baarda (PB), Laurence Gunner (LG), Gerry Lowe (GL), Frances Welton (FW), Liz Kraft, Councillor (EK).

One member of the public.

Apologies: Selina Rennie (SR).

1. Welcome

NR welcomed everyone.

2. Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Matters arising: NR wrote to Dingwall Police Station regarding the Community Police Officer. EK gave NR an email address to try.

PB has chased HC re the grant payment.

War Memorial – NR and LG are working on trying to get the grass levelled. **Action NR** to contact HC.

The island walk leaflets have been delivered and some distributed to the Hotel and Shop.

PB proposed and FW seconded the minutes of the previous meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

NR reported on SR's behalf that the bank balance as at 20 Aug 22 was £13,648.92. The report sent to Councillors has been split into different restricted fund pots.

The bridge to the island has a loose step and a broken board. **Action PB** to speak to Ronnie Gall.

Bus feasibility £448 left in this pot.

5. Transport Issues

EK updated and reminded Councillors that a feasibility study was done in 2020 looking at the need for local transport. It was named in the Council budget plan as due to receive funds. EK met with the Transport Officer and discussed that the study looked at rural transport solutions and connectivity, not public transport. The study highlighted the lack of flexibility. The availability of vehicles and the feasibility study are to be reconsidered. There is a question over the monthly commitment which may not be popular. EK suggested

consideration be given to e.g a capital start up and ongoing funding instead. Action EK and NR to contact the CJT Projects (SCIO) as the CCC can't hold funds. There is potential to extend the bus service to paying tourists to generate income.

6. Wester Ross Roads Meeting

This has been postponed to the 15th September. NR has passed our concerns to Kenny from Garve e.g. a crossing, Bear to do a speed survey, and speeding.

7. ICO Bill

NR reported that this has been paid.

8. Energy Saving Project

There is a meeting on the 12 September in the Contin Hall. It is hoped that a representative from Home Energy Scotland and a community representative will attend. There is £2000 identified in the budget for community support for keeping warm in the winter. NR is creating a proforma to assess what assistance might be required e.g. pressure cookers, slow cookers, microwaves, blankets, hot water bottles.

9. Correspondence

- i. Have Your Say Highland Consultation
NR sent to Councillors and it has been posted on Facebook for the public.
- ii. Village Consultation SSE Fairburn
There is no funding accessible from this fund, other than the microgrant, presently as it was drawn down to fund the hall build. We have been asked by SSE Fairburn if we would like to do a consultation as it is a long time since any group has held one. It will cost about £7000 which will come out of our element of the fund. Councillors thought this was expensive. To be discussed next time.
- iii. SSE Fairburn Wind Farm Panel
The wind farm panel is looking for a new community council panel member. NR is happy to remain on the panel until the new council elections.
- iv. Period Poverty
LD filled in this survey and returned to Highland Council.

10. AOCB

Email in re play parks from HC, there are funding streams opening for this. Is the football pitch owned by the community? Where should we have a play park?

The Community Trust AGM is on 1st September. There has been a report and quote for a soundproofer and/or a dividing wall. EK suggests some divider boards as an interim solution.

Allt Dearg wind farm have kindly given us a cheque for £2302. They asked for a report as to how the money has been spent so far. NR reported that we have supported the

Contin Post and we have identified the rest to help people out over the winter. It is possible we could use this money to organise a community survey.

If anyone wishes to assist with anything to do with Ukrainian refugees locally, please contact Dot Ferguson at Highland Council.

PB reported that Ronnie Gall, the minister, wishes to have more events held at the Church. An idea to have a music festival in Contin next summer has been discussed between PB and Ronnie.

11. Comments from Members of the Public

PC raised issue of energy saving and is concerned to make sure people have a choice of what they need and how we present matters.

12. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 7.30pm in Contin Hall .