

Contin Community Council Meeting

7.30 pm on Tuesday, 26 October 2022, By Videoconference

Minutes

Present:

Norma Ross (NR), Selina Rennie (SR), Lisa Daines (LD), Phil Baarda (PB), Liz Kraft, Councillor (EK).

One member of the public (PC).

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

1. Welcome

NR welcomed everyone. This meeting has had to be moved online due to COVID-19.

2. Expressions of Interest

No expressions of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Matters arising:

NR reported that the Community Police Officer is still in post, it was the email which had stopped working and is now fixed.

NR and LG are working on the war memorial but there is no further action to report so far.

Bridge to island - PB has spoken to Ronnie Gall including concern about overhanging branches around the island.

Bus feasibility study – see later, NR and EK to meet with CJT Projects to see what can be done to progress further.

The roads meeting has happened and outcomes sent out to Councillors.

SSE Fairburn wind farm panel - a community member has kindly agreed to sit on this panel.

Play park – CJT Projects are looking into this.

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

4. Treasurer's Report

SR reported that, as at 20 September, the bank balance is £16358.79.

It was **agreed** that the £400 for strimming the island path should come out of the island path repair fund, the polling money pot and then the remainder from each microgrant pot. **Action: NR** to speak to the Church as the CCC will struggle to continue to spend on this path.

SR reported that funds from Allt Dearg have been received. NR has reported to Allt Dearg and they were content for funds to go towards winter resilience.

Action: SR to chase up end of year accounts.

5. Community Priority List

NR has updated the community priority list for Councillors to discuss. Councillors had nothing further to add at this point. NR invited Councillors to contact her to add any suggestions. PC noted all the work that a small group of people are undertaking on this list of priorities. How can this be fed back to the public? Councillors **agreed** to a) ask for ideas from other groups e.g the Trust, Football Team, Church, Toddlers b) condense this for the Contin Post (now approaching £300 per issue) c) put a copy on the community notice board.

6. Winter Funding Support

NR has so far used the SSE fund, which is all almost spent and paperwork almost ready. NR would like to have some money allocated for further winter support in case of emergencies and would like to leave the HC money for that. All in agreement. See also point 12.

7. Community Transport Progress Update

EK reported that she has been in touch with Dave Summers. He is happy to draw on the capital funding; the issue is around revenue funding and sustainability. HC are loathe to invest if projects are lacking sustainability. EK has been speaking to Garve and District Development Company (GDDC). It has funding and any transport East from Garve has to come through Contin. GDDC is looking at an app to book it on with differentiated payment potentially. Contin CC is more than willing to work with Garve over this as residents from Garve, Contin and Strathpeffer would be the beneficiaries. EK will keep us updated. Note that the Shopmobility bus is currently going to Garve to Dingwall every fortnight and could pick up people from Contin as well. This will take door to door. Maree Todd asked Jenny Gilruth about concessionary travel and licences. Update: see attached letter from Jenny Gilruth. For Contin the conclusion would be that a bus with a section 22 operating licence would be best as it would enable concessionary travel cards to be used.

8. Microgrants Update

The annual return form from Foundation Scotland is due and the application to SSE for further funding and a summary of what has been spent from the last claim is to be done.

Action: NR to liaise with SR re what to put in each pot. All **agreed** a microgrant for £60 for the compost and plants for the pots on the corner of the A832.

9. Website Update

This project is ongoing. The arrangement seems to be that, rather than our website moving over, there will be a link on the new community website to our current Community Council website. Therefore, £103 per year should be allowed for this; it has been paid for 2022-23.

10. Contin Island Survey

PB asked for agreement to pursue funding from wind farm funds towards geophysical surveys in the fields around Contin Church to look for structures in the ground in case Contin has been a centre for St Maelrubha. This will include community training days and talks. If something is found, then a second phase will be fundraised for. An expression of interest

has been put into an Historic Environment Scotland (HES) fund, they are keen for us to pursue it. We have £2k from the current History project from Foundation Scotland and would require £2.5k from another application, with HES providing the rest. Councillors **agreed** to support and application and that there were sufficient funds in the EDF fund, if the application is kept below £3k. We must be mindful of Community Council Elections in autumn next year.

11. SSE Village Consultation

Following the last meeting, NR communicated our feeling (that £7k was too high a proportion of our allocated funds to use) to SSE. Our contact there has changed jobs so we are awaiting a new contact. Liz Kerr is the new community representative on the panel. Councillors made no further comment on this issue.

12. Home Energy Saving Project

Following a successful presentation from Home Energy Scotland (HES) at the meeting on 12 September we have spent all the allocated fund of £1981 on the following:

12 Air Fryers	3 Pressure Cookers	1 Electric Blanket
1 Microwave	1 Slow Cooker	7 Hot Water Bottles
9 Single Duvets	16 Double Duvets	4 King Size Duvets
3 Single Fleece Blankets	6 Double Fleece Blankets	5 King Size Fleece Blankets

Dr John Heathcote was present at the meeting and we have already made two visits to households. John is making an application to be an energy assessor and HES says they will use in Contin him once qualified.

Several residents have contacted HES. They have been slow to respond as they have been inundated, but the feedback is that they are extremely helpful once they do call.

We were also recently mentioned on BBC Alba with a comment on what we were doing in Contin to help keep people warm and help reduce costs.

13. Correspondence

- i. Between 25/04/2022 and 23/10/2022 4 motorists were charged with speeding offences and 2 for other road traffic offences in the village. 1 reported incident of theft is currently under investigation. 1 reported incident of disorder detected and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The Police are checking round the hall regularly when they can.
- ii. On Yir bike cycle path project in Garve - lots of info on website – GDDC are keen to keep us informed. NR has put a post on our Facebook page.
- iii. A request for information about the area from a French family who are coming to live in Contin next Spring has been received. NR is creating a package with assistance from EK and PB.

14. AOCB

GL submitted a question in his absence regarding the Jubilee tree in the community garden. The project is no further forward. He is concerned about making COVID vaccinations available locally. John Heathcote called Bear Scotland about blocked

gullies and they have been swept. The road has been resurfaced, speed recorders are currently installed.

15. Comments from Members of the Public

PC asked about Bear Scotland measuring traffic, is it counting vehicles or speed? We think both. She also asked how more people can be encouraged to join the CCC or other community groups.

16. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday 7th December 2022 at 7.30pm in Contin Hall.