

Contin Community Council Inaugural Meeting

Contin Hall, 19:30 Wednesday 01 November 2023

Minutes

Attendance

Councillors

Norma Ross (NR), Phil Baarda (PB), Simon Bates (SB), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB), Frances Welton (FW), John Heathcote (JH).

Apologies from Ronald Gall (RG), Liz Kraft (EK)

Lisa Daines (formerly Secretary) attended as a member of the public and took the Chair in the absence of EK.

Overview of scheme of establishment

The Scheme of establishment and links to training videos had been circulated previously and were taken as read.

Appointment of Office Bearers

Chair – Norma Ross, proposed FW, seconded PB

Secretary – John Heathcote, proposed NR, seconded FW

Treasurer – Simon Bates, proposed NR, seconded JH

Handover of Secretary and Treasurer will be arranged after the meeting.

Associate membership

After discussion, it was agreed by all that we should 'settle in' as a Council before considering the appointment of Associate members. Therefore, none were appointed.

Future meeting dates

It was identified that Tuesdays were the most convenient day for members present. There is a requirement for six meetings a year, plus an AGM some time between 01 April and 30 June. Three meetings will have been held so far this year (including the one following this meeting).

Provisional dates, to be confirmed once room bookings have been made, are:

- Tuesday 05 December 2023
- Tuesday 06 February 2024
- Tuesday 16 April 2024
- Tuesday 11 June 2024, AGM and first meeting of the following year.

There being no other competent business, the meeting closed at 20:00.

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting

Contin Hall, 20:00 Wednesday 01 November 2023

Minutes

Welcome and apologies

Present: Norma Ross (NR, Chair), John Heathcote (JH, Secretary), Simon Bates (SB, Treasurer), Frances Welton (FW), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB). Cllr Liz Kraft (EK) joined the meeting later.

Apologies: Ronald Gall.

NR recorded thanks to retiring Council members Lisa Daines, Selina Rennie, Laurence Gunner and Jerry Lowe. Appropriate gifts ~£25 are being arranged.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, proposed PB seconded NR

Matters arising

Coul Beag right-of-way diversion is progressing.

Arrangements are being made for a temporary pathway to the War Memorial for the Remembrance Day service.

The rubbish in the War Memorial area has been cleared. There are several dead elm trees requiring removal, but it is unclear who owns the land.

Implementation of the 20 mph speed limit is on hold, pending The Highland Council (THC) obtaining the necessary signs, although some work has started.

Police report

The police report from 8 August to 31 October records:

- 4 motorists charged with speeding offences through the village;
- 3 motorists charged with other Road Traffic offences
- 1 incident of breach of the peace.

Finance update

The finance update had been circulated.

Money currently available from Allt Dearg is £11 397. The amount of money varies with generation and is not guaranteed. There is no restriction on its use.

£2000 is ring-fenced for seating at the Village Hall and £240 for 'fruit' trees.

£107 remains for Gàidhlig to be spent by PB. **Action PB 2301-01.**

Contin Forest Parking charges

NR updated the meeting on this. Although Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) had indicated that the proposal to charge for car parking would be dropped, standard FLS policy was to charge for car park with toilet facilities and therefore charging would be put in place. Paul Hibberd from FLS will attend a CC meeting to explain this, dates to be notified to him. **Action NR 2301-02.**

Bank account

Need to remove Selina and add SB because of change of Treasurer. Current signatories are NR, FW and Selina Rennie.

SB then to progress on-line banking and change of address with RBS. **Actions SB 2302-03,4,5**

Release of funds to Contin Trust for seating and trees

We wish to see a plan and details for how the money will be spent before releasing funds. In particular, will the seating be adequately vandal-resistant? Anne Fraser's son to be asked for advice on types of tree. **Action NR 2301-06**

Best Dates for meetings/ Hall availability

Best dates are Tuesdays. **Action JH to sort dates as discussed during Inaugural meeting. 2301-07**

AOCB

JRB raised a problem with a hedge overlapping and obstructing the pavement by the chippy. NR identified that this is BEAR Scotland's problem to address and will advise them. **Action NR 2301-08.**

A redundant sign-post is likely to remain, since removing it is likely to create a bigger hazard.

JRB noted a near miss at the A934/A835 junction. JH has since inspected the junction and will raise with THC.

The footbridge to the island needs some netting because it is slippery, and in general it needs some TLC. It is owned by the church.

The small bridge on the island has been washed out of place by recent flooding. Re-instating it is not a simple job. Responsibility is with the church or Willie Fraser as tenant. The job is probably within the capability of Ian Macdonald. We need a discussion with Rev. Ronnie Gall about how the responsibilities for island repairs are delegated and paid for. The CC may be able to help but cannot bear the full burden of responsibility. **Action NR+ JRB to progress 2301-09.**

JH raised an open consultation on local democracy, for discussion at the next meeting. Closure date 28 February 2024 <https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/democracy-matters/> . We are encouraged to base our response on the results of a community discussion and there is up to £300 funding available to support this.

JH raised the matter of a Local Plan as part of the next regional development plan cycle. The deadline is September 2024. This is a big task and we are likely to require consultant support. Planning Advice Scotland is a possible source. It was considered reasonable to use ~£7k of funding from Fairburn for this. **Action NR to contact ward manager 2302-10**

PB will circulate the report on the recent work on the history of the island and put on-line. **Action PB 2301-11.**

The meeting closed 21:15.