

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting v0.0

19:45 Wednesday 12 June 2024

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: John Heathcote (JH, Acting Chair, Secretary), Simon Bates (SB, Treasurer), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB), Frances Welton (FW), Cllr Liz Kraft (LK).

Apologies: Norma Ross (NR), Phil Baarda (PB).

No members of the public were present.

2. Declaration of interests

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, proposed FW seconded JRB.

See updated action list for progress.

A police report will be provided only if there is something to report.

4. Finance update

The finance update had been circulated.

- Allt Dearg Hydro Project income £6K is scheduled but not received. However, Miranda Wharam (chair of the Highland Community Energy Society (HCES), which manages the fund, and chair of the Strathpeffer Community Development Trust (SCDT), which passes us an allocation) has asked if we could donate our £6K, along with Strathpeffer's £6K, to Phase 2 of the Strathpeffer Community Park project. See 12 below.
- EDF Microgrants: £36 Contin Hall Children's Emergency First Aid.
- SSE Microgrants: £250 Contin Community Trust Summer Gala (Food).

5. Police report

Nothing reported.

6. Local and Area Place Plans

- TOR produced for project to ensure active members are on the same page.
- Article written for Contin Post and delivered beginning May.
- Survey Questionnaire responses received:
 - 13 On-line
 - 13 Hand-written
- Assistance provided by Wester Ross Biosphere to use their Survey Monkey subscription and help to resource any follow-up community drop-in session at Contin Hall, if necessary (probably not).
- Attached questionnaire results summary document. The top 5 issues are:
 1. Contin bar/café community meeting place
 2. Contin pedestrian crossing.

3. Cycle routes/hub
4. Replacing old school buildings.
5. New play park.

7. Telephone changes

Openreach plan to discontinue the operation of the current telephone network, replacing it with Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). This will use current wire or fibre connections. However, since electricity is required to work the router, it will not work during a power cut. The wireless phones that many people have are similarly useless when there is no power to the base station.

The switchover to VOIP has been postponed to February 2026.

Concerns remain about communications during a widespread power failure, when VOIP will not work. Not all mobile masts have standby power either. This is a Highland-wide issue and LK was asked to raise the matter with THC. **Action 2406-01 LK**

8. Flooding potentially vulnerable areas and SEPA consultation

J R-B has visited a number of potentially vulnerable properties. Flooding of gardens happens but no flooding of property was reported. There was no general concern about flooding. The island remains the most vulnerable area.

There was nothing to suggest that SEPA's assessment of risk and its future strategy was inappropriate. **Action 2406-02 JH to respond to SEPA.**

9. Road flooding

JH inspected gullies during recent wet weather. 8 blocked gullies and 10 in need of attention have been reported to BEAR Scotland. Also 4 locations where water spills from the road into private property. Maree Todd MSP has been notified and is following up. JH to supply spill locations to LK. **Action 2406-03 JH.**

Meeting still to be arranged concerning Coul Road. Issues are who owns it, who pays, and what is best to do. Although repair is not a Council responsibility, JH hopes that they may provide advice. LK to see what she can find out about ownership. **Action 2406-04 LK.**

Action 2304-03 – LK to arrange a site meeting is outstanding. This meeting will involve Roads only at this stage.

The Contin Mill Lade is clearly critical to draining part of Contin and it is unclear who is responsible for maintenance work that is needed on an ongoing basis.

10. Pylons

JH continues to liaise with Better Cable Route and neighbouring Community Councils and presented a progress report.

SSEN has now issued more detailed routes for consideration, that are now nearly final. All of the routes pass close to at least one property, recognised by SSEN, and therefore none are acceptable.

Contin CC is minded to join with others in objecting to the current proposals, since it seems to be impossible to convince SSEN to engage in true dialogue.

There are UK-national issues involved within the competency of the Westminster Parliament. A hustings with Parliamentary candidates is arranged for 28 June.

11. Highland and Islands climate hub

Item deferred.

12. Play park funding

Strathpeffer has requested help with funding the next phase of the play park. Although it is unlikely that Contin children will use the park un-supervised, it is used by the children during school time. It was decided to support the request from Strathpeffer to contribute Contin's Allt Dearg 2024 allocation of £6K to the Strathpeffer Playpark Phase 2 Project. We hope that they will reciprocate when our playpark gets the overhaul it desperately needs, as identified by Contin's emerging LPP.

13. A plan for 'the triangle'

Now that the dead trees have been removed by the Council, there is the opportunity to develop the area. **Action 2406-05 PB and RG to develop ideas for discussion at the next meeting.**

14. Status of Dawn Westwood and Jon Thompson

It was clarified that their status was as Associate Members (i.e. non-voting), under Clause 5.5 of the Scheme of Establishment.

15. Correspondence received

- a) Neighbourhood eco-system fund. NR/JH/PB decided that we had no issues that would benefit from funding from this source.
- b) SEN Community Fund. This requires additional thought and was deferred to the next meeting.

16. Comments from the public

None

17. Any other competent business

PB is needing offers of support for running the village play. There was also a question about who owns Munro Park, and therefore to whom should an application to park cars for the play be made?

Who owns the car-park for the hall?

18. Date of next meeting

The primary purpose of the next meeting will be to resolve the vacancy for the Chair. The meeting will be Tuesday 13 August, date to be confirmed.

End of meeting

The meeting closed 22:00.

Summary of actions

Action	By whom	What	Status
2301-01	PB	Spend balance of £107 in Gàidhlig fund	Ongoing
2304-01	JH	Follow up missing police reports	Complete
2304-02	JRB/JH	Make contact with householders at risk of fluvial flooding	Complete
2304-03	LK	Organise a site meeting about Coul Road drainage	Ongoing
2406-01	LK	To raise the issue of power cuts and phone lines with THC	New action
2406-02	JH	To respond to the SEPA consultation on flood risk	New action
2406-03	JH	To supply road drainage spill locations to LK	New action
2406-04	LK	To find out about ownership of Coul Road	New action
2406-05	PB/RG	To bring ideas for the future of the triangle to the next meeting	New action