

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting v1.0

19:30 Tuesday 13 August 2024

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Norma Ross (NR), John Heathcote (JH, Secretary), Simon Bates (SB, Treasurer), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB), Cllr Liz Kraft (LK). The meeting was chaired by NR.

Apologies: Frances Welton (FW), Phil Baarda (PB).

Daniel Still attended as a possible representative.

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 RG seconded SB.

See updated action list for progress.

4. Finance update

Key points of interest, since last update, are:

- Strathpeffer Play Park Phase 2 donation from Allt Dearg fund, equal to latest contribution to us, of £6,000;
- FS EDF Archaeology Grant of £3,000 & SSE Archaeology Grant of £5,000;
- FS EDF Summer Play Grant of £3,000 received and now spent, all bar £3.73;
- Local Place Plan (LPP) Flyer Printing & Delivery £121.46 + Room Booking £19.50 = £140.96;
- Old RBS bank account now closed with £14.44 interest passed to new BOS account.

5. Council membership and roles

NR will remain as Chair. This appointment was proposed JH, seconded PB. JH will deputise if necessary. JH will update THC records. **Action JH 2408-01**

Should JH be unable to attend a meeting as Secretary, the Chair will nominate someone to make a record of the meeting.

Maximum number of Councillors to be clarified. **Action JH 2408-02.**

6. Police report

Nothing reported.

7. Speed limits in Contin and Jamestown

Feedback has been received from The Highland Council on the experimental 20 mph limit through Contin and on this basis it will become permanent.

The issue of the 40 mph limit around the Jamestown bends on the A834 (with a pedestrian crossing point) and in the settlement was raised. LK will investigate reducing the speed limit on the A834 to 30 mph, and 20 mph within the settlement. Action LK 2408-03 to investigate speed-limits in Jamestown.

8. Highlands and Islands Climate Hub

JH has reviewed the web-site and the appropriate organisation to join is Contin, Jamestown and Tarvie Projects, or individuals. Action – JH to raise with Liz Kerr, **Action LK 2408-04**.

9. Play park funding

Contin CC has donated £6k towards the Strathpeffer play-park.

It has been agreed that Strathpeffer will reciprocate once arrangements are in place to upgrade Contin's facilities, as identified in the developing LPP.

10. A plan for the Triangle (the land enclosed by the A834-A835 road junction and including the War Memorial and Millenium Stone)

RG and PB have inspected the Triangle and had submitted a report. Further work is needed and there is the issue of ongoing maintenance, which has been limited to grass-cutting. PB will request a meeting with THC officials about necessary works, future maintenance and possible financial assistance with future planting. RG will make the necessary applications for financial assistance.

Actions PB 2408-05, RG 2408-06.

Also noted that the lettering on the Millenium Stone requires restoration, and the War Memorial needs maintenance, for which THC may be responsible. **Action 2408-07 NR** to ask LK about this.

11. A plan for a spending plan

Contin has access to money from wind farms and from the Allt Dearg hydro scheme. We need to plan how to spend this money for the benefit of the community. A separate exercise will be needed once the priorities of the Local Place Plan have been agreed, and will involve Contin, Jamestown and Tarvie Projects.

12. Pylons and wind farms

JH continues to liaise with Better Cable Route and neighbouring Community Councils. A hustings on electricity matters was held before the general election, and representative from Community Councils have since met our new MP, Jamie Stone.

Feedback is awaited on SSEN's latest consultation on the proposed, near-final, pylon route.

It is noted that SSEN has not yet commenced the application process, so there are no grounds for formal comment or objection, and a time-table has been requested.

Contin CC has responded to the scoping request for the revised Tarvie wind farm. The formal position on Tarvie is that the Community Council is neither for nor against the proposal, since there is no settled community view. Council members are, however, free to express their personal opinions.

13. Relationships with Contin Community Trust and Contin, Jamestown and Tarvie Projects

Contin Community Trust owns the village hall, the old village hall and school buildings, and the associated field and car parking. Several Contin CC members have joined as members of the Trust and will attend the AGM.

Contin, Jamestown and Tarvie Projects is the Community Council's 'executive arm' to do things that we are not empowered to do. NR serves as the link.

As The Contin Post is an un-constituted group it is unable to apply for funding from the local wind farm funds. A Community Councillor makes a funding application on their behalf so that the Community Newspaper is able to be distributed free to all residents. It is run solely by the Contin Post Team.

14. Correspondence received, noted here for the record

- a. Letter of thanks from Strathpeffer Community Park.
- b. Whole family well-being workshops – no action.
- c. Community wealth-building strategy – no action.
- d. SSEN Community Fund – the conditions attached were such that funding could be obtained only for 'shovel-ready' projects, so no action possible.
- e. Letter of support issued to Contin Community Trust re. re-development of the old village hall site, subject to consultation. Confirmed that the Trust owns the site including car-park.

14. Comments from the public

None

15. Any other competent business

None

16. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 15 October

Tuesday 10 December

Tuesday 11 February 2025

Tuesday 8 April

Wednesday 11 June AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting

End of meeting

The meeting closed 20:30.

Summary of actions

Action	By whom	What	Status
2301-01	PB	Spend balance of £107 in Gàidhlig fund	Ongoing
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	Complete, now with Maree Todd
2406-02	JH	To respond to the SEPA consultation on flood risk	Complete
2406-03	JH	To supply road drainage spill locations to LK	Complete
2406-04	LK	To find out about ownership of Coul Road	Ongoing
2406-05	PB/RG	To bring ideas for the future of the triangle to the next meeting	Complete
2408-01	JH	Update THC Officer records	New
2408-02	JH	Clarify membership constraints for Contin CC	New
2408-03	LK	Investigate change of speed limits through Jamestown	New
2408-04	JH	Liaise with Liz Kerr re. Climate Action Hub	New
2408-05	PB	Request meeting with THC over works and maintenance at the triangle	New
2408-06	RG	Make application for funding for triangle works	New
2408-07	NR	Maintenance of War Memorial	New