

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting v1

19:30 Tuesday 15 October 2024

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Norma Ross (NR), John Heathcote (JH, Secretary), Simon Bates (SB, Treasurer), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB), Frances Welton (FW), Daniel Still (DS).

Apologies: Phil Baarda (PB), Liz Kraft (LK).

1 member of the public was present.

2. Declaration of interests

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes amended to record that NR as Chair was proposed JH, seconded SB.

The amended minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, proposed RG seconded SB.

See updated action list for progress.

PB is chasing on the Triangle but no response so far

NR identified that it was The Highland Council who are responsible for the War Memorial.

20 mph limit in Jamestown will be progressed, A834 through Jamestown seems to be a possibility but needs some pressure in a different place.

4. Finance update

Key points of interest, since last update, are:

- LPP costs of £224.26
- Spanglefish web hosting
- Poppy wreath
- Micro-grants for Hallowe'en party and Seniors' festive lunch.

5. Acceptance of annual accounts

SB presented the audited annual accounts. These were accepted, proposed RG, seconded FW.

6. Council membership and roles

JH has read the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils carefully. It is completely unclear as written, since it refers to 'maximum number of Councillors', which term is not defined. The intent appears to be that:

- At least 4 voting Councillors are needed to form a Council and we must notify THC if the number falls below this;
- The number of voting Councillors (selected/elected/co-opted) cannot exceed 7 for Contin;
- Co-opted members cannot vote on co-options, and cannot exceed more than half the Council (3 in our case) (so a *coup* is not possible);

- There is no limit on Associate Members and we are encouraged to have as many as are needed to make sure that relevant interests are represented. They have no voting rights.

Associate members are expected to contribute to the discussions and thereby contribute to decision-making. The absence of a vote is unlikely to be significant in practice.

Daniel Still was appointed as an Associate Member of the Council, proposed JH, seconded NR, SG.

7. Police report and traffic speeds

Four road traffic offences (none speeding) have been reported since the previous meeting.

The A835 through Contin has now been marked with 20 mph roundels and all necessary signage is in place. The 30 mph warning sign at the south end of the village cannot be adjusted to 20 mph and needs to be replaced. Since Contin CC paid for this originally, it is unclear who is responsible for replacing it.

Craigdarroch Drive residents have raised the issue that the junction of the drive is outwith the 40 mph limit and children wait for the school bus on the corner, with passing traffic at 60 mph.

A statement of Police Scotland policy on speeding enforcement has been received and is reproduced in The Contin Post.

8. LPP update

A presentation of the draft plan was made on 29 August in Contin Hall; ~30 members of the public attended. This did not generate much new input, but there was a lot of discussion about traffic speeds through Contin and out to Craigdarroch. The plan was shared with Contin Councillors on 16 August and with neighbouring CCs on 21 August, and a first submission to THC was made on 10 September. We were asked to re-submit including evidence of consultation and this was done on 16 September. There has been no further interaction with THC, so it is assumed that the present version is accepted for consideration.

11. A plan for a spending plan

We need to discuss this within the CC before widening the discussion to include CJT and the Trust.

Action 2409-01 JH to arrange a date for a meeting

12. Pylons and wind farms

SSEN has not yet commenced the application process for the Spittal-Beauly line, so there are no grounds for formal comment or objection, and a time-table has been requested.

Investigation works for the underground HVDC line from Beauly to Arnish on Lewis are proceeding. This line will essentially follow the existing 132 kV overhead line. No planning permission is required for this line – it is a permitted development.

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. The current proposals include Scatwell estate land as well as Tarvie.

We have learned informally that there may be a proposal for further extension of Fairburn, in addition to the currently proposed extension.

If all applications succeed, the result will be a continuous row of turbines from behind Invergordon to past the Orrin reservoir.

14. Correspondence received, noted here for the record

- a. JH responded at short notice to a consultation from OFGEM on strategic planning for the electricity transmission system.
- b. Area Place Plan request for input from Wester Ross Biosphere (SB leading on this),
- c. Community Briefing received from THC every 2 weeks,
- d. Request for feedback from minister for Climate Change (JH to address, 8 November),
- e. Boundaries Scotland Consultation.

Consultations arrive thick and fast and it is often difficult to reach an agreed response within the stated deadline. Where practicable, Councillors will respond in their own right, copying the response to the Chair where possible – this is perhaps the easiest way to represent opinions from a range of perspectives.

14. Comments from the public

None

15. Any other competent business

Several items around Contin have been identified as needing maintenance:

- The footbridge to the island needs new anti-slip netting (responsibility of the Church)
- The footbridge across the Coul House drive stream needs new anti-slip netting (Iain Macbeath?)
- There is a broken and noisy gully cover on the A834 junction (BEAR or THC)
- Defective salt bin on Coul House Drive is on private property
- Complaint about the steel cover on the pavement over the Contin Mill lade.

JH has met a BEAR representative on site. The gullies on the A835 were cleared during the summer, but there are two blocked identified for Priority 1 clearance. BEAR will be chased again about spillage from the road onto private property, when an opportunity to take further photos arises.

16. Dates of next meetings

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
2406-04	LK	To find out about ownership of Coul Road	Ongoing
2408-01	JH	Update THC Officer records	Complete
2408-02	JH	Clarify membership constraints for Contin CC	Complete
2408-03	LK	Investigate change of speed limits through Jamestown	Complete
2408-04	JH	Liaise with Liz Kerr re. Climate Action Hub	LK advised
2408-05	PB	Request meeting with THC over works and maintenance at the triangle	Ongoing
2408-06	RG	Make application for funding for triangle works	Ongoing
2408-07	NR	Maintenance of War Memorial	Complete
2409-01	JH	Arrange a date for a meeting to discuss spending plan	New action