

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting V1.0

19:30 Tuesday 10 December 2024

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Norma Ross (NR), John Heathcote (JH, Secretary), Simon Bates (SB, Treasurer), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB), Phil Baarda (PB), Liz Kraft (LK)

Apologies: Frances Welton (FW), Ronnie Gall (RG), Daniel Still (DS).

1 member of the public was present.

2. Declaration of interests

LK declared that she could not discuss planning-related matters, as a member of The Highland Council's Planning North committee, and would leave the meeting at that point.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

See updated action list for progress.

The surplus from the Gàidhlig fund has been transferred to the Triangle.

PB is chasing on the Triangle but no response so far.

A date for the spending plan meeting was arranged but the meeting had to be postponed, a new date to be arranged next year.

4. Finance update

Key points of interest, since last update, are:

- LPP costs of £224.26 have been recovered from the THC Ward Discretionary Fund.
- SB noted for the record that the Annual Administration Grant from THC last year (£430) was less than our costs (£480, to cover room hire for 6 meetings) and these costs will rise in the coming year because we will have to pay for our bank account in the future. We may decide to award ourselves micro-grant if the shortfall continues.

PB clarified that the total amount set aside for archaeological investigations proposed for archaeological investigations was c.£20k, comprising c.£8k from windfarm funds (already received) and c.£12k from HES (to be applied for).

5. Police report and traffic speeds

One road traffic offence has been reported since the previous meeting.

Police and FLS are also investigating reports of illegal use of moto-cross bikes in Torr Achilty Forest.

New illuminated speed warning signs set to 20 mph will be provided by BEAR. These will also record the speeds of passing vehicles. Speed monitoring is currently in place through Contin village.

Craigdarroch Drive is discussed under 13.

6. LPP update

THC has not yet made progress with our Local Place Plan, but an officer is now assigned and feedback is expected within a month.

7. Spending plan update

JH to arrange a meeting early next year – ongoing action. Members are encouraged to think through what they would like to spend money on, with a view to establishing a range of ‘shovel-ready’ projects for when money becomes available.

8. Resilience plan

JH has met THC and agreed the general scope of this. Initial brain dump circulated. Contin is in a good place in that we have good hardware, but we need a better-developed plan to implement its use. The next major step is to engage with the public to develop ideas. The developed plan is expected to involve the Trust, and CJT if additional facilities are needed. Funding for engagement is available, but the relevant application form seems unsuitable. **Action 2410-01 JH+SB to progress a funding application.**

9. Correspondence received, noted here for the record

- a) Invitation from Koehler for a meeting on Tarvie – NR has responded positively
- b) Consultation documents on 20 mph limit. SB has read these and considers them acceptable. **Action 2410-02 SB to send a brief reply accepting consultation.**
- c) THC budget challenge. Members to reply on their own behalf, to reflect a range of views.

10. Proposals for a statutory oversight body for Community Councils

This resolution failed and will not be implemented.

We raised concerns with LK about the possible need for insurance for CC members in respect of CC activities. LK assured us that this was not necessary.

11. Update on pylons and wind farms (LK not present for this)

- a) JH submitted a response to the scoping request on the SLBB power line, on behalf of Contin, Strathpeffer and MSS Community Councils. This requested substantial additional data collection and presentation for the EIA to come.
- b) SSEN has provided an updated timetable for their application. They expect to issue the report on consultation in January 2025, and to submit their s37 application in the Spring. Given our comments on the scoping document, this seems optimistic. Meanwhile, investigation works along the proposed route will continue. The route is shown at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ad424272a63b462aaa4ee36d4d49811f>
- c) Contin, Strathpeffer and MSS Community Councils submitted coordinated responses on the UK Government proposal to amend the Electricity Act 1989 in respect of s36 and s37 applications in Scotland. This response was broadly supportive, but suggested additional improvements to the consultation process, extending it to collaboration.

12. Community Council position statement on windfarms etc. (LK not present for this)

JH has circulated a draft position statement for publication in The Contin Post, in part in reply to the article in the previous edition on Tarvie. Members to formally accept this or propose amendments. The deadline for the next CP is 20 January so any changes by 6 January. **Action 2410-03 All to reply to JH.**

13. Comments from the public

There is a problem with pedestrian+cycle access from Craigdarroch to the village centre – the footpaths do not join up and it is necessary to cross the A835 at a bend, where traffic speeds frequently exceed the posted 40 mph limit, and to walk on grass verges. For much of the length from Craigdarroch Drive to Contin, the limit is 60 mph and it's a popular spot for overtaking. It does not feel safe for pedestrians.

More generally, speeds between Contin and Garve are inappropriate.

There was some uncertainty as to whether THC or BEAR was responsible for the current footpath, since the A835 is a trunk road. Subsequently clarified by LK that it is BEAR. **Action 2410-04 JH to raise the matter with BEAR, copy Maree Todd MSP.**

14. Any other competent business

None.

15. 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 21:00.

Summary of actions

Action	By whom	What	Status
2301-01	PB	Spend balance of £107 in Gàidhlig fund	Complete
2304-03	LK	Organise a site meeting about Coul Road drainage	Ongoing
2406-04	LK	To find out about ownership of Coul Road	Ongoing
2408-05	PB	Request meeting with THC over works and maintenance at the triangle	Ongoing
2408-06	RG	Make application for funding for triangle works	Ongoing
2409-01	JH	Arrange a date for a meeting to discuss spending plan	Ongoing
2410-01	JH+SB	Apply for funding for resilience plan	New
2410-02	SB	Send brief reply accepting 20 mph consultation	New
2410-03	All	Respond to JH on wind-farm position statement	New, by 6 January
2410-04	JH	Raise Craigdarroch footpath safety with BEAR/Maree Todd	New