

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting v1.0

19:30 Tuesday 11 February 2025

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Norma Ross (NR), John Heathcote (JH, Secretary), Simon Bates (SB, Treasurer), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB), Daniel Still (DS), Liz Kraft (LK). In these minutes, THC is The Highland Council.

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

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 any such point.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, proposed RG seconded JRB, subject to PB clarifying the archaeology numbers under item 4.

See updated action list for progress.

PB/RG are chasing on the Triangle but no response useful from TCH so far, going round in circles.

JH has had a page added to the village web-site, giving the CC position on electricity applications and a status update on current electricity-related applications.

Other actions are covered below.

4. Finance update

Key points of interest, since last update, are:

- Annual Administration Grant from THC received (£431.52), which is 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.
- Micro-grant expenditure of coffee morning organised by Contin Parish Church, and contribution to The Contin Post.
- £500 has been ring-fenced to cover the cost of providing a path to the war memorial.

5. Police report

No road traffic offences have been reported since the previous meeting.

Flooding of the A835 through Contin on 31 December was reported'

An Anti-Social Behaviour Order has been served on an individual for driving a motocross bike on the tracks at Torrachilty Forest.

6. Speed limits and Craigdarroch

A report on the need for completing the footpath to Craigdarroch was sent to BEAR Scotland. They have replied that it will be considered as part of the project to install a crossing in Contin, next FY. The member of the public who raised this issue has been updated.

JH has noted that there is a school and cycle crossing warning sign before the crossing point at Craigdarroch, for south-bound traffic.

JH has discussed the desirability of a 50 mph speed limit from Contin to Garve with Garve and District CC. Apparently, an earlier application to BEAR was rejected on the grounds of 'no need and unenforceable'. The need was agreed to be clear, and enforcement by camera is possible. The possible cycle route through the forest to Garve is currently stalled. JH to write to BEAR, copy Maree Todd. **Action 2502-01 JH.**

7. LPP update

No feedback has yet been received from THC. SB sought and received permission to release the plan, as a draft, to the Trust and CJT, for information.

The Area Place Plan is now in place.

8. Spending plan update

A meeting of a sub-group of the CC has been held and a long-list produced. Subsequent to the meeting, Preas Mairi has been removed from the list as all elements of this are outwith the remit of the CC. This needs a few more details from PB and then needs to be discussed with the Trust and CJT. Circulated to CC members and any other thoughts are welcomed. **Action 2502-02 JH to organise meeting.**

9. Community benefits plan

NR, JH and SB will meet and formulate a response to be circulated for agreement, before the consultation closes on 11 April. **Action 2502-03 NR, JH, SB to meet.**

10. Response to Community Council consultation

There are two elements: revisions to the Scheme, and changes to CC boundaries.

There is no issue with changes to the Scheme, although JH is of the view that the opportunity should be used to clarify the text around CC membership.

The consultation document considered moving Jamestown from Contin to Strathpeffer. This proposal was rejected.

Since the consultation document was issued, MSS CC has suggested minor changes to boundaries near Luichart power station and Moy Bridge. These proposals were rejected. **Action 2502-04 JH to respond to consultation**

11. Flooding update

Further flooding in the village occurred on 30-31 December 2024. JH has been following up since.

A meeting has been arranged of Coul Road residents on 18 February, although not everyone has engaged. All residents will be updated on any outcome. JH has also written to Scottish Water, since some solutions will involve their combined sewer.

JH has had useful discussions with BEAR. Investigation of the drainage network between Tor View and the shop will take place when time allows, but hopefully this FY. There will be money next FY to deal with the low kerbs that are permitting spillage from the A835 road onto private property.

THC have not attended to the three blocked gullies on the A834 slip road, reported 30 December 2024. JH will re-report. **Action 2502-05 JH to contact THC.**

12. Resilience plan

A funding application for the first stage has been submitted, decision April. We had hoped to start in March.

13. Correspondence received, noted here for the record

None

14. Update on pylons and wind farms (LK not present for this, apart from (d))

- a) SSEN has issued their Report of Consultation, given the final selected route of the Spittal-Beauly line. There are additional public meetings in Strathpeffer on 24 February and Contin on 25 February. They expect to submit their s37 application in the Spring, although, since ECU has not yet issued a response to the scoping request this seems optimistic. The route is shown at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ad424272a63b462aaa4ee36d4d49811f>
- b) Contin CC has written to ECU recommending rejection of the proposed BESS at Corriemoillie.
- c) After much effort from Contin and Strathpeffer CCs, KRE have agreed to an in-person meeting in April with representatives of local CCs and the Tarvie Community Alliance about the proposed Tarvie wind farm.
- d) LK updated the meeting on Cllr Crawford's motion. This motion was passed by THC and is now being considered for funding allocation in the current budgeting round.

15. Comments from the public

None.

16. Any other competent business

JH drew attention to the current consultation on the Highland development plan, which will replace the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan, sitting between NPF4 and the Area Place Plan.

DS raised the issue of overhanging trees at Tor View. Not immediately clear whether these are on THC or SSE land. **Action 2502-06. NR to advise DS of appropriate contact.**

An issue relating to the communal bins for Coul Road has been sorted by joint action between Contin CC members and LK. LK was thanked for her help in resolving this matter, which had become fraught.

17. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 8 April

Wednesday 11 June AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting

End of meeting

The meeting closed 20:45.

Summary of actions

Action	By whom	What	Status
2304-03	LK	Organise a site meeting about Coul Road drainage	Ongoing
2406-04	LK	To find out about ownership of Coul Road	Superseded
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	Complete
2410-01	JH+SB	Apply for funding for resilience plan	Complete
2410-02	SB	Send brief reply accepting 20 mph consultation	Superseded
2410-03	All	Respond to JH on wind-farm position statement	Superseded
2410-04	JH	Raise Craigdarroch footpath safety with BEAR/Maree Todd	Complete
2502-01	JH	Write to BEAR/Maree Todd about 50 mph speed limit Contin to Garve	New
2502-02	JH	Organise meeting with Trust and CJT about spending plans	New
2502-03	NR JH, SB	Meet to draft response to benefits consultation	New
2502-04	JH	JH to respond to CC consultation	New
2502-05	JH	Remind TCH of blocked gullies on A834 slip road.	New
2502-06	NR	Advise DS of SSE contact for trees	New