

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting v1.0

19:30 Tuesday 12 August 2025

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) Liz Kraft (LK). In these minutes, THC is The Highland Council.

Apologies: Phil Baarda (PB), Ronnie Gall (RB)

Two members of the public were present.

2. Declaration of interests

No interests were declared. LK indicated that she would retire from the meeting before any planning matters were discussed.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

A new micro-grant form has been produced and accepted. **Action 2508-01** JH to put new form on the web-site.

Actions are substantially complete. A draft page for the village web-site on planning matters has been prepared and is being checked by Planning Aid Scotland for technical accuracy. We need to obtain an approved copy of the Area Place Plan. **Action 2508-02** JH to contact Natasha Hutchinson from Wester Ross Biosphere for a copy of the Approved plan.

4. Finance update

Key points of interest, since last update, are:

- Income - £750 from Allt Dearg Second Annual Payment (much smaller this year due to lack of rain);
- Income - £360 from NCR Resilience Plan Grant;
- Expenditure – £600 for War Memorial Path Part 2 from Triangle Fund which, in turn, was created from Allt Dearg fund;
- Expenditure – £400 for Praes Mairi Footbridge replacement from Allt Dearg fund.
- Noted that the annual micro-grant allocation from Fairburn is £2500, but we get topped up only to replace what we have actually spent, as reported.

Applied for £3000 for the Contin Post from EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Fund (Contin). £1500 capital for a new laptop for the team and £1500 running costs through to mid-2027.

Unrestricted funds £12026, restricted funds £11538.

5. Police report

No report has been received since May. The reports received are considered to be unsatisfactory and LK will follow up police reporting to THC relevant to Contin. We are interested to know about

reported crimes and other police action in our patch. **Action 2508-03** LK to follow up police reporting to THC relevant to Contin.

Noted that JH has reported to BEAR the non-functioning of the speed monitoring sign at the south end of the village on 12 August.

6. Plans update

Feedback is still awaited on our Local Place Plan. THC have said that they will prioritise this but no progress.

7. Spending plan update

No change.

SSEN's proposals in the Contin area open up the possibility of consequential benefits from activities necessary for their plans. Contin is working with Garve, Strathpeffer and Marybank CCs to produce a prioritised list for discussion with SSEN. Top of the list are replacing the Moy Bridge and upgrading the forest path to Garve to facilitate cycling.

8. Triangle

JRB presented a short report. We have a quote from Iain MacDonald for £750 to deal with the remaining bits of large tree, to include chipping waste and removing from site, leaving larger branches to be claimed as firewood. If volunteers could tidy up the remaining shrubs at a weekend, they could go through the chipper too. The quote was accepted, proposed FW, seconded NR. DS to organise volunteers. Money to come from the Allt Dearg fund.

A planting plan will then need to be devised, bulbs to be planted in October, shrubs/trees in early Spring. Volunteers will be needed.

9. Resilience plan

A meeting to discuss this on 5 August did not happen.

The text of an A5 flyer to advertise workshops to identify issues of public concern will be arranged, after the school holidays. Both day-time and evening workshops were suggested, to meet the needs of the full range of people. **Action 2508-04** JH to arrange date.

10. .GOV.UK e-mail addresses

Contrary to previous understanding, these are not available to community councils via THC. Decided to remain with the current arrangements.

11. Village hall car park repairs

JH has inspected the car-park. The work required exceeds what can readily be accomplished with hand-tools; a mini-digger would be much easier so a contractor is needed. A member of the public present has experience of this work from the Peffery Way and will take a lead in this. Contin CC will approach Leith's for materials. **Action 2508-05** Identify contractor to repair car-park and get material from Leith's.

12. Future of the church building

The Church of Scotland is expected to put Contin Church up for sale. A small working group has been assembled to look at possible options for the village acquiring the church. This would depend on there being a viable business case.

13. Progress with THC's Social Value Charter

LK was asked by a member of the public about the progress that was being made to implement THC's Social Value Charter. LK was expecting to see an update in October and will progress this. **Action 2508-06** LK to ask about progress on each of the nine points of the Charter.

14. Correspondence received, noted here for the record

- a) Update letter from Highland Community Planning Partnership – no response required
- b) Letter from Girl Guides thanking the CC for the grant towards their London trip.

15. Update on pylons and wind farms

- a) SSEN have served formal notice that they will be submitting their application for the Spital-Beaully overhead power line to ECU on 20 August. ECU will then validate the application and it is expected to be open to comment approximately 2 weeks later. Contin CC is intending to respond.
- b) JH, SB attended a convention on renewables developments in the Highlands on 12 August. 60 Community Councils were present, representing around 80 000 people. Most of the elected representatives for both Holyrood and Westminster were present. The relevant Ministers has also been invited and their absence was noted. The representatives presented their views, some of which were appreciated by the audience and some were not. The representatives agreed unanimously to present the text agreed from the earlier meeting in Beaully, appended, to the respective parliaments. Contin Village web-site will be updated with links to convention and communiqué. **Action 2508-07** JH to update web-site.

16. Comments from the public

Covered elsewhere.

17. Any other competent business

- a) Low mobility access around Contin. A member of the public has identified that not all parts of the village are accessible using a mobility scooter, drawing particular attention to the area from Contin Mains to Coul Beag. It was assumed that THC will be able to advise on this. **Action 2508-08** LK/JH. LK to identify contact, JH to progress.
- b) The footbridge to the island, which belongs to the church, appears to be unsafe, with some of the step structure being rotten. There may also be a problem with the steel work. The CC's view is that Danger notices should be affixed to the bridge and an inspection arranged. The bridge is part of a core path. DS knows someone who may be able to help, and THC may also inspect the bridge. **Action 2508-09** RG to arrange inspection.
- c) JRB has contacted Iain Macbeath about a large broken but still suspended branch overhanging Coul House Drive after storm Floris.
- d) Contin CC notes with sadness the death of Gordon McLean, a former minister of Contin Church and is grateful for the service that he provided to the community.

18. Dates of next meetings

The date of the next meeting is 7 October, moved from 14 October.

End of meeting

The meeting closed at 21:25.

Summary of actions

Action	By whom	What	Status
2504-02	PB	Investigate putting LPP on the web-site.	Ongoing
2504-03	JH	Place map of SLBB access on the web-site	Completed
2506-01	RG/PB	To seek feedback on failed grant bid to Glen Wyvis	Superseded
2506-02	NR	Produce short procedure on processing micro-grants	Completed
2506-03	NR/JH	To respond to consultation on Scheme	Completed
2506-04	JH	To advise THC of boulder on A834	Completed
2508-01	JH	Put new micro-grant form on web-site	New
2508-02	JH	Obtain copy of final version of Area Place Plan	New
2508-03	LK	To follow up police reporting relevant to Contin.	New
2508-04	JH	Arrange a date for the resilience plan workshops	New
2508-05	Public	Identify a contractor to repair the car-park and get material from Leith's	New
2508-06	LK	To ask about progress on each of the nine points of the Charter	New
2508-07	JH	Update web-site with convention recording and communiqué	New
2508-08	LK/JH	LK to identify a THC contact about low mobility access, JH to pursue survey	New
2508-09	RG	Arrange inspection of footbridge	New