

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting

19:45 Wednesday 11 June 2025

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

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

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

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 NR seconded JRB.

See updated action list for progress.

Triangle –The application to the Glen Wyvis environmental fund was unsuccessful. RG/PB asked to seek feedback **Action 2506-01**. The meeting resolved to use money from the Allt Dearg fund to progress this. Liaison with Jason Simpson at THC over trees.

Blocked gullies on the A834 slip road have been cleared. JH noted blocked gullies on the A835 and these have been reported to BEAR Scotland. While checking the gullies, JH witnessed a near-miss at the A834/A835 junction. Road markings and signage at the Give Way point are defective, JH has reported this to THC again.

The Trust advised that they have no space for an A3 printer. Agreed that it would be useful to have a Contin Office as part of the school re-development.

4. Finance update

Key points of interest, since last update, are:

- Income – Allt Dearg Initial Annual Payment of £372.54, with more to follow later (normally around £6K);
- Income – FS EDF Microgrant Funding top-up of £1,787.12;
- Income – unexpected FS EDF Cost Of Living Payment of £500.00, allocated to our General “unrestricted” pot;
- Expenditure – April’s Contin Post Print & Delivery for £161.38;
- Expenditure – Contin Community Hall Stage & Delivery from Allt Dearg Fund of £340.00 (this last could also have been covered by the increased micro-grant limit, but it was decided to demonstrate use of Allt Dearg).

Unrestricted funds are £12,5176.33 and restricted funds are £11699.73.

5. Police report

The general report for Ward 5 issued centrally has been received. This remains unsatisfactory. NR has received no reply from the police after writing about the unsatisfactory nature of the report.

6. Plans update

Feedback is still awaited on our Local Place Plan. THC have said that they will prioritise this.

JH responded to the call for evidence to feed into the developing Highland-Wide Local Plan.

7. Spending plan update

A meeting has been held between the CC, CJT Projects and the Contin Trust. This was a productive meeting and a shared action list has been produced. It was agreed that two projects could be progressed immediately: temporary repairs to the potholes in the village hall car park (pending full re-surfacing when the redevelopment of the site is complete), and the development of the Triangle formed by the A834/835 junction. These two projects have the advantage of being not difficult, funding is available, suitable for volunteer input, and highly conspicuous so that the village organisations can be seen to be achieving things.

In the future, it may be useful to consolidate CJT Projects and the Trust, but this is not straightforward. At some point, it will also be necessary to employ a project manager to coordinate projects and funding.

8. EDF/Foundation Scotland micro-grant scheme

Foundation Scotland has issued revised guidance on running a micro-grants scheme

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/running-micro-grants-scheme>

Micro-grants are awards of normally up to £400 to individuals and up to £1,000 to groups for 'charitable purposes to the general benefit of local residents, including individuals and non-constituted groups' in line with the aims or purposes of the main Community Benefit Fund. Note that this is an increase in funding limits for individual grants.

The guidance implies that we should formalise the process for deciding grants. **Action 2506-02 NR** to progress a short procedure on managing micro-grants.

9. Acceptance of proposed changes to the scheme of establishment for Community Councils

THC has now launched Phase 2 of the consultation on the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils. Subject to comment, the revised scheme is expected to be accepted at the THC meeting on 18 September.

NR and JH have now reviewed the proposed revisions to the Scheme.

The main change since the first draft that will affect us is that CCs will have a single official e-mail address, rather than multiple addresses for officers. Other changes are tweaks that probably won't affect us.

The wording on minimum and maximum number of CC members remains unclear. **Action 2506-03 JH/NR** to respond to consultation.

10. Resilience plan

A grant of £360 has been received to prepare our resilience plan. The planned programme of work is:

- Initial meeting of key stakeholders to consider main issues (Contin CC, CJT projects, Contin Trust, shop, petrol station);
- Circulation of a flyer with The Contin Post (1 September deadline);

- Public workshop to elicit community views – Autumn;
- Preparation of a draft plan.

11. Using Community Payback free labour

The possibility of using un-skilled labour from the community payback scheme was discussed. This is most sited to one-off projects, rather than regular maintenance such as litter-picking. We will keep this in mind although no particular projects were suggested.

12. Correspondence received, noted here for the record

Nothing received not included elsewhere.

13. Update on pylons and wind farms

- a) There will be another meeting with KRE over Tarvie on 17 July.
- b) SSEN's application for the SLBB overhead line is expected to be submitted in July. The members present indicated that they were all opposed to the scheme. Subsequent to the meeting, PB and RG have indicated that they have abstained from taking a position.
- c) The Carn Fearna application has been submitted and Contin CC has objected to it, on grounds of visual impact, traffic, socio-economic impact and cumulative effect.
- d) SSEN has now published a revised route for the Beaulay-Arnish HV DC underground link, which traverses Contin much more extensively than the previous route. Contin CC has expressed disappointment that we were not kept better informed about changes to the route. The underground cable is permitted development and we cannot oppose it *per se*. However, there are opportunities for associated benefits, especially the development of a cycle path from Contin to Garve.
- e) There will be a meeting of Community Councillors to discuss electricity matters on 14 June in Beaulay, convened by Cllr Crawford. JH+JRB will attend for Contin.
- f) Contin CC has responded to the scoping request for Glasa wind farm.

14. Comments from the public

None.

15. Any other competent business

LK announced that Scottish Government funding was being provided for a new play-park, to be sited on THC land contiguous with Munro Park. This is a greatly-welcomed announcement, meeting a need identified in the Local Place Plan.

JRB identified a rock protruding from the verge and constituting a hazard, on the A834 at Jamestown. JH and SB have verified this subsequent to the meeting, and that the work needed to remove the hazard is beyond DIY. JH will notify THC Roads, **Action 2506-04 JH**.

FW has identified that the handrail to the steps by the bus stop is unsafe and needs repair.

Strimming of the edge of the path on the island was discussed, but without resolution. SB has a full-spec trimmer that he could lend to any volunteer.

16. Dates of next meetings

Proposed dates of subsequent meetings are:

- Tuesday 12 August
- Tuesday 14 October
- Tuesday 9 December

- Tuesday 10 February 2026
- Tuesday 7 April – this is immediately after Easter, do we wish to move this to 14?
- Wednesday 10 June, after AGM.

End of meeting

The meeting closed 21:20.

Summary of actions

Action	By whom	What	Status
2304-03	LK	Organise a site meeting about Coul Road drainage	Superseded
2408-06	RG	Make application for funding for triangle works	Completed
2502-02	JH	Organise meeting with Trust and CJT about spending plans	Completed
2504-01	JH	Remind TCH of blocked gullies on A834 slip road.	Completed
2504-02	PB	Investigate putting LPP on the web-site.	Ongoing
2504-03	JH	Place map of SLBB access on the web-site	Ongoing
2504-04	NR	Discuss with Trust purchase of an A3 printer	Completed
2506-01	RG/PB	To seek feedback on failed grant bid to Glen Wyvis	New
2506-02	NR	Produce short procedure on processing micro-grants	New
2506-03	NR/JH	To respond to consultation on Scheme	New
2506-04	JH	To advise THC of boulder on A834	New