

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting v1.0

19:30 Tuesday 4 November 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), Phil Baarda (PB), Ronnie Gall (RG), Daniel Still (DS), Councillor Dr Chris Birt (CB), standing in for Liz Kraft (LK). In these minutes, THC is The Highland Council. Full attendance.

No members of the public were present.

2. Declaration of interests

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

See updated action list and agenda items.

2504-02 – a new planning page has been added to the village website <https://www.continvillage.org/>. This has the draft LPP and lots of other information about the planning system.

2508-02 – The draft APP has been accepted by THC at a minuted meeting, but since the APP has no statutory force, there appears to be no plan to produce a ‘final’ version. The draft is final.

2508-06 – THC has now appointed an Officer to work with Ward 5 CCs on implementation of the Charter and an initial meeting has been held, with follow-up correspondence.

4. Finance update

Key points of interest, since last update, are:

- Expenditure – £68.77 Resilience Plan Information, Print & Delivery;
- Expenditure – EDF Microgrant £250 for Contin Gala BBQ Food;
- Expenditure – EDF Microgrant £60 for Halloween Party Food;
- Expenditure – EDF Microgrant £250 for Christmas Senior Lunch & Kids Party Food;
- Expenditure – Allt Dearg Hydro Project £750 for Triangle Tree Tidy-up.

Confirmation of final funding for the Archaeology Project Phase 2. Previously received £3K from EDF, £5K from SSE windfarm funds and, more recently, £4K from Contin Parish Church. Still awaiting £9K from Historic Environment Scotland, creating a total budget of £21K.

Awaiting payment of approved application for £3,500 for the Contin Post from EDF Power Solutions Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Fund (Contin). £1,500 capital for a new laptop for the team and £2,000 running costs through to end 2027.

Unrestricted funds £10,950, restricted funds £14,755.

5. Police report

A report has been received covering September. The reports received lack local focus 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** remains ongoing.

6. Plans update

Feedback is still awaited on our Local Place Plan and was chased in October. THC have said that they will prioritise this but no progress. It is now over a year since the plan was submitted and the approval process needs to be escalated. **Action 2511-01** LK to escalate.

7. Spending plan update

No progress. Improved projection facilities to be added to the list.

Contin has worked with Garve, Strathpeffer and Marybank CCs to produce a prioritised 'shopping list' that has been sent to SSEN and THC. Top of the list are replacing the Moy Bridge and upgrading the forest path to Garve to facilitate cycling. SSEN have thanked us for sending the list.

8. Possible donation to Planning Aid Scotland (PAS)

JH that PAS had provided support to him in producing the note on the planning system now posted to the village web-site, possibly 2-3 hours of input. Their e-mails requested that we consider a donation. Subsequently decided by e-mail to donate £200.

9. Resilience plan

Public meetings were held on 27 October. The morning meeting coincided with the monthly coffee morning. A deputation from Garve CC was also present. The evening meeting was attended only by representatives from Contin Trust. The key concern expressed was communication. The internet failed during Storm Amy. JH will work up the present information and discuss with THC Emergency Planning. Still aiming for 31 March 2026.

10. Village hall car park repairs

Arrangements are in place for a working party on 6 December. 10 tonnes of material to come from Leith's (Type 2, fine scalplings) and DS will arrange some labour. Trust to be asked to provide hot drinks.

11. Representation on the Contin Trust Board

There was extended discussion on this item. The CC's desire is for the village organisations to work together to achieve common goals. People resourcing is clearly an issue and a permanent employee seems to be needed. Meanwhile, we consider that it would help to have an observer on the Trust and FW volunteered for this. To be discussed with the Trust.

12. Application to Foundation Scotland on behalf of CJT Projects

An application to Fairburn for £10k was lost as a result of a number of technical problems with their web-site.

An application for £3k from Corriemoillie Connecting Communities (the bus) is in progress.

13. Future of the church building

Discussions are ongoing. St Anne's Episcopal Church in Strathpeffer will be closing because it cannot afford repairs to the listed building, and is one possibility to take over Contin's building.

14. Update on the island bridge

An engineer's inspection has found that the underlying steel structure is currently sound, no action needed.

Some repairs have been made to the island-side steps, but it has become clear that further work is needed to the steps and decking. The bridge therefore has been closed. Agreed that costs of repair would be funded 50:50 by the church and the CC, up to a limit of £2,500 CC contribution, money to come from the Allt Dearg fund.

15. Update on pylons and wind farms

- a) Contin CC has objected to SSENs applications for two overhead lines, copies posted to the web-site. The Highland Council's officers have recommended objection also, posted to the web-site, and therefore a Public Local Inquiry is likely. THC has indicated that the date proposed by ECU, 20 April 2026, is unrealistic. JH continues to push for a Planning Inquiry Commission as the opportunity arises. This is for the Minister to call.
- b) JH continues to engage with the media on the wider issues of affordable and reliable electricity.
- c) JH has started the process of finding Counsel to assist the CCs *pro bono*, since it is possible that the pylons applications may end up with the Court of Session.
- d) The web-site has been updated

16. Correspondence received, noted here for the record

- a) E-mail from a member of the public resident at Tarvie asking whether there was any relationship between the CC and Tarvie Community Alliance. NR/JH responded in the negative.

17. Any other competent business

- a) JH tabled a note of drainage related matters
- b) A835 drainage. JH met an engineering team from BEAR Scotland on site on 4 November, discussing four areas: near the transformer, by the shop, Coul Road, and by Contin Mains. The transformer area and Coul Road are not BEAR's responsibility and further thinking is needed. The area near the shop needs further intrusive investigation and probable repairs to the 19th century culvert under the road and replacement of some drains. BEAR will be investigating the mill lade by Contin Mains, since this culvert appears to be inadequate and there is a drain clearly blocked.
- c) Storm Amy has damaged the mill lade behind Northmost Cottage. Some repairs have been made but Northmost Cottage remains at risk of flooding. Supply of sandbags is being investigated. JH is considering further steps and money is available from Allt Dearg to pay for up to 2 days professional support. **Action 2511-02** JH to progress.
- d) LK has brokered agreement with the football club and the new play park is going ahead, possibly by the end of the year.
- e) JRB requested a 'children playing' sign for Woodland Park, and also a street sign facing south-bound traffic. **Action 2511-03** JR-B to contact Daniel.Denmark-Melvin@highland.gov.uk at THC.
- f) Although significant progress was made tidying up the trees on the Triangle, the work was not completed and now further damage has been sustained as a result of storm Amy. **Action 2511-04** PB/RG to take this forward. Planting will not happen until the trees are all sorted and therefore will not be before Autumn 2026.

- g) The slip road from the A835 onto the A834 was discussed. This is actually now superfluous, the junction with the A834 is not properly marked and there are known to have been at least two near misses recently with cars not giving way. The traffic is also a potential hazard to people attending the war memorial. The CC resolved to ask THC to close this road to traffic, JH to write. **Action 2511-05** JH to progress.
- h) It is clear that neither the village Facebook page nor the web-site are reaching all members of the Community.

18. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 9 December 2025.

End of meeting

The meeting closed at 21:30.

Summary of actions

Action	By whom	What	Status
2504-02	PB	Investigate putting LPP on the web-site.	Completed
2508-01	JH	Put new micro-grant form on web-site	Completed
2508-02	JH	Obtain copy of final version of Area Place Plan	Superseded
2508-03	LK	To follow up police reporting relevant to Contin.	Ongoing
2508-04	JH	Arrange a date for the resilience plan workshops	Completed
2508-05	Public	Identify a contractor to repair the car-park and get material from Leith's	Completed
2508-06	LK	To ask about progress on each of the nine points of the Charter	Superseded
2508-07	JH	Update web-site with convention recording and communiqué	Completed
2508-08	LK/JH	LK to identify a THC contact about low mobility access, JH to pursue survey	Ongoing
2508-09	RG	Arrange inspection of footbridge	Completed
2511-01	LK	Escalate feedback on LPP	New
2511-02	JH	Progress thinking on mill lade repair	New
2511-03	JR-B	Contact THC re. signage for Woodland Park	New
2511-04	PB/RG	Progress tidying up trees on the Triangle	New
2511-05	JH	Write to THC about closing the A834 slip road.	New