

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting v1.0

19:30 Tuesday 9 December 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), Councillor Liz Kraft (LK).
In these minutes, THC is The Highland Council. Full attendance.

Apologies: associate member Daniel Still (DS)

One member of the public was present.

2. Declaration of interests

LK declared an interest in Item 13 and was not present during this discussion.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, proposed FW, seconded RG.

See updated action list and agenda items.

2508-03 Dissatisfaction with the current police report is not limited to Contin. LK will continue to pursue.

2508-08 LK has supplied contact details. JH has now contacted THC and awaits a reply.

2511-02 See item 8.

2511-03 JR-B has tried to contact THC but no progress so far.

2511-05 JH has written but no reply received so far. Copy letter now forwarded to LK.

4. Finance update

Key points of interest, since last update, are:

- Expenditure - FS EDF Microgrant for Highland Trail Riders Tee-shirts - £300;
- Expenditure - Contin Post Fund for Print & Delivery - £264.06;
- Expenditure - Contin Post Fund for New Laptop - £1,099 (Black Friday deal - saved £500);
- Expenditure - Allt Dearg Fund for Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) donation - £200;
- Expenditure - SSE Microgrant for Toddler Group Christmas Party - £250;
- Expenditure - SSE Microgrant for new Youth Club - £400;
- Income - FS EDF Contin Post Fund, Part 1 of 2 2026-2027 - £2500 (& £1,000 due end of 2026).

Still awaiting £9K from Historic Environment Scotland for the Archaeology Project Phase 2 and have £2,000 ringfenced from Allt Dearg Fund, creating a total budget of £23K. Awaiting payment of approved application for £2,500 for the SSE Microgrant Fund.

Unrestricted funds £10,746 (note: £5,820 from this is allocated against forthcoming expenditure), restricted funds £14,942.

5. Police report

There are ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour in the village and the police are following up.

Action 2508-03 remains ongoing.

6. Plans update

Feedback is still awaited on our Local Place Plan and THC has been chased several times, most recently 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** ongoing. Alison.clark@highland.gov.uk to be contacted.

7. Spending plan update

JH has added improved projection and sound facilities for the main hall to the list. Also noted that facilities for internet meetings in the small room would be useful. SB is investigating monies available in wind farm funds and how to release them. **Action 2512-01 SB** to investigate funds.

8. Flooding update

JH has engaged an Engineer to report on the feasibility of repairing the mill lade and a report was circulated. Repairing the existing system is easier than building new drains. The next stage is for Coul Road residents to form a constituted body that can then apply for funding for the repair work. LK concurred with that position.

JH observed BEAR Scotland cleaning and inspecting the road drainage network from Coul Road to beyond Contin Mains. Two drains have been cleared and there appears to be a need for repair work. In the process, a drain from Coul Road into the mill lade was identified. It is currently blocked, but should be a fairly easy repair since the blockage is beneath the verge, not the highway. This has the potential to resolve the Coul Road drainage issue as part of necessary repairs to be undertaken by BEAR.

Action 2512-02 JH to update Coul Road residents.

JH has also suggested a plan to BEAR to deal with the water from 5-Acre wood.

Since some significant works in-highway are needed, things are not likely to happen until money is allocated next FY.

9. Resilience plan

JH has prepared a first draft plan, circulated, which has gone to THC for comment and for answers to a number of questions. The plan has also been shared with Garve & District CC. There are 20 listed actions to be completed in finalising the plan. There were positive comments about the idea of a register of local tradespeople for household repairs.

SB has been asked by the National Centre for Resilience, who have supplied us with some funding, to give a verbal progress report via MS Teams on 14/1/26.

10. Village hall car park repairs

This has been done. Material has been provided free by Leith's and used to fill holes, with labour and equipment provided by volunteers. Thank you note to be placed in the next Post. **Action 2512-03 JH** to put thank you note in the Post.

11. Future of the church building

Discussions are ongoing.

12. Update on the island bridge

The steps have been replaced and the bridge re-opened. Repair work on the decking remains to be done, but is commissioned.

13. Update on electricity infrastructure

- a) SLBB overhead line. THC's planning officers have recommended objection and this will be discussed at a joint meeting of THC's two planning committees, possibly February.
- b) Western Isles HVDC link. LK has been pushing SSEN on this. The public meeting on 4 December was regarded as highly unsatisfactory. The Community Council wishes to meet SSEN to discuss matters. **Action 2512-04 JH** to set up a meeting in early January, copy LK.
- c) Fanellan. JH attended a meeting in Kiltarlity to discuss how people who had registered to speak at the SPAC meeting on 18 December would make optimum use of the 10-15 mins available. Most of the attendees were from Kiltarlity and Fanellan, very close to the proposed development. JH suggested that he would relinquish his spot in favour of others, and write confirming that his objection was now supported by 3 community councils and 2 cycling clubs. **Action 2512-05 JH** to write to THC relinquishing speaking slot.

14. Correspondence

None received.

15. CC succession planning and administrative support

Succession planning postponed to the next meeting. There is a need to engage the next generation.

The CC, CJT and Trust would all benefit from paid administrative support. How do we achieve this? LK suggested contacting Alison Clark. **Action 2512-06 JH** to contact Alison Clark at THC, copy LK.

16. Any other competent business

- a) Transfer of information from the old web-site. The old web-site needs to be closed because people are accessing out of date information. Transfer of data off the old site, and loading on to the new site, is a couple of days work. Needs an IT competent person with perhaps some input from Liz Kerr. **FW** will ask. The CC is prepared to pay. This needs to happen before the current licence for the web address expires June 2026.
- b) An organisation calling itself Highland Community Interest Company is claiming to represent Highland communities but has had no contact with community councils. It appears to be developer led, and we believe that we are being mis-represented. **Action 2512-07 LK** to investigate further.
- c) The path from Coul House towards Jamestown is a core path but sections are in poor repair, requiring the use of wellies. SSE may be able to help with improvements as part of their works. **Action 2512-08 JH** to contact Phil Waite.
- d) There is a patch of Japanese Knotweed adjacent to Coul House Drive. PB has raised this issue and will do so again. **Action 2512-09 PB** to explore knotweed removal.
- e) LK advised the meeting that there has been discussion within THC about making Ward 5 (which includes Contin) a short-term let control area. A paper has been produced. There will be consultation before any implementation and it will not be retrospective.

17. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 10 February 2026.

End of meeting

The meeting closed at 21:30.

Summary of actions

Action	By whom	What	Status
2508-03	LK	To follow up police reporting relevant to Contin.	Ongoing
2508-08	LK/JH	LK to identify a THC contact about low mobility access, JH to pursue survey	Ongoing
2511-01	LK	Escalate feedback on LPP	Ongoing
2511-02	JH	Progress thinking on mill lade repair	Completed
2511-03	JR-B	Contact THC re. signage for Woodland Park	Ongoing
2511-04	PB/RG	Progress tidying up trees on the Triangle	Ongoing
2511-05	JH	Write to THC about closing the A834 slip road.	Completed
2512-01	SB	To investigate funds available to the CC	New
2512-02	JH	To advise Coul Road residents of progress and next step	New
2512-03	JH	To put thank you note in The Contin Post re. car park repair	New
2512-04	JH	To set up meeting between CC and SSEN about WI link	New
2512-05	JH	To write to THC relinquishing speaking slot at SAPC meeting on Fanellan substation	New
2512-06	JH	Contact Alison Clark at THC about admin support to village institutions	New
2512-07	LK	To investigate Highland CIC to address misrepresentation	New
2512-08	JH	Contact THC Access Officer about Coul footpath	New
2512-09	PB	Contact Trudi Clarke of the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative about Japanese Knotweed	New