

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting ~~v0.0~~V1.0

19:30 Tuesday 10 February 2026

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Norma Ross (NR, Chair), John Heathcote (JH, Secretary), Simon Bates (SB, Treasurer), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB), Frances Welton (FW), Phil Baarda (PB), Ronnie Gall (RG), associate member Daniel Still (DS), Councillor Liz Kraft (LK). In these minutes, THC is The Highland Council. Attendance records are currently satisfactory.

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

One member of the public was present.

2. Declaration of interests

LK indicated that she would absent herself from any discussion of planning matters.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

See updated action list and agenda items.

2508-03 See item 6.

2508-08 See item 10.

2511-01 See item 5.

2511-05 JH has written but no reply received so far. Copy letter now forwarded to LK, further chasing needed. **Action LK 2602-01**

2512-01 See item 4.

2512-07 LK reported that Highland CIC has been around for a long time. The CC made it clear that the CIC was claiming to represent communities, although it has not engaged with any community councils local to Contin.

2512-08 JH contacted Phil Waite. Agreed to wait until it becomes clearer what SSEN will be doing, which may provide a route for core path improvement.

2512-09 The Coul House Drive knotweed patch has been noted for treatment in the autumn this year. She says to let her know if there are any more invasive species in our area (such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed etc). Trudi.Clarke@cromartyboard.com

4. Finance update

Key points of interest, since last update, are:

- Expenditure – Cameron+Ross mill lade feasibility study £1254;
- Income – SSER microgrant funding £2500.

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.

Unrestricted funds £9,443, restricted funds £17,734.

Regular wind farm funding for the coming year is summarised below. There is also some money in the Ward Discretionary Fund, applications to be submitted urgently.

It was noted that government is making funding available for community-owned renewables. The village hall roof ~~was a candidate for~~ already has solar panels, but could perhaps benefit from a battery. ~~JH need to check whether there are any.~~

Grant source	Carried forward	26/27 payment	Total	Micro-grants	Projects	Year	Application Cycles /y
FS-EDF Corriemoillie	£20 000	£18 000	£38 000	£1800	£36 200	Jan-Dec	2
SSER Fairburn	£69 456	£33 619	£103 075	£2500	£100 575	Feb-Jan	4
Totals	£89 456	£51 619	£141 075	£4300	£136 775		

5. Plans update

Feedback on the Local Place Plan has been received and will be implemented when time allows.

Action 2602-02 SB update LPP.

6. Police report

JH attended an on-line meeting between community councils and Police Scotland. This is intended to supplement the reports received. Feedback was given as to what is needed by communities. The meeting notes contain sensitive information and are therefore not attached here. There have been two separate police incidents in the last couple of months.

7. Flooding update

JH circulated a progress note, appended. BEAR Scotland will be undertaking improvement works in March and next FY. Coul Road residents have been updated; further progress on mill lade repairs is up to the affected residents. The community council can provide support, but it cannot lead this work.

8. Resilience plan

SB attended a meeting with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, which was considered useful. Additional meetings are planned this month; progress is being made.

9. Insurance

Our insurance is up for renewal. On reading the policy, it has been noted that it does not cover the CC for negligence claims. There was discussion over whether it was possible to sue the CC, since it has no assets. **Action 2602-03 SB** investigate whether the CC can be held liable for negligence.

10. Footpaths and dropped kerbs

NR attended a site inspection by the Highland Council, who recommended that changes are needed, see appended note.

11. Community council succession planning

NR underlined her intention to retire as Chair in June. JH is willing to stand for Chair, but this will then leave the post of Secretary vacant. The possibility of a paid minutes secretary was discussed. JH had so far not made successful progress investigating an AI secretary.

NR has contacted mums at the toddler group with a view to joining the community council.

JH has contacted Dingwall Academy about a pupil possibly joining the CC as a junior member, with responsibility for social media. No response so far.

Discussions are ongoing.

PB will take over the role of CC rep. on the Corriemoillie grants panel, although NR will remain on the panel.

JH will replace NR as Contin's rep. on the Fairburn grants panel. Proposed JR-B, seconded NR.

12. Developing our community

JH has had discussions with THC, Garve and District CC and Spean Bridge CC to understand how they work, see note. It is possible to fund a support officer from grant money, to ease pressure on volunteer resources. We probably need to re-structure our arrangements to do this. **Action 2602-03 SB** to initiate progress on this.

13. Community Council e-mail addresses

A separate group will look at this, JH + NR.

14. Maintaining the village web-site

DS will work with JH on updating the village web-site. Information from the old web-site still to be transferred. Update after the meeting – JH has noted that the old website can be found only by searching specifically for Contin Community Council, and even then it is at the bottom of the page.

~~The server was not responding to requests on 12/2/2026.~~

15. Update on electricity infrastructure

- a) See attached note for current status of applications.
- b) Fairburn extension is not progressing for the time being.
- c) The CC is meeting SSEN on 17 February to discuss issues with the Western Isles link, preparatory works for which are now happening in Contin's patch.
- d) JH will be attending a convention of community councils from across Scotland at Holyrood on 24 February.

16. Correspondence

- a) United Infrastructure would like to meet us to explain proposed works in connection with SLBB. Provisionally agreed for 14 April meeting.
- b) Highland-wide public consultation for feedback on a draft Highland Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) report. This will be useful for electricity infrastructure planning inquiries.
~~?? to respond~~ **RG to respond. Action 2602-04 RG to respond to play sufficiency report.**
- c) SEPA – flood risk consultation. No action needed.
- d) SSEN stakeholder engagement meetings on 26 March. JH will attend. **Action 2602-04-05** JH to attend SSEN stakeholder meeting.

17. Any other competent business

- a) Repairs to the footbridge to the island have now been completed.
- b) The wind has displaced and damaged the wreaths at the War Memorial. RG will see if anything can be salvaged, and dispose of damaged wreaths.
- c) Progress is being made with the new play park for Munro Park, delayed by some legal necessities.

- d) A large amount of litter by the side of the A834 from Contin to Strathpeffer has been noted. This is being discharged from cars and it is local traffic. This is both offensive and an offence. Arrangements will be made to uplift it.

17. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 14 April 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.	Superseded
2508-08	LK/JH	LK to identify a THC contact about low mobility access, JH to pursue survey	Complete
2511-01	LK	Escalate feedback on LPP	Superseded
2511-02	JH	Progress thinking on mill lade repair	Completed
2511-03	JR-B	Contact THC re. signage for Woodland Park	In progress
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	Completed
2512-02	JH	To advise Coul Road residents of progress and next step	Completed
2512-03	JH	To put thank you note in The Contin Post re. car park repair	Completed
2512-04	JH	To set up meeting between CC and SSEN about WI link	Completed
2512-05	JH	To write to THC relinquishing speaking slot at SAPC meeting on Fanellan substation	Superseded
2512-06	JH	Contact Alison Clark at THC about admin support to village institutions	Completed
2512-07	LK	To investigate Highland CIC to address misrepresentation	Ongoing
2512-08	JH	Contact THC Access Officer about Coul footpath	Completed
2512-09	PB	Contact Trudi Clarke of the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative about Japanese Knotweed	Completed
2602-01	LK	Continue to chase reply on A834 slip road closure	New
2602-02	SB	Implement feedback on LPP	New
2602-03	SB	Investigate whether the CC can be held liable for negligence	New
<u>2602-04</u>	<u>RG</u>	<u>Respond to play sufficiency enquiry</u>	<u>New</u>
<u>2602-05</u>	<u>JH</u>	<u>Attend SSEN stakeholder meeting</u>	<u>New</u>

Note on flooding 260128

Area between the village hall and the shop

BEAR extracted a large rock from the culvert that takes the Coul House Drive stream under the road on 17 December. It's unclear how it got there or how long it has been there, but it's better out!



Future planned works in this area are replacement of the drains serving the gullies from by the village hall to the culvert, raising the kerbs for the shop lay-by area, and replacing the screen on the culvert with a different design. These works are currently expected before the end of March this year. This should address many of the flooding problems. The new screen should be less likely to block, and should also be clearable safely even in flood conditions, something that cannot be done presently.

These works do not address the problem of water flowing through 5-Acre Wood near the transformer. This is legally SSE's problem and they are in breach of their obligations under s99 of the Highways (Scotland) Act 1984. I have encouraged BEAR to pursue SSE on this one. BEAR are clearly not keen on the obvious solution, which is to connect this water into their drainage. They are suggesting other diversions, which would not be easy. Ball currently with BEAR.

Coul Road

BEAR investigated the drainage in this area on 4 December. Various repair works are needed to facilitate further investigation. The process discovered a hitherto unknown drain from Coul Road, although it is blocked.

BEAR are proposing to replace the drainage from Contin Mains to Coul Road, replace the old grating on the south side of the corner with a proper gully, connect the gully on the north side to this instead of the present connection to foul sewer, via a heavy duty grating across the road (to take HGV traffic). They will also review the height of the kerb opposite. This should solve the problem of water from Coul Road running across the A835. There will be other repairs too and it is possible that the culvert that takes the mill lade under the road will be replaced. This work will be next financial year,

although the investigation work above may be late March if there's any funding left at the end of the FY. They are happy to discuss the design with us to ensure capacity.

Disconnecting the Coul Road drainage from sewer gives the potential to use the drainage to take the water from around Northmost Cottage, so that a permanent road surface can be installed.

Mill lade

I have written to all Coul Road residents, to encourage them to get together to repair the lade and manage the Coul Road drains. The ball is in their court, although I may kick it from time to time.

John Heathcote

28 January 2026

Note on meeting on footpaths

From: **Emma Garden (In House Bus Service)** <Emma.Garden@highland.gov.uk>
Date: Tue, 3 Feb 2026 at 15:17
Subject: RE: Contin Rd Safety
To: Councillors <contincommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Hi Norma,

Sorry for the delay in responding to you following our chat, we are a team member down due to an injury at the moment and everything is a bit hectic.

I spoke to a colleague and he agrees that two crossings either side of the shop would be justified, I would suggest you put that to Bear/Transport Scotland, copy us in and we can follow up with an email in agreement of the suggestion. Mention the lack of dropped kerbs and narrow footpaths at the same time. Let them know how busy the village gets with through traffic all year round but that it increases during the summer with the NC500 and at other times when events are on at the nearby Forestry land. You could ask for traffic and speed counts to be undertaken. Our generic email address is: Road.safety@highland.gov.uk.

In terms of the Council roads, we think there is some work we could do on dropped kerbs up Tor View and potentially making the footpath wider opposite the War Memorial, at the gentleman's house we spoke about. If you were to copy us in to your email to Bear/Transport Scotland, in our response we would mention the possibility of a crossing at the War Memorial end of the village, potentially a joint effort between them and us. We will take a better look at the dropped kerbs and footpath in the next financial year and get in touch with you/the CC with any plans we come up with.

Many thanks

Emma

Emma Garden

Road Safety Officer

Road Safety Team

www.highland.gov.uk/roadsafety