

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting v1.0 final

19:30 Tuesday 14 April 2026

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Norma Ross (NR, Chair), Simon Bates (SB, Treasurer), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB), Ronnie Gall (RG), associate member Daniel Still (DS). In these minutes, THC is The Highland Council. Attendance records are currently satisfactory.

Apologies: Frances Welton (FW), John Heathcote (JH), Phil Baarda (PB), Councillor Liz Kraft (LK).

One member of the public was present, with a view to joining the Council.

2. Declaration of interests

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

Thank you to Rev. Ronnie Gall for his litter picking. This will be in the next edition of the Contin Post.

The updated action list is attached.

4. Finance update

SB went through a detailed finance report and has completed the end of year reporting requirements. These were approved and will now be sent for external verification.

No significant transactions since the last update.

Unrestricted funds £10 055.51, restricted funds £17 459.59.

5. Micro-grants

Councillors present all agreed that we are not spending enough of our funds and a discussion ensued as to how we could further promote and make use of our micro-grant facility. There will be a regular article in The Contin Post.

Micro-grants are approved at meetings, or between meetings by e-mail.

A micro grant recently submitted for The Book Club was agreed unanimously. **Action 2604-01** SB to make payment. NR to Inform Book Club.

SB also felt that we need to get some larger projects activated and that a project manager shared jointly with the Trust and CJT Projects would enable actions to be addressed at a better pace. Councillors are stretched for time and we feel the Contin Hall Trustees are also exceptionally busy.

6. Plans update

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

7. Development officer

JH has had a positive meeting with Liz Kerr, CJT. The Trust to be invited to a meeting. MSS are also looking to engage a development officer so it may be a coordinated appointment. Fairburn fund has indicated agreement in principle to funding a development officer.

Action 2604-02 JH/SB to meet Trust – an invitation has been sent.

8. Flooding update

BEAR were unable to execute the works planned for March in the shop area, because of resourcing shortages. The works are now planned for May.

Nothing from Coul Road residents on organising themselves, so no further effort from JH intended. Noted that a section of pipe has been installed that will reduce flooding risk to Northmost Cottage, but this does not address the fact that the system is probably undersized in this area, and overflows down Coul Road in very wet weather.

9. Resilience plan

Useful contact has been established with SFRS. Highlands and Islands Climate Hub is also working on this, but postponed a recent meeting, to be re-arranged.

Meanwhile, there are actions to take regarding opening the Hall and using the generator. **Action 2604-03** JH/SB to meet Trust to discuss this, invitation sent.

RG wondered if a microgrant would pay for servicing the generator. **Action 2604-04 Check rules** and regulations or contact Marion MacDonald at Foundation Scotland

It was also discussed the Contin Shop is a fantastic community resource during power cuts and councillors proposed to find out the costs of a possible generator as they lost a lot of stock during the last power cut. **Action 2604-05 SB/NR to investigate** sources of funding, NR to see LK at the shop.

10. Update on electricity infrastructure

SSEN has submitted further information, which has re-opened the consultation on SLBB. The further information does not affect our objection, which we have re-affirmed to ECU.

WI link in the Jamestown area is currently stopped, pending resolution of planning permission matters. RJ Macleod on behalf of SSEN will have to apply for planning permission for at least the road access at Jamestown. How will we respond to this? There will be no response from the CC. It will be up to Jamestown residents to object in their own right. The final decision is for THC to make.

SSEN has been chased for a date to replace the meeting that they cancelled.

SSEN has appealed the Fanellan decision. No local CCs objected, but JH objected personally. It is not clear whether CCs can piggy-back on this.

Reporters have been appointed for a PLI into the Beaulay-Blackhillock line. We submitted a token objection to this but have decided not to participate in the Inquiry. It's a long way from us and our resource is limited.

Carn Fearna wind farm is awaiting the appointment of a Reporter. A recent Court of Session Inner House decision is relevant to this.

The meeting of CCs at Holyrood was disappointing. We had little of the Minister's time and, despite talking about the need for consultation, she did not stay to listen to any of our concerns. I have now

received a reply to the letter that I sent. Gillian Martin waited until after the end of the Parliament and has thus evaded an obligation to reply. The letter goes on to provide some information on Scotland's electricity needs, but avoids answering key questions.

11. Church Bridge

The CC is paying 50% of the repair cost of £3593.74. SB is arranging payment.

12. Correspondence

- a) Beauly to Peterhead public inquiry – decided not to participate.
- b) Should CCs have more powers? Decided not.

13. Any other competent business

- a) Road signs at access to Kinnahaird coming from Strathpeffer to Contin need improving as barely visible.
- b) Nothing yet on the Woodland Park sign from THC.
- c) No action yet from NR's meeting with HC over dropped kerbs.
- d) Playpark update emailed to all councillors following information from Cllr Kraft on 13/04.26.
- e) CC agreed to provide a taxi for two sessions to the Coffee and Chat event, which is the last Monday in each month as RG felt there were residents who would like to attend but lacked transport. RG will arrange and report back. If successful this could continue.

14. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 10 June 2026 in the large room, following the AGM at 19:30.

End of meeting

The meeting closed at 20:45.

Summary of actions

Action	By whom	What	Status
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
2512-07	LK	To investigate Highland CIC to address misrepresentation	Ongoing
2602-01	LK	Continue to chase reply on A834 slip road closure	Ongoing
2602-02	SB	Implement feedback on LPP	Ongoing
2602-03	SB	Investigate whether the CC can be held liable for negligence	Complete
2602-04	RG	Respond to play sufficiency enquiry	Complete
2602-05	JH	Attend SSEN stakeholder meeting	Superseded
2604-01	SB/NR	Award micro-grant to Book Club	New
2604-02	JH/SB	To discuss development officer with Trust	New
2604-03	JH/SB	To discuss emergency opening of Hall with Trust	New
2604-04		Check rules for a grant for servicing the generator	New
2604-05	SB/NR	Investigate the possibility of supplying a generator to the shop	New