

Contin Community Council Ordinary Meeting v1.0

19:30 Tuesday 11 June 2026

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: John Heathcote (JH, Chair), Simon Bates (SB), James Ruggles-Brise (JRB), Frances Welton (FW), Councillor Liz Kraft (LK). Phil Baarda (PB) joined via Teams. In these minutes, THC is The Highland Council. Attendance records are currently satisfactory.

Apologies: Ronnie Gall (RG), Daniel Still (DS).

2. Declaration of interests

LK would not discuss planning matters and left the meeting before 19.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

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

4. Actions and matters arising

The updated action list is attached.

2511-03 LK will attempt to progress this.

2511-04 Now that the tidying has been done, thought needs to be given to a planting plan for execution in the autumn. **Action 2606-01 RG** – devise planting plan, together with PB and JRB.

2512-07 Nature of Highland CIC clarified to LK and JH to supply further information.

2602-01 LK will assist. LK was keen that the community be consulted over this change, which the CC considers desirable for safety reasons. THC can support an engagement exercise.

2602-03,4 JH has e-mailed the Trust twice with no response, see 8, 12 below.

2604-05 To be re-visited, considering that the shop is for sale. Also need to make sure that both shops are treated fairly. Meeting to be arranged with both. The chip shop is a catering establishment and is different. Coul House has its own arrangements for emergency electricity and other catering will be treated similarly. **Action 2606-02 JH** Meet shop and petrol station about generator requirements.

5. Finance update

Key points of interest (other than room bookings & other admin charges), since last update, are:

- Income
 - HES Archaeology Grant £6663.00
 - Alt Dearg Main Annual Payment £2750.00
- Expenditure
 - Book Club (EDF Microgrant) £180.00
 - Contin Island Bridge Repair (Allt Dearg) £2000.00
 - CP print, delivery & security software (Contin Post Fund) £193.47
 - Archaeology Project, Orca Invoice (Arch Fund) £16 656.00
 - Lucky2BHere Defib Battery (Allt Dearg) £300.00

- Norma Retirement (Allt Dearg) £202.50
- Triangle Plants (SSE Microgrant) £57.20

The Archaeology Project didn't use all its budget, so the second HES payment of £2,337 and the Allt Dearg "ring-fence" of £2,000 were not required.

We're still not spending enough! We have just received more money from the Allt Dearg Hydro Scheme Fund and I've been asked to say where we've spent last years and where we hope to spend this new money. After an allocation of £1,500 to Contin Live!, there is £5K available in the fund. And there is over £3K in the Microgrant funds.

Unrestricted funds £10 158.51, restricted funds £7 035.92.

6. Micro-grants

No new micro-grants approved since the last meeting.

7. Local Place Plan update

JH and SB attended on on-line seminar on the Parish Online software that we use to support the LPP. It clearly has more facilities than we are currently using and could serve as an on-line village map. To be progressed in the autumn. **Action 2606-03 SB** – Progress LPP and village map in autumn.

8. Development officer

In the absence of any response from the Trust, the meeting agreed to progress the appointment of a Development Officer with CJT. Maybe the Trust will come on board later. Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon CC are also looking to recruit a DO, so we will investigate a joint appointment. **Action 2606-04 JH/SB** to meet MSS and then develop grant application.

9. Footpaths and road crossings

No progress – this needs someone to pursue, see 16.

10. Short-term let control area

LK explained what this involves. It is not retrospective, but would provide for more control to be exercised if necessary. It is not a ban on STLs. STLs have caused various issues across the Highland patch, from unacceptable behaviour by guests to contributing to a housing shortage out west. The meeting was generally supportive of the concept. **Action 2606-05 JH** – respond to consultation accepting concept of STL.

11. Flooding update

The planned works by the shop have been postponed again, now scheduled for late June. No timescale yet for works near Contin Mains and the petrol station.

12. Resilience plan

Useful contact has been established with SFRS. The CC has registered with Highlands and Islands Climate Hub who are also working on this.

In the absence of any response from the Trust about their possible role, we cannot rely on the Hall as part of the plan, which is a major problem.

13. Archaeology project update.

PB updated the meeting. Nothing much of significance was found. Before the dams were built in the 1950s Contin Island was a very dynamic fluvial environment, and it seems likely that traces of early activity have been eroded. There will be a dissemination event, but no major ceremony. There is the

potential to do more work on the more recent archaeology, including the 19th century mills and war time activities.

14. Music Festival

PB updated the meeting. The event is planned for 12 September and advertising has started. Some additional costs will be incurred and the meeting agreed to allocate an additional £1500 from Allt Dearg funds.

15. Cardiac arrest and defibrillators

The batteries have been replaced for the defibrillator located at the shop.

JH has followed up with retired doctor Dawn Westwood thinking triggered by recent first aid training. There are only a few minutes between arrest happening and the point where permanent injury or death occurs. The current defibrillator is not accessible to the whole community within this window, neither is there ambulance cover from Dingwall on this timescale.

It has been agreed that the current location, readily accessible from likely large gathering points at the Hall and Munro Park was the right place for the defibrillator, and the highest priority was to increase the number of people aware of what to do in case of cardiac arrest. **Action 2606-06 FW** – investigate basic first aid training.

16. Allocation of tasks to CC members

After the changes in responsibilities agreed at the AGM, JH was keen to allocate tasks to avoid overload. A list of tasks and responsible members is appended. Some tasks are likely to await the appointment of a Development Officer.

17. Woodland Park steps and bridge

A complaint has been received that the steps on the Woodland Park side are in a poor state of repair, and a handrail has collapsed. Any changes are to be coordinated with Ann Fraser in the adjacent property; her husband built the steps. **Action 2606-07 JRB** – contact Ann Fraser and Ian MacDonald about steps repair.

18. Correspondence

- a) The request for a tree preservation order has been declined by THC. We are pursuing whether pressure can be applied to SSEN to route new infrastructure through existing gaps in the trees, to avoid felling.

19. Update on electricity infrastructure

We have been informed by the developers of the proposed Tarvie wind farm that they will not be proceeding further in the foreseeable future. We believe that changes in land ownership have rendered the project unviable.

A Reporter has been appointed to determine the Fanellan planning application objected to by THC and will do so on the basis of further written submissions. JH has responded to this in his personal capacity (Contin CC did not respond to the planning application).

Subsequent to the meeting, a date has now been published for the Inquiry into the Spittal-Loch Buidhe-Beaully overhead line that will pass through the village. The Inquiry will begin on 23 November for 2 weeks and will comprise two parts – a formal Inquiry, presumably in Inverness, at which witnesses will be cross-examined, and community hearings that are less formal, for personal objectors. Potential participants including Contin CC have been contacted by e-mail.

SSEN is proceeding with planning applications for road accesses for the Western Isles Link. Contin CC will be objecting on grounds of cumulative effect of traffic. Work on the proposed compound at Jamestown is currently stopped by The Highland Council, pending clarification of planning matters. Certain works requiring planning permission were commenced before permission had been applied for.

We are monitoring the development of the PLI into the Beauly-Blackhillock line.

The Carn Fearn wind farm application was objected to by THC and has been referred to DPEA, but has not yet been allocated a Reporter.

13. Any other competent business

None

14. Next year's meetings

Proposed meeting dates are (all Tuesdays, 7:30 pm):

11 August 2026

13 October 2026

15 December 2026

9 February **2027**

6 April 2027

8 June 2027 (AGM and ordinary meeting)

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 11 August 2026 in the small room.

End of meeting

The meeting closed at 21:45.

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	Complete
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
2604-01	SB/NR	Award micro-grant to Book Club	Complete
2604-02	JH/SB	To discuss development officer with Trust	Complete
2604-03	JH/SB	To discuss emergency opening of Hall with Trust	Complete
2604-04		Check rules for a grant for servicing the generator	On hold
2604-05	SB/NR	Investigate the possibility of supplying a generator to the shop	Ongoing
2606-01	RG	Devise planting plan for Triangle in autumn	New
2606-02	JH	Meet shop and petrol station about generator requirements	New
2606-03	SB	Progress LPP and village map in autumn	New
2606-04	JH/SB	To meet MSS CC about joint recruitment of a Development Officer	New
2606-05	JH	Respond to consultation accepting concept of STL	New
2606-06	FW	Investigate basic first aid training	New
2606-07	JRB	Woodland Park steps repair	New

Allocation of tasks

Official tasks

What?	Who?	Frequency? When?
Chair meetings	Chair	2-monthly
Act as contact point for community interests	Chair	As required
Prepare agenda for meetings	Secretary	2-monthly, 3 weeks in advance of meeting
Post notices of meetings	Secretary	2-monthly, 2 weeks in advance of meeting
Remind members of meeting, including meeting pack	Secretary	2-monthly, day before meeting
Prepare draft minutes of meeting and circulate for comment	Secretary	2-monthly, within 1 week of meeting
Prepare final minutes of meeting for approval	Secretary	2-monthly, within 2 weeks of meeting
Send accepted minutes of previous meeting, and revised	Secretary	2-monthly, within 2 weeks of meeting

draft of current meeting, to THC.		
Maintain accounts	Treasurer	As required
Provide financial report to meetings	Treasurer	2-monthly
Prepare annual accounts and get them reviewed	Treasurer	Annually

Other recurring tasks

What?	Who?	Frequency? When?
Update web-site with minutes.	DS??	2-monthly, within 2 weeks of meeting
Update other areas of web-site	DS??	Monthly
Manage micro-grant applications	SB	As required
Representation on Fairburn grant committee	JH	Twice yearly
Representation on Corriemoillie grant committee	PB	Twice yearly
Forward e-mails received by CC	JH	As required
Maintain defibrillator	FW	As required
Respond to complaints about things wrong in the village	JH to delegate	As required

One-off projects

What?	Who?
Local place plan	Simon
Resilience plan	John
Employ project officer	JH/SB
Liaise with BEAR over drainage repairs	JH
Triangle	RG/PB/JRB
Footpaths and road crossings	??