

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 27th November 2023 in Dunshalt Village Hall.

PRESENT: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Mark Gibson [Auchtermuchty] Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: 2 Members of the public

1.0 **Welcome and Apologies:** The Chair welcomed all those attending.

Apologies: Cllr. Gary HOLT, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDIARMID,
PC's Haddow and Lowe.

2.0 **Declarations of interest:** these will be made when appropriate.

3.0 **Police:** no police presence, November report still to be circulated.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30th October were accepted.

At this point the Chair invited Julia Sutherland to address the meeting regarding residents concerns over recent flooding within Auchtermuchty and the perceived inaction of Fife Council to take steps to prevent such events or their reoccurrence. The problem in the area of the Upper Greens appears to be the result of runoff from fields overwhelming drainage measures, damaging a number of properties. Local residents have approached those responsible for the land with no satisfactory outcome, despite volunteering to fund some remedial works, and are very disappointed in the lack of transparency from Fife Council in their approach to the issue or any plan of action. A flood report for the Auchtermuchty area has been compiled but is not to be made public due to the 'sensitive' nature of some of the information contained. Residents want to know what is happening or is going to happen and importantly are looking for consultation between interested parties, elected representatives [including the Community Council perhaps speaking on behalf of residents] and expert witnesses, who would be in a better position to provide possible solutions, resulting in a clear plan of action – published by the Council – in how the flooding issues within the community are to be dealt with. In the more immediate term they would look to better provision of 'flood pods' in the area with access codes made available with emergency mitigation measures [contact phone numbers etc] more widely publicised.

Following a great deal of discussion it was agreed that an ad hoc Flood Action group be formed under the auspices of the Community Council with representatives of the four communities [they all have issues with flooding] to coordinate their approach and bring in outside agencies to assist. The Chair will contact local Associations concerning the formation of the group, he will also contact Willie Rennie MSP ask how his group examining the problem are progressing. A request will be made to Rick Haynes of Fife Council for a copy of the Auchtermuchty Flood Report for the Community Council, if this fails the Community Council will put in a Freedom of Information request. The Chair had sought action concerning 'flood pods' within Auchtermuchty with no result, this will be pursued.

Note: A copy of Julia's full submission to the meeting can be seen in the Documents section of the Community Council website, www.auchtermuchtyandstrathmiglo.cc

5.0 **Matters Arising:** the Chair will take items and individual community matters within the agenda.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Binn Wind Turbine Community Fund [BWTCF]; there is little evidence that Foundation Scotland are giving value for money in their handling of the funds. They are on a 3 year contract with 2 years to run. Availability of funds is still unclear. S. Jack will feed back our dissatisfaction at the next meeting and look to see how the other Community Councils view the situation.

- 6.2 Planning application 23/02723/FULL; Mairsland farm development, though surface water was a concern the Chair pointed out that the majority would run in the direction of the Auchtermuchty Burn. The footprint of the development matches that of the current steading and it was noted that the inclusion of a new entrance from Mournipea will mean access sight lines will be improved. It was also noted that the development is in line with the Community Council's view that brown field sites should be used in preference to green field sites.
- 6.3 Planning application 23/02999/FULL; Swan engineering, it was felt that the Community Council should put in a letter of support to allow for the expansion of a local employer though concern was expressed over the handling of surface water from the site. It was felt that as the area is hard standing at present with no run off provision the addition of a Surface Drainage Design [SUDS] would be an improvement as long as it was well maintained.
- 7.0 **Fife Council:**
- 7.1 **Dunshalt**
- 7.1.1 Nethermyres bridge; parapet now being repaired.
- 7.2 **Gateside**
- 7.2.1 Road signage; the last speed limit signs have still to be put in place.
- 7.2.2 Events; a number of successful events have been held with Toasty Tuesday and First Friday returning for the season.
- 7.2.3 Memorial Hall flooding; action has been taken to help with the issue though further inspection/search for drains is to occur.
- 7.3 **Strathmiglo**
- 7.3.1 Events; a number of events have been planned for the winter season.
- 7.3.2 A912/A91 junction drain; a culvert/drain at the west side of the road near the entrance to the community woodland is blocked causing water to cover half the road surface in heavy rain. This issue has been reported on a number of occasions with the inclusion of photographic evidence.
- 7.3.3 Sandygates build out; when originally built SLOW markings and Red Rocbinda strips were not put in position, a request has been put in to have them painted.
- 7.3.4 Bellfield approach A912; a request was made for a SLOW road marking to be put in place on the approach to Bellfield Court from Strathmiglo, this was done but was painted on the crest of the rise making it almost impossible to see. Cllr. Lothian will be asked to see if this could be rectified.
- 7.4 **Auchtermuchty**
- 7.4.1 Madras Road; pot holes, some have been marked while others ignored, there appears to be no logic to the choice.
- 7.4.2 Station Road speed indicator; this appears to work intermittently, it is powered by solar panel and it was thought that this may be an issue in winter. [though there is a street lamp directly above the panel]
- 8.0 **OSP:** the Secretary forwards all relevant information that he receives.
- 8.1 Full fibre; after the disruption of the cable laying in the area it was felt that Open Reach are being very slow at connecting up properties, there seems no apparent reason for the delay.

- 9.0 **Planning:** recent IT issues within Fife Council means that the weekly email may not continue. Access to the lists can be made at <https://planning.fife.gov.uk/online/search.do?action=simple>
- 10.0 **Correspondence:** the secretary has forwarded on to members all relevant correspondence received.
- 11.0 **AOCB;**
- 11.1 Shared calendar; it was suggested that planned events within the four communities could be placed on the calendar on the Community Council's website to prevent the clashing of dates. Dates/event titles can be sent to the Chair for inclusion. If this is successful then a member of each community may be the ability to list events.
- 11.2 Fife Councillor presence at meetings; concern was raised that no Councillor was present at the meeting and it was hoped that some loose arrangement [as had happened in the past] could be made between Councillors to ensure that at least one was present in future.
- 11.3 Local Place Plan; a number of meetings have been arranged in the area over the coming weeks to take the LPP further.
- 12.0 **Date and venue of next meeting:**
- There will be no meeting in December and it was proposed that meetings scheduled for January, February and March of 2024 be conducted over ZOOM conferencing. Agreed, S. Jack will organise.