

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 29th January 2024 via Zoom conferencing.

PRESENT: 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: Cllr. Gary HOLT, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN,

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

Apologies: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], 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 [Fife police do not use Zoom], December report had been circulated.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th November were accepted.

5.0 **Matters Arising:**

5.1 4.0 Resilience Group; the 1st meeting of the Resilience Group [rather than Flood Group] will take place on Thursday 1st February, this will be a small initial meeting to establish the group expanding at following meetings.

5.2 7.2.1 Road signage; speed limit signs still awaited.

5.3 7.3.2 Blocked culvert; drain at entrance to the community woodland on the A912 is still obstructed causing an expanse of water to form during heavy rain which takes time to drain away. It has been reported, Cllr. Lothian will pursue.

5.4 7.3.4 A912 'SLOW' sign, Bellfield Court; the position this was painted makes it difficult to see on approach. Request addition marking approx. 20 metres earlier.

5.5 7.4.1 Auchtermuchty potholes; as with November some holes are marked for repair others not.

5.6 7.4.2 Station Road, Auchtermuchty; Speed indicator sign is still working intermittently, this has been reported and will be pursued. Question raised of why it is solar powered when it is next to a street standard.

5.7 11.1 Shared calendar; the calendar is on the Community Council's website and needs events to be uploaded. Initially these can be feed through to the Chair later an individual from each community can be given access rights to upload information.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Binn Wind Turbine Community Fund [BWTCF]; there has been no reply to communications requesting information. It has been put forward that the fund allocation group be separated from the Directorship. Susan Jack would appreciate assistance in moving the matter along.

6.2 Community Council grants; the Secretary has forwarded on a number of emails relating to requests by other Community Councils to have their annual Fife grant increased, this has not happened for a considerable number of years, to carry out what they see as their function. This Community Council has Community Associations that undertake most, if not all, of these activities and therefore are not in such a position. When asked, Councillors attending felt that funding was not high on the agenda for neighbouring Community Councils in the Howe. Any additional monies received by the Community

Council would most likely be funnelled to the Community Associations.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Auchtermuchty**

7.1.1 Street lighting; it appears that lighting faults are occurring in the same areas around the town. Cllr Holt is to pursue, but it may be a power supply/cabbling issue rather than lighting faults.

7.1.2 Traffic Low Road/Cupar Road; a meeting is to be held with Fife officers, Councillors and local residents to discuss the situation [a date is to be organised]. Auchtermuchty Action on Speed are looking for measures that would improve the situation – current signage etc. is not having the required effect, better speed monitoring location/follow-up. Matters raised at meeting will be reported back to the Community Council.

7.1.3 B936 speed cushions; there is concern that the placement of the cushions, shown in the plan, would allow them to be avoided by driving through a known parking area. The accompanying speed signage is also considered poor at their position they are difficult to see when turning into Burnside from the main road. Perhaps road marking and additional roundels in Burnside would help.

7.2 **Dunshalt**

7.2.1 Play park; a funding target has been set [£3000] and events organised. [Gateside CA are currently looking for funds for their play park and thought a good idea to share names of bodies from which funds can be obtained.]

7.2.2 Flooding; flood pods were reported to have been put in place though this is to be checked as the question of where they were to be put had not been raised. The issue of disposing of used materials was raised -it was reported that they are reusable [thought very difficult to move once wet] and the contents are biodegradable. Refilling the flood pods was also raised as it appears Fife Council's protocols are outdated and in need of updating.

On a related issue, it was noted that the River Eden Sustainable Project river improvement meeting [12th February] had been moved from St Andrews to Letham Village Hall. Participation appears to be through an online application form.

7.3 **Gateside**

7.3.1 CA Events; local events continue Tuesdays, Fridays, various fund raisers and they had hoped to register as a Food Bank. They have however been presented with an issue in that, though they have food preparation certificates, they are now being told they must set up as a domestic food producer/business with its additional bureaucracy and costs. This may bring an end to such events not only in Gateside but throughout Fife – coffee mornings, bake sales etc.

7.3.2 Flooding; impact to housing was caused by run off from the park, the river bank was damaged in a number of areas and the works to improve fish spawning has been destroyed.

7.3.3 Bus 64A service; there is local concern that requests from other areas may lead to the service being withdrawn. It was reported that this service was put in place by the withdrawal of a service to Letham and that the key factor would be usage. How this was to be measured, how long a period of time would the service be given to 'settle in' and the point that Letham can make use of the Flexibus service were all raised.

7.4 **Strathmiglo**

7.4.1 Flooding; Bankwell Crescent was severely effected, there was water ingress in houses in Cash Fues and damage to the river bank where the main sewage pipe crosses the River Eden has been reported.

7.4.2 Prescription service to Strathmiglo; [will be discussed under OSP]

- 8.0 **OSP:** the Secretary forwards all relevant information that he receives.
- 8.1 Health Centre; a meeting was held between the Community Council and the Health Centre where it was confirmed that the intention is to cease the Strathmiglo prescription service on the retiral of the current dispensary assistant. The argument was based around costs [training a new employee, upkeep of the building], low usage and 'lone employee' regulation. Alternatives will have to be explored though it was thought that the impact on the community should be assessed first. It was noted at the meeting that there has been difficulty in recruiting GPs to take over the practice in preparation for the future retiral of the current doctors. It was noted that during the recent power outage the Health Centre was only provided with a generator capable of powering the lighting and a single computer. Thanks were expressed to local business [Top Tyres] for loaning the Centre additional generators for the period. The Secretary has contacted the energy supplier to request a generator of sufficient output during any future outage.
- 8.2 Severe weather notification; the Chair saw a demonstration of a pilot version and was impressed. It is hoped that this will be rolled out, information to follow.
- 8.3 Fibre broadband; the question of when? was again raised with no sign of connections being made despite the intense cable laying. Open Reach responded to an online request that there were no plans for our area as yet. [B. Torrance] Replies to other enquiries have been very disappointing and little progress has been made. Possible alternatives were discussed but considered too expensive.
- 9.0 **Planning:** Access to the lists can be made at <https://planning.fife.gov.uk/online/search.do?action=simple>
- 9.1 Swan Engineering/ Marsland Farm; neither has gone before Committee.
- 9.2 Cycle Tavern; the Community Council has registered as a Statutory Consultee, but there appears to be no local objection.
- 10.0 **Correspondence:** the secretary has forwarded on to members all relevant correspondence received.
- 11.0 **AOCB;**
- 11.1 Future meetings; it was agreed to restart in person meetings from March to October 2024 then review at which point we may move to TEAMS online facility. It is noted that Dunshalt hall is no longer available on a Monday though Gateside may become available. Until this has been determined meetings will alternate between Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo.
- 12.0 **Date and venue of next meeting:**
- February 26th, 7.30pm online via ZOOM facility.