

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 25th March 2024 in Strathmiglo Public Hall.

PRESENT: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Raymond KELLY [Falkland Pharmacy], Cllr. Gary HOLT, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN

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

Apologies: Mark GIBSON [Auchtermuchty], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Susan JACK [Gateside], Cllr. David MACDIARMID, PC's Haddow and Lowe.

2.0 Closure of Strathmiglo Surgery; with the closure of the surgery there will be no means of dispensing medicines in village [this was usually for repeat prescriptions]. Raymond Kelly of Lomond Pharmacy in Falkland told the meeting that he had been approached by a number of residents and offered a work-around. While the patient has the choice of which pharmacy to have their prescription filled, they were offering to place a secure 'drop-box' at a suitable location in Strathmiglo where repeat prescriptions could be placed, this would be emptied daily, the pharmacy would fill the prescription once it had returned from the surgery and the medicines would be delivered free of charge. There may be the case to have a similar 'drop-box' in Gateside, this will be based on demand. The pharmacy are currently in discussion with both Fife Country and Morrisons but once the location is agreed the service could begin immediately as deliveries are already being made to the Strathmiglo and Gateside area. To ease the situation Mr Kelly thought that a 'Medicines, care and review', currently not offered by the Health Centre could be introduced where a pre-signed 14 month repeat prescription is held by the pharmacy.

The meeting gave a very positive reaction to Mr Kelly's offer and would like to see it up and running quickly with details of the service being distributed though the community as widely as possible. It was noted that Rowlands Pharmacy may offer a similar service though nothing has been heard so far. Thanks were expressed to Mr Kelly for his attendance at the meeting and his welcome contribution.

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

4.0 **Police:** no police presence but it is hoped with the return to in person meetings they will come along to future meetings.

4.1 Dunshalt; an example of abnormally excessive speeding was recently reported to the police.

5.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th February were accepted.

6.0 **Matters Arising:**

6.1 5.2 Speed signage; the Gateside "Your speed" sign is now in place, the speed indicator on Station Road, Auchtermuchty is working.

6.2 5.4 Binn Wind Farm fund; it was reported that it is likely funds will be made available in late April/ early May with applications open in June and close August. The level of the funds are not known at present.

7.0 **Other Business:**

7.1 Woodland felling; the proposed felling/thinning in areas around Gateside and Auchtermuchty appear to be part of the commercial process of the farm involved. There is the intention to replant, this may be broad leaf trees or another cash crop, though some planting may not be in the areas cleared. There was concern expressed about the state of the ground after the works, it may take a considerable

time to recover, but as it is part of a commercial cycle the Community Council will not make a comment.

7.2 Resilience Group; it was felt that this group should have a set membership for its meetings to allow for continuity of discussion, with non-member attendance by invitation only. It was also thought that the Community Council should have representation in the River Eden Partnership, A. McNaughton expressed an interest. The recent TEAMS meeting of the Falkland Resilience Group had technical issues but it was discovered that Rick Haynes [Fife Council Flooding, Shoreline and Harbours] is leaving to take up a post with Perth & Kinross. It is hoped that when he is replaced the role will be redefined to allow a focus on flooding, a priority issue, with the Shoreline and Harbours being dealt with by other officers. At present grants/monies that could be available to assist with flooding matters is being examined by Fife legal department to ensure that it gets to the 'right' people.

8.0 **Fife Council:**

8.1 **Strathmiglo**

8.1.1 New Cemetery water tap; repaired.

8.1.2 KGV park footbridge has been repaired, this was a more extensive job than first thought.

8.1.3 Main sewer; where the main sewer pipe crosses the River Eden by East Mill Court an area of bank surrounding the pipe supports has been washed out [the area had had major work done to it in the past]. This was reported to Scottish Water but it is unknown if any inspection has been carried out.

8.2 **Auchtermuchty**

8.2.1 Orchard Flat; it has been a considerable time since approval to have double yellow lines painted in the area to prevent problem parking and as yet they have not appeared.

[As a side issue the question was raised as to how Sat Nav companies are informed when a change of speed limits has been made, is there an official notice sent, is it up to the public or are they obliged to keep up to date?]

8.3 **Dunshalt**

8.3.1 Dunshalt/Freuchie Road; Cllr. Holt is consulting with neighbouring Community Councils and is attempting to have the repairs put into the area road program. The road has had problems in the past but it was felt that the increase in traffic has accentuated the problem. Along with the repairs to the damaged road surface there needs to be regular attention given to deal with verge creep and windblown soil. Cllr. Holt would like the Community Council Chairs to act together in their approach to Fife Council with the suggestion of initial clearing followed by repair.

8.3.2 Flood Pods; sites are still under discussion.

8.4 **Gateside**

8.4.1 Gateside CA; held its AGM and will continue with a range of activities and fund raising.

8.4.2 Food preparation/business certificates; the recent enforcement of regulations, previously not applied to local voluntary groups, is causing a major headache with volunteers preparing soups, cakes etc. expected to meet small business levels of separation of food preparation areas in their home. The CA is attempting to discuss the issue with Environmental Health hoping for some leeway. If this is not achieved then all such voluntary bodies carrying out similar activities will also be effected.

9.0 **OSP:** the Secretary forwards all relevant information that he receives.

10.0 Planning: Access to the lists can be made at

<https://planning.fife.gov.uk/online/search.do?action=simple>

11.0 Correspondence: the secretary has forwarded on to members all relevant correspondence received.

12.0 AOCB;

12.1 Local Place Plan; the latest meeting takes place this week with version 4 of the plan being released for public consultation in April, this version will be sent out to Community Council members the week before the April meeting to allow for discussion as when submitted to Fife Council it will be done in the name of the Community Council. On a related issue Cllr. Lothian wondered if Strathmiglo CA had thought further the possible inclusion of the field to the north of East Back Dykes into the Local Plan as potential area for housing, this will be brought to the next meeting of the CA. There was the question of the sale of Strathmiglo Parish Church and its possible use as a cultural hub, this will be raised at the next CA meeting.

13.0 Date and venue of next meeting:

Monday 29th April, Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30 pm.