

## Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

### Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

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 and 30 members of the public.

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:** officers were on duty so could not be present, it was noted that the latest police report had been circulated.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March were accepted.

5.0 **Matters Arising:** none not included in the agenda.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Local Place Plan [LPP]; as the majority of the members of the public attending were from Auchtermuchty, with a particular interest in the Low Road park, the Chair gave some background to its inclusion. Some time back the football club using the park had expressed a desire to develop the park to provide better changing facilities and an extension to the playing area with the possible move of the parking provision by opening the old gate from the Low Road. Discussion continued to the possibility of a large scale multi-function centre in place of the pavilion. It was around this time that LPPs were being introduced looking for community suggestions for land/building use and it was suggested that the two be combined. There had been expressed a desire for more, hopefully affordable/social, houses in Auchtermuchty and it was suggested that by allocating some of the land towards this it would contribute to the costs of the new park arrangements.

It was at this point that the Chair highlighted the insulting, abusive and personal remarks/attacks made on social media ['Muchty Rants'] concerning the matter. It was agreed by all that this was not how an online community forum should be used and that moderation was required.

Observations were made by members of the public that the Low Road park had been donated to the people of Auchtermuchty with conditions attached and full scale public consultation would be required before any change to the present situation could be made. Conversations have been held with Fife Council who have shown a willingness to initiate a community transfer. It was agreed that there is a need for clarification to find out if this is possible given the conditions that exists. It was also suggested that the Auchtermuchty Community Association would be an ideal forum for further discussion.

It was pointed out that public disquiet, regarding the LPP, is not confined to Auchtermuchty as there are similar concerns in Strathmiglo.

At present the LPP has yet to be adopted by the Community Council, the body that will submit it to Fife Council, and is still in its consultation period therefore open to comments/observations [including housing provision] and there is no reason why the existence of differing opinions need be excluded.

The formation of Fife Council's Local Development Plan must recognise the LPP as a valid source of information. Though they may overrule its contents they must recognise it. LPPs are a new way for the public to express what they hope will happen in and around their communities therefore there will be teething problems and it is hoped that these can be overcome.

6.2 Speedwatch; Re. the request that the Speedwatch for the area be taken on as a CC initiative for insurance purposes, questions were asked as to; why this could not be done by the Police themselves, who would be in control – is it a Police activity or CC activity?, who would make the claim if one were needed – the Police or the CC? Clarification is to be sought, feedback will be made to officers.

6.3 Resilience Group; Flooding is the current focus of the group but will expand out in time to cover other emergency situations. Meetings held so far are intended to establish the group and determine its membership, order of business and how it relates to other groups within the area. They are looking to bring in ‘expert’ speakers for advice on specific topics – they have already formed a link with Falkland and a display of flood protection devices, and the Eden River Sustainability Partnership – looking to join. The next meeting will concentrate on how to protect the community eg. housing, businesses etc., drain problems and where assistance may be needed. It was also pointed out that Fife Council are now offering flood resilience grants of up to £5000 per property. see Fife Council website

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/news/2024/applications-open-for-property-flood-resilience-grant-scheme#:~:text=Fife%20Council's%20Property%20Flood%20Resilience,%25%2C000%20available%20per%20property.>

## 7.0 Fife Council:

### 7.1 Auchtermuchty

7.1.1 Orchard Flat yellow lines; these are due to painted in May/June 2024.

7.1.2 Upper Greens drain; this is not functioning, examination shows an old clay pipe collapse, and is in need of replacing. Cllr. Holt to pursue.

7.1.3 Low Road; a culvert near the Low Road park is blocked – this has been reported.

7.1.4 Nursery/School provision; [this was raised during the LPP discussion] a break in the progression between nursery and school is occurring with the changes to nursery provision rules, leading to children attending nursery not getting a place at the school and nursery places being taken by children not intending to attend the school. This is leaving parents in an uncertain situation.

### 7.2 Dunshalt

7.2.1 AGM of the Community Association; the main focus will be to look for volunteers for a number of activities.

7.2.2 Speeding; particular locations – both entrances to the village – are being predominantly effected.

7.2.3 Playpark; fund raising has exceeded targets and work on the park should begin this year.

### 7.3 Gateside

7.3.1 Food preparation/business certificates; discussion has taken place with the Environmental health softening their stance on their requirements. Where preparation is not on a “regular” timetable then no additional certification will be necessary, though no definition of regular was given. The soup lunches will continue, though it is noted there was no mention of cakes!

7.4 **Strathmiglo** items relating to Strathmiglo will be raised at the Community Association meeting.

- 8.0 **OSP:** the Secretary forwards all relevant information that he receives.
- 9.0 **Planning:** Access to the lists can be made at <https://planning.fife.gov.uk/online/search.do?action=simple>
- 9.1 Latest lists; the Secretary has circulated a list of the latest applications in the CC's area.
- 9.2 Leckiebank Road (24/00898/PPP); a local resident raised the issue that a previous approved PPP application concerning the property had not been withdrawn and a second PPP had now been submitted. The secretary will check and if necessary express concern with Fife Council Planning Department. It was also determined that it was too late for the CC to register as a statutory consultee, but as the application was for planning in principle this could be done if necessary when any application in full is made.
- 10.0 **Correspondence:** the secretary has forwarded on to members all relevant correspondence received, of note;
- 10.1 Speedwatch; discussed previously.
- 10.2 Email seeking clarification of position of Low Road park, raised previously.
- 10.3 Email on CC's visibility; suggesting the CC's position on Social Media be enhanced.
- 10.4 Auchtermuchty Community Trust; it was felt that the matter would be best raised with the Community Trust. All trust meetings and applications to be a member are open to the public. As a registered charity they are in an excellent position to offer assistance to local initiatives.
- 11.0 **AOCB;**
- 11.1 Victoria Hall, Auchtermuchty; a local group has formed looking into possible future development of the hall. The CC would be happy to offer support. Information about the group will be circulated through Auchtermuchty.
- 11.2 Unadopted roads; B.Torrance asked Councillors attending if there had been, or is likely to be, a change in Fife Council's policy towards unadopted roads i.e. carrying out repairs, process of adoption. Councillors were of the mind that this was unlikely to change especially given the current financial situation.
- 13.0 **Date and venue of next meeting:**
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May, in Strathmiglo Public Hall, at 7.30 pm.**