

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 27th May 2024 in Strathmiglo Public Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN and 4 members of the public.

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

Apologies: Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Cllr. Gary HOLT, Cllr. David MACDIARMID, PC's HADDOW and LOWE.

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

3.0 **Police:** it was noted that the latest police report had been circulated.

3.1 Dog Attack; Strathmiglo CA were disappointed in the police reaction to a reported attack made on a local resident while running in the Lomond Hills particularly as recent attacks on sheep had received a swift response, much appreciated by local farmers. The issue has been raised with local officers.

3.2 Anti-social behaviour in Auchtermuchty; an individual has been seen making unwanted approaches to local residents, including children.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th April were accepted.

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

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Binn Wind Turbine Fund; S. Jack had been expecting information about the progress of the fund, but despite a number of attempts has received none. At present with no word of monies available applications for grants cannot be made. No accounts regarding the fund have been made available and there has been changes in a number of the individuals in the community bodies that will need to be brought up to speed. There is a fear that the credibility of the the turbine fund will be lost. It was thought that a meeting of all parties involved should be called. The 'service' provided by Foundation Scotland was described as very poor with other community groups wishing to remove their involvement. As yet there are no Community Directors so there can be no input by the communities nor feedback from the management team. There was the question of whether due diligence has been followed by the companies involved. The Secretary will write to GreenCat and CARES [Community and Renewable Energy Scheme - Mark Brennan] with a request for information concerning the situation - including OurCommunityEnergy. This will be copied to the other Community Councils involved. It was noted that the project has been through a number of formats, the monies involved varying considerably and banking terms and conditions changed. It was suggested that the use of a Freedom of Information request could be made. It was also noted that Foundation Scotland have requested detailed information regarding funds already received by the CC.

6.2 Local Place Plan [LPP]; The final draft has been circulated to members and needs to be agreed to allow for its compilation and printing before submission to Fife Council, this would have to be done at the current meeting. B.Torrance questioned the ownership of the document and though the CC would be making the submission it was the steering group of the Auchtermuchty Community Trust who were in fact responsible for its content. It was felt by other members that as the CC are to submit the LPP then they would be responsible for it and that the current document is jointly a LPP and a Community Action Plan.

Discussion followed with the members of the public particularly concerned that submission of the

finalised plan will be made to Fife Council before it is publicised, they had wished to see the final document as they had only seen drafts and questioned the validity of the information gathering conducted. It was noted that Community Enterprise [the company employed to bring the LPP together] had been involved from the beginning and had are bound by ‘rules’ by which they conduct the process and the need to show evidence for any conclusions made. Public involvement, during the consultation, had been lower than hoped but had been at a level common to such activities according to Community Enterprise. Details of how the consultation was carried out, stated in the LPP, were read out at the meeting.

B. Torrance raised the issue of the Development Officer, the employment and funding of, that was given as a commitment in the LPP. He pointed out that such action was beyond the capabilities of the CC in its present form and questioned what was meant by the expression “anchor organisations” who were to be responsible for their employment. It was stated that this issue had been raised within the steering group but the position had been retained in the LPP.

The question was put that the CC submit the LPP in its present form, proposed A. Heer & seconded S. Jack, there being no amendments to the question, it was accepted.

An additional matter was raised regarding costs incurred by the steering group of hall rental for meetings, A. Heer requested that the CC cover these costs – approximately £155. AGREED.

6.3 Resilience Group [RG];

6.3.1 Agreement has been reached, by the parties involved, to tackle the drainage issue at the western end of the Low Road at the High Road junction.

6.3.2 The broken drain at the fire station is to be pursued.

6.3.3 The holes in the Orchard Flat wall allowing water from a swollen burn to flood the area are unnecessary drain pipes that could be blocked off to prevent further problems.

6.3.4 A flood pod will be placed outside the fire station in Auchtermuchty and 2 to be placed in agreed positions within Dunshalt [there is no obvious place for a third].

6.3.5 It was recommended that each community have a resilience group but it was felt that a representative from each community reporting back to the group would be preferable.

6.3.6 A. McNaughton is to be the RG’s representative on the River Eden Sustainability Project. The body is taking a holistic approach to the river working with all users and interested parties. Ideas including introduction of meanders being introduced below Dunshalt with a drone survey being carried out in the head waters. It was thought good practice that local farmers be informed when this was likely to happen – eg. not to coincide with lambing.

6.3.7 The CC was requested to co-opt Ewan Band as a councillor to focus specifically on this issue, this would allow him to request information needed in the name of the CC. AGREED.

There was a request that the RG find out the contact details for the individual/body responsible for refilling the flood pods.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Strathmiglo**

Items relating to Strathmiglo will be raised at the Community Association meeting.

7.1.1 CC website; there had been a request by the CA that the local association’s newsletter, and those of the other communities, be hosted on the CC’s website. It was felt that this was not a problem and could be done if electronic files were sent in.

7.2 **Auchtermuchty**

7.2.1 Road verges; the grass cutting regime was felt to be in need of review. It was suggested that

where the verge is overgrown, it be reported on line as a road fault, the more people who do this the more likely action will be taken.

7.2.2 Speed indicator Station Road; this appears to be faulty again.

7.2.3 Speeding; the local speed group are meeting considerable resistance from Fife Council for physical measures to slow the speed of traffic through the town despite the precedents in Falkland and Giffordtown. As a result they are looking to private initiatives including traffic cameras and speed activated traffic lights. There was the question of public reaction to such a move. The position of the police to the community taking on this role would also have to be established. It was noted that there is a likelihood that such a system is to be installed in Giffordtown and we should await its results.

The Secretary has written to Fife Council and Fife Police as requested stating that the CC felt that the insurance of Speedwatch activities should be the responsibility of the Police.

7.2.4 Parking; problems are occurring with irresponsible parking, double yellow lines only work if enforced.

7.2.5 Victoria Hall; there has been a request from the Victoria Hall Campaign for the CC to write a letter of support for their activities. Given the repairs required to the hall, and cost of, the Chair suggested that the CC write a letter of support noting the difficulties the group will face given the lack of funding currently available to Fife Council.

7.3 **Dunshalt**

7.3.1 Hall; décor is to be refreshed.

7.3.2 Village shop; the annual members meeting is to be held in June and attendance of members is encouraged.

7.4 **Gateside**

7.4.1 Local events; a number of successful events have been run.

7.4.2 Speed indicator; it was felt that the newly installed indicator should have been placed on the edge of the village to have traffic slow before they enter the built up area.

7.4.3 Flood warning road sign; it was felt that a sign would be useful on the western exit to the village as a dip in the road regularly gathers water causing problems. The opinion was expressed that driver behaviour was a more major contribution to the problems.

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

8.1 Transmission line; the information received is regarding the first stage of the line upgrade and stops north of Auchtermuchty, it is another company who will be responsible for the line going south.

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.

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

11.0 **AOCB;**

11.1 Future meetings; given that there is no change in the availability of halls in Gateside and Dunshalt, meetings will continue to alternate between Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo.

12.0 **Date and venue of next meeting:**

Monday 24th June, Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30 pm.