

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 24th June 2024 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN and 2 members of the public.

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

Apologies: Mark GIBSON [Auchtermuchty], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], 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; no further news, complainant has had little feedback from Police concerning the issue.

3.2 Officers attendance; it was noted that it has been some time since officers had attended a meeting, while recognising the many demands on officers time it was hoped that something could be arranged.

3.3 Speedwatch; the Secretary has written to both Fife Council and the Police but has no reply regarding the questions raised in the Community Council. It was agreed to await further information before making a decision.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th May were accepted, with one correction.

7.2.3 Speeding; it was noted that the speed group in Giffordtown had not looked for "physical measures".

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

5.1 Binn Wind Turbine Fund; a meeting is to be arranged between interested parties with the hope that information sought will be forth coming [no date has yet been arranged], contact has also been made with Community and Renewable Energy Scheme [CARES] and representation from the other Community Councils [CCs] are being requested. The main focus will be how the CCs can be more involved in the management of the scheme and how access to funds could be simplified. S. Jack, through the Company House website, had viewed the submitted accounts and found that the monies available may be considerably less than had been last suggested [more in line with the levels when the project had been first put forward]. It appears expenses and loan repayments were taking the majority of the funds, access to fuller accounts may be able to show why this was the case. S.Jack will report back to the CC. It was noted that the Secretary had returned the requested report on the CC's use of the drawdown, though FoundationScotland had at first claimed otherwise, and S. Jack is to pursue the issue of the maximum level of award allowed to be made by the CC, there has been some 'crossed wires' concerning this issue.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Binn Farm PPC application; this appears to be a 'done deal' with the planning application for the site only encouraging traffic approaching the site do so from the M90 Bridge of Earn junction. While it was recognised that this approach has a series of difficult corners to negotiate, traffic through Gateside has been noticeable. It was hoped that as the facility operates using an indoor process that odours from the site will not effect the local area.

- 6.2 Local Place Plan [LPP]; the final version has been seen by the Steering Group [Auchtermuchty Community Trust] and when submitted to Fife Council will be sent out to members.
- 6.3 Resilience Group [RG];
- 6.3.1 Flood pods; these have now been placed in the agreed locations.
- 6.3.2 The broken drain at the fire station is to be pursued, through there was some discussion concerning its actual location. Cllr. Holt will be asked if there has been any progress.
- 6.3.3 A. McNaughton is to be the CC's representative on the River Eden Sustainability Project, as he is not a member of the Resilience Group.
- 6.4 Bus service in the area; it was reported that the service from Glenrothes to Perth via Auchtermuchty is to be discontinued. The alternative to provided is a Glenrothes to Newburgh service which 'should' link with a new Perth to St Andrews service via Cupar stopping in Newburgh. Timetables have yet to be released and 'consultation' ends on the 30th June. The Chair and Secretary will compose a letter expressing the CC's disappointment at the change and emphasising the need that these services are properly coordinated. The issue of covered bus shelters in Newburgh was also raised given that passengers may have to wait for the connection between the services. It was thought useful if a full audit of all bus services running through the CC's area was conducted.
- 7.0 **Fife Council:** [the Minute Secretary made a request for maps/plans of the local settlements to enable locations to be more accurately identified]
- 7.1 **Auchtermuchty**
- 7.1.1 Speed indicator Station Road; this appears to be working intermittently
- 7.1.2 Speed cushions Newburgh Road; the objections made to their placement have been overruled.
- 7.1.3 Town Clock; a request has been made that the chimes of the clock be stopped at 10p.m. There was some discussion as to the hours the clock chimes at present and the preference that they continue also expressed. It is presumed that local consultation will be conducted.
- 7.2 **Dunshalt**
- 7.2.1 Flood Pods; in position.
- 7.2.2 Village shop; it was reported that the shop has had a difficult trading year and, although changes are to be made, it is unlikely to be able to operate if the present situation continues. Use it or lose it appears to be the most apt view with local residents, and those from further afield, being encouraged to make use of it.
- 7.2.3 Speeding; the formation of a local action group [not linked to Speedwatch] has been mooted as a response to the current situation.
- 7.2.4 Shiells Road/Ladybank Road; Cllr. Lothian will find out from Cllr. Holt how the proposed meeting between neighbouring CCs concerning this issue has been arranged.
- 7.3 **Gateside**
- 7.3.1 Open gardens; inclement weather but successful.
- 7.3.2 Play Park; funding goal has been increased.
- 7.3.3 Traffic; speeding and reaction to speed cushions are still a problem, driver action being the major contributor. Cowiefaulds is still in need of signs warning traffic about children crossing the road to and from the school bus.

- 7.3.4 Gateside Gallop; is set to return this year.
- 7.4 **Strathmiglo**
- 7.4.1 A91 road sign; the west bound direction sign is badly obscured by trees, this is beyond the capabilities of a local volunteer with a pair of loppers.
- 7.4.2 Fun Day; this has been scheduled for the 7th July, all welcome.
- 7.4.3 Gas gun; a bird scarer has been causing a nuisance to residents in the Skene Road area and questions of regulations have been asked concerning volume and time of use. Efforts are being made to contact the land owner.
- 7.4.4 High Street road condition; a line of pot holes has reformed running down the middle of the High Street that appear to be more than a road use issue. Previously reported it was to be monitored, the question was raised as to whether this was still being done and if so how frequently.
- 7.4.5 River Eden Day; this is to be an event run by the River Eden Sustainability Project and held in the Strathmiglo Public Hall on the 24th August.
- 8.0 **OSP:** the Secretary forwards all relevant information that he receives.
- 8.1 Digital Voice; B. Torrance told the meeting of an email regarding the cutting of of the analogue telephone service in the area to be replaced by a service based on broadband that will not operate in a power cut. He wondered how well local residents knew of this and what actions were being taken to support those using community alarms etc. which will be effected by the change.
- 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.
- 10.1 Glenfarg Community bus; Douglas Fraser has asked to attend a future meeting to discuss how this service could be of use to local residents. It was agreed to invite him to the meeting on the 26th August.
- 10.2 Fife 'Place Matters'; consultation has begun for the Local Development Plan inviting submissions from all interested parties.
- 11.0 **AOCB;**
- 11.1 New Inn-Falkland A912; this road is to be closed for works for 5 weeks starting on the 24th June, the diversion signed is considerable.
- 11.2 CC's Bank Account; the Treasurer has requested that he opens an on-line bank facility attached to the CC's account, a number of venues are asking for bank transfers instead of cheques and it would also prevent cheques not being cashed in time. AGREED, with the two signatories condition applying to it as well.
- 12.0 **Date and venue of next meeting:**

Monday 26th August, in Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30 pm.