

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 18th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 30th June in Strathmiglo Public Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Tony ROGERS [Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Trust]

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

Apologies: Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], PC's HADDOW and LOWE.

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

3.0 **Community Action Plan [CAP];** an updated CAP has been compiled by the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Trust and includes feedback from meetings held with the Community Associations. There is a focus of looking to the future i.e. where does it go now, how do we progress issues. This will be sent out to Community Council members to be discussed at the next meeting in August.

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

4.1 Speedwatch; no further information on progress with the Public Liability insurance issue.

5.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th May were accepted as correct.

6.0 **Matters Arising:**

6.1 7.1.2 Millflat public art; the Chair had raised the issue with the Auchtermuchty CA as agreed but has had no feedback. As the matter is pressing he contacted 'Muchty Heritage who replied in a very positive manner leaning towards reflecting the weaving tradition in the area of the development suggesting that weavers/weaving be the theme. As the artwork would reflect the name given to the development, this should also have a weaving connection. The point was raised that the name Weavers' Court is in use in Strathmiglo and may be a reason for Fife Council to seek a different name. The Chair will pass what we have on to the developers to move the issue forward and if required further discussion can take place, though additional time may be needed.

7.0 **Other Business:**

7.1 Pavement parking; it has been noted that Fife Council plan to begin enforcing the ban from the 1st September of this year. This will compel residents to park fully on the road resulting in traffic issues not only in the narrower streets but also some of the main roads through the communities. Community Councils [CC] can request exemptions, though no direct contact has been made with the CC, but guidance from Scottish Government implies these should be very limited. Discussion was held concerning whether exemptions should be made at all and that the emphasis should be on the safety of pedestrians not convenience for car users. As most areas within the communities were not built for the volume or type of traffic that looks to use them, add in residents having become used to the status quo and the question of how strict the implementation of the ban [and subsequent fines] will be, it is hard to determine the outcome. The question of whether other other parking restrictions would also be enforced, e.g. being too close to a junction, was raised but it was thought one issue was enough at this time.

7.2 Binn Wind Turbine Fund; an application was received from Strathmiglo CA for £200 towards a number of projects, in particular the replacing of planters at the entrances to the village. The sub-committee suggested that £100 be given from the Binn Wind Turbine Community Fund drawdown

and £100 from CC funds and shown as such in the accounts. AGREED.

7.3 Resilience Group; discussion and site visits have taken place regarding 'leaky barriers' in Glassarts Glen in four locations. It was also suggested that willow trees be planted to help in the retention of water. The individual contribution by the number of water sources in the area to the problem was raised, an answer may be found in the River Eden survey currently being undertaken. Cllr. Lothian suggested the formation of a local 'watch' group to carry out weekly inspections of areas of concern to allow prompt reporting to Fife Council for remedial works. It was noted that reports are given at Resilience Group meetings. Additional sources of sandbags available to residents was thought useful, though siting of storage would be an issue. The need to take timely action to protect their own property was again raised as it appears many residents are failing to do so despite warnings. In a related matter the Flood Forum have arranged for a 'Flood Bus', with information on how to prevent/minimise flood damage and examples of equipment that can be used, to be at the Falkland Festival in July.

8.0 Fife Council:

8.1 Strathmiglo

8.1.1 River Eden; bank repairs undertaken and recent spates have resulted in a number of large boulders rolling into the river channel below the main sewer pipe as it crosses from the north to the south bank. It will take machinery to remove them. B. Torrance was unsure whether it was Fife Council or Scottish Water who carried out the repairs. He will send photos of the problem to Scottish Water [copying in Fife Council] for comment.

8.2 Dunshalt

8.2.1 Community Association; AGM was held and a new committee formed, the Safety Team meeting followed. Three names have been submitted for participation in the Speedwatch program. A request has been made for some form of road engineering to slow traffic/allocate priority [particularly at the bridge at the southern end of the village]. The Chair has contacted Fife Council for a meeting to view and discuss the issue.

8.2.2 Dunshalt-Freuchie road condition; the encroaching verge has been raised as an ongoing problem leading to issues with oncoming traffic at certain points. The majority of this road falls in the area of Falkland CC but it was thought worthy of comment here.

8.3 Gateside

8.3.1 Old Town; residents will be informed prior to work being carried out.

8.4 Auchtermuchty

8.4.1 Orchard Flat; inconsiderate parking is still an issue, particularly for through traffic, as no action has been taken on the painting of double yellow lines despite the order for them being issued some time ago. Cllr. Lothian will chase up.

8.4.2 Pot hole repairs; the opinion was given that those repairs carried out recently in the area were of very poor quality and should only be considered as temporary measures. It was noted that the repairs had been sub-contracted and it was questioned as to whether this was the reason for the unsatisfactory end result.

8.4.3 Shand Place; the possible formation of a 'sink-hole' has been observed. It is not known if it has been reported.

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

9.1 Broadband; a general discussion took place regarding the unsatisfactory situation many parts of the area find themselves in. There appears to be no immediate plan to roll out full fibre to all parts leading to a very poor level of service for some residents.

10.0 **Planning:** the Secretary has circulated a list of the latest applications in the CC's area.

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

11.1 Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland; we have been asked if the CC wish to continue its membership. It was considered by the meeting to be worthwhile to remain a member. Our membership will be renewed.

11.0 **AOCB;**

11.1 CC accounts; the Treasurer informed the meeting that the accounts have now been examined, a new examiner has been instructed – JB Bookkeeping, Strathmiglo, and application has been made for the 2025-26 Fife Grant.

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

Monday 25th August, in Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30 pm.

Apologies B. Torrance