

## Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

### Minutes of the 20th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> September in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

**PRESENT:** Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], 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: Mark GIBSON [Auchtermuchty], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Cllr. Gary HOLT, 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 'Nights drawing in'; it was commented that with darker nights approaching a variety of nefarious nocturnal activities tend to occur. It was thought that officers would respond if contacted.

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

5.0 **Matters Arising: [not on the Agenda]** none

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Community Action Plan [CAP]; the updated CAP was put to the Community Council [CC], members having received a copy to examine before the meeting, for endorsement. Discussion was held where a number of points were raised primarily focussed on how the plan would be implemented in the current financial climate and getting the community involved. It was agreed that the plan should be considered aspirational and a guide to how the community wish to develop with no strict time frame set allowing for progress where funding could be found – there are a number of sources for such community related funding. Involving as wide section of the local community could be achieved, not on the CAP as a whole but, through ad hoc groups – a number of which already exist in the area – tackling separate projects based on issues in the CAP. In taking the plan forward the CC would make a fixed item on meetings agenda, publicise through local newsletters and press outlets, promote involvement through the Community Associations and make contact with existing and potential stakeholders.

Chair put it to the meeting that the CC endorse the CAP. AGREED .

6.2 Millflat/Leckiebank; it was noted that the developer has taken ownership and work is about to start. There was talk of a suggested name of 'Linen Lea Brae' but Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that it appears another name has been chosen by Fife Council based on a past resident of Auchtermuchty, Alexander Leburn, this is to be confirmed. Questions were asked as to why there is a consultation process if Fife Council supplies the name.

6.3 Resilience Group; at a recent Fife Climate Hub meeting a representative of the Ochils community group spoke of leaky barriers already installed in their area, it is hoped to organise a site visit to see how they have fared. Glassarts Glen will again be visited in order that potential sites and costings can be compiled. The Chair has sent out information concerning this and will continue to do so.

6.4 Binn Wind Turbine Fund; local groups have been repeatedly reminded that the closing date for this round of grant applications to Foundation Scotland [FS] is the 7<sup>th</sup> October, S. Jack will find out

for the next meeting if any have been made from our area. She is also keen to receive accounts from applicants concerning the online application process, anecdotal evidence is that this is difficult but actual detail would be useful. The Secretary reported that in his dealings with FS an alternative to use of 'the portal' can be available allowing forms to be sent for completion and return using standard word document and spreadsheet software.

6.5 River Eden Sustainability Project; no news

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Auchtermuchty**

7.1.1 Orchard Flat; no yellow lines yet.

7.1.2 Pedestrian crossing; the crossing on the Low Road near the Stratheden Place junction is in need of repainting.

7.1.3 Crayfish; an invasive variety of crayfish [though all crayfish can be considered invasive in Scotland] has been spotted in the Burn. The meeting was reminded that it is illegal to move any crayfish from the area they were caught.

7.1.4 Cemetery signage; road signs have now been installed.

7.1.5 Water ingress; there is an impasse between the landowner and Scottish Power concerning action to be taken by the electricity substation at the west end of the High Road. Fife Council will have to wait for water to encroach onto the road at which point it can take action.

7.1.6 Station Road; ponding during heavy rain appears to be caused by a problem with the drain which outflows to the burn. Remedial work is hoped for.

7.1.7 Low Road resurfacing; this is expected to occur in the next 6 months requiring the Low Road to be closed for a period of time and a diversion for all traffic to be set up. The footpath will also be repaired and road marking renewed. [related to 7.1.2]

7.1.8 Fife Community Benefits; [re 7.1.7]; companies awarded contracts by Fife Council are asked to contribute to the local community that they are having an impact on, to support with labour, materials, sponsorship, or donations to enhance an organisation or group's community efforts.

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/business2/doing-business-with-us/community-benefits-a-guide-for-suppliers/community-benefits-a-guide-for-community-groups-and-organisations>

7.2 **Dunshalt**

7.2.1 Speedwatch group; a training date has been set [18<sup>th</sup> October] for the group of volunteers.

On a related matter a meeting is to be held, by Fife Council, of interested parties concerning traffic calming through the village. It was hoped that the views and needs of local residents would be paramount and that their input would be addressed.

Also it was heard from the Giffordtown CC that the pilot speed camera scheme is gathering evidence of the level of speeding through the area that it hopes will persuade Fife Council to take action. If so then it opens a potential route for other communities to follow in dealing with the issue.

7.2.2 Village hall; it is proposed that a Facebook page be set up in the hall's name.

7.2.3 Ladybank Road; the sumps, that take excess water from the road surface, are being cleared out as part of a maintenance process.

7.3 **Gateside**

- 7.3.1 Speed signage; there has been no progress with installation of signs, though it was recognised that the speed ‘humps’ have helped.
- 7.3.2 787 airport bus; it was noted that the St Andrews to Edinburgh airport is timetabled to stop in Gateside.
- 7.3.3 Old Town; road repairs are delayed due to the breakdown of the machine used. All jobs to be carried out by this machine are now on hold.
- 7.4 **Strathmiglo**
- 7.4.1 Cash Feus/West Road junction; a tree at the junction is causing concern to a local resident. Matter will be raised at the Strathmiglo Community Association meeting, Cllr. Lothian will also give resident the relevant Fife Council officer’s contact details.
- 8.0 **OSP:** the Secretary forwards all relevant information that he receives.
- 8.1 Broadband; it has been reported that Dunshalt residents will soon be full fibre. It was asked when the rest of the community area would follow.
- 8.2 1<sup>st</sup> Responders; G. Simpson attended a recent meeting and reported that the project has been well received and that it hopes to expand [through an application to Foundation Scotland] the equipment available to the team.
- 9.0 **Planning:** the Secretary has circulated a list of the latest applications in the CC’s area.
- 9.1 Church hall, Strathmiglo 25/02325 FULL; while the development of the building was welcomed the developers statement that on street parking was sufficient to take the additional parking required would have to be challenged, parking issues in Strathmiglo are a topic highlighted within the CAP. The matter will be raised at the Strathmiglo CA meeting and the CC will put in a formal objection on these grounds.
- 10.0 **Correspondence:** the secretary has forwarded on to members all relevant correspondence received.
- 11.0 **AOCB;** none
- 12.0 **Date and venue of next meeting:**
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October, in Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30 pm.
- [It was also agreed that CC meetings to be held from November 2025 to February 2026, inclusive, will be conducted online – it was thought through ZOOM conferencing facility as before, though other options may be explored]