

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 24th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 23rd February 2026 via Zoom conferencing.

PRESENT: Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN.

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

Apologies: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Mark GIBSON [Auchtermuchty], 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. It was noted that we have a new Sergeant for our area, and as a previous Sergeant is now an Inspector their prospects are good.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th January were accepted as correct.

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

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 BWTCF; Applications have been received from the Strathmiglo Woodland Group [£490], Gateside Community Association [£99.90] and Strathmiglo Bowling Club [£500]. The sub-committee asked for more detail from the bowling club but found all applications acceptable. It was agreed that the Treasurer would issue the requested funds. Dunshalt Community Association had intended to apply to assist in the repair of the village hall but had difficulty obtaining quotations for the job. It was agreed that £500 would be ring-fenced from the funds still available and issued once the application was submitted. The Secretary reported to the meeting that a report on how the monies were used is expected by Foundation Scotland by August 2026, it is important therefore that successful applicants return the request report on the progress of their project. The Treasurer will retain a file of the reports.

6.2 Resilience Group; Glassarts Glen site visit is to be conducted on the 25th [Leaky barriers] a number of relevant bodies are to be represented to supply 'expert' advice. A source of willow has been found, so if chosen as the preferred method are available. Ponding on the roads in the area has been worked on and the Chair was happy to report that on the Newburgh Road it has not returned.

6.3 Community Action Plan [CAP]; Project teams have been formed to focus on the five areas raised through public consultation. There is concern over finding members for these teams as there are a significant number of groups in the area already. It is hoped that the topics covered will draw in 'new blood'. A Community Trust meeting is to be held shortly and contact continues to be made with relevant bodies.

A question was raised concerning the proposed footpath between Strathmiglo and Auchtermuchty. It was thought that the land owners concerned were in agreement concerning the possible routes and progress was well under way, however the Chair in conversation has found that this may not be the case. John Fraser, of the Strathmiglo Path Group, has been heavily involved in the process and will be asked if he can clarify.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Auchtermuchty**

7.1.1 Mournipea potholes; these are now filled.

7.1.2 Rats; the rat population in the area has become significantly more noticeable, S. Jack reported that the farms in the area are having a similar problem. It may be waterlogged ground is forcing the rats up from burrows.

7.1.3 Orchard Flat; double yellow lines have now been painted.

7.2 **Dunshalt**

7.2.1 Traffic calming measures; public meetings were held with those attending looking for the traffic speed through the village to be reduced but were not in favour of measures being placed within the village. There was a concern that the suggested speed cushions would create vibration problems and 'build-outs' would reduce parking, and in one position make entry to a works very difficult for lorries. It was suggested that the current 20mph signs could be moved to beyond the village entrance. It is hoped that the community will meet and agree on a single proposal that can be put to Fife Council.

7.3 **Gateside**

7.3.1 A912/A91 junction; road marking are in the process of being repainted

7.3.2 Road signs; it was suggested that signs in the area are becoming too dirty to be easily read, cleaning is required. A speed indicator on the A91 leaving the village towards Strathmiglo has now been broken/down for a considerable length of time and needs replaced. This is a Fife wide problem with no immediate solution in sight.

7.3.3 Invasive species; volunteers are being sought to help remove Himalayan Balsam.

7.4 **Strathmiglo**

7.4.1 High Street parking; the section of the High Street outside the old church hall [unused for over a decade and in need of work] has attracted a great deal of attention as a result of the proposed development stating that the parking spaces required would be a reduction on the "theoretical" spaces required by the hall if it were functioning. While this may be accepted by the Planning Department as within regulations, local residents cannot see how; 1, it is even possible to increase the number of cars parked in the area and 2, a site visit by a planning official [if carried out] would have failed to see this.

7.4.2 Fife Council's response to fault reporting; B. Torrance expressed his frustration at the lack of response to his reporting of faults to the Fife Council's online portal. On repeated occasions he has reported road, drains and lighting faults and though receiving a report number no obvious work has been carried out [accepting that inspections do not necessarily leave signs] and often the reported fault does not appear on the 'reported fault' map on the portal. It is noted that these are difficult financial times and 'belt-tightening' must occur but as he spends a great deal of time encouraging local residents to report issues they have it is somewhat discouraging. He would hope that safety concerns would be given priority for example, he has reported the broken bollards, put in to protect pedestrians at the Sandygate pedestrian build out on a number of occasions with no result.

8.0 **Other Service Providers;**

8.1 Auchtermuchty Health Centre; The Secretary has send a reminder to the Health Centre concerning his request for a meeting.

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

9.1 Licensing Board; Two applications of note:

1] Strathmiglo Bowling Club are applying to allow children into the bar area during licensed hours – it is thought that this would be to allow family groups.

2] A license for off-sales in Lochiebank Place – it appears to be for online sales only [no access to public or sales from the premise] where the liquor would be stored on the premise. The Chair read out the email he had sent to the Licensing Board detailing concerns about deliveries and dispatches from premises in a residential area and the storage of liquor in such premises.

The Community Council unanimously endorsed the email.

10.0 **Correspondence:** the secretary has forwarded on to members all relevant correspondence received. He noted that there is a great deal of duplicate correspondence which he ‘filters’ for the benefit of members, he also suggested that if members have a particular interest they tell him and he will forward all mail on the subject.

11.0 **AOCB;**

11.1 Fife annual grant; the Treasurer informed the meeting that he recently completed an online a request from Fife Council to give a summary of how the Community Council uses the grant – the only comment made was concerning the fact we do not use the free website service provided by Fife Council.

11.2 CC Accounts; the Treasurer will have a copy of the CC accounts [though unexamined] out to members for the next meeting.

11.3 Central Print Unit [Fife Council]; B. Torrance will attend the Open Day offered.

[Just back well worth a look – print.fife.gov.uk]

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

Monday 30th March 2026, in Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30 pm.