

## Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

### Minutes of the 25th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

PRESENT: Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], Mark GIBSON [Auchtermuchty],

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, PC's HADDOW and LOWE and 1 member of the public.

- 1.0 **Welcome and Apologies:** The Chair welcomed all those attending.  
Apologies: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Susan JACK [Gateside],
- 2.0 **Declarations of interest:** these will be made when appropriate.
- 3.0 **Police:** a brief summary of the new policing model to be put into operation for the area was given to members, this will result in officers being more visible in the community and more location specific information being circulated – including through an alert system that the public can sign up to.
  - 3.1 Electric scooters/bikes; officers are looking for more information concerning incidents and problems arising from their use. It is hoped to disseminate information regarding the illegality of using these vehicles in public places.
  - 3.2 Speeding; continues to be an issue in the area with 'hot spots' being the Low Road in Auchtermuchty and Dunshalt. Speedwatch is to be restarted after the recalibration of the equipment – it was requested that in Dunshalt the area near the village hall should be where it is used.
  - 3.3 Anti-social behaviour; 1. Strathmiglo Community Woodland has been targetted by vandals bringing trees down, with the new policing model in action it is hoped that officers can visit the area more frequently. 2. In Auchtermuchty incidents in Clement Court are to be examined at a higher level due to the disturbance to local residents and amount of police time being taken up by the individual involved.
  - 3.4 Sandygates, Strathmiglo; a request was made for officers to visit to establish whether those parking around the build-out, put there to allow a safer place to cross, are committing an offence or are merely inconsiderate.
  - 3.5 Gun shots; it was reported that possible gun shots were heard to the north of Auchtermuchty towards Pitmedden Wood. No evidence has been found though a van was reported to be in the area at the time.
- 4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February were accepted as correct.
- 5.0 **Matters Arising: [not on the Agenda]**
  - 5.1 Road marking 7.3.1; the road marking has now been completed.
- 6.0 **Other Business:**
  - 6.1 Resilience Group; it is planned to start the construction of the leaky barriers on the 18th/19th April with the willow wands sourced and a design agreed. The Macduff Trust, as land owner have given permission provided that they are not held responsible for the maintenance of the barriers or any damage that may result into their installation, A. Heer reported that due diligence had been carried out and expert advice sought to prevent any such incidents. Costs for the construction are expected to be low [£30-50] and it was hoped that the Community Council would cover these. AGREED. It was hoped that these barriers could be used to show landowners of future sites the level of impact they have on surrounding land.

6.2 Community Action Plan [CAP]; nothing for this meeting

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Auchtermuchty**

7.1.1 Strathmiglo-Auchtermuchty footpath; the feasibility study is nearing completion with monies [up to £30000] in the next financial year allocated for detailed design work. Construction is likely to take place 2027-28.

7.1.2 Low Road closure; resurfacing of the Low Road will take place from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April with traffic diverted through Dunshalt, Falkland and Strathmiglo. Requests have been made for warning signs to be placed as far out as Melville Lodge roundabout and the road closed signs to be repeated along the approach to the area. It was remembered that at a previous road closure drivers, including those of HGVs ignored signage and caused major problems in the area. Bus services/timing will be effected with buses using the High Road through Auchtermuchty.

7.2 **Dunshalt**

7.2.1 Traffic calming measures; a public meeting was held, with those attending showing their appreciation for officials visiting the village, reaching the consensus that there should be increased signage and road marking with speed cushions on the approach rather than in the village. They await a reply from Fife Council.

7.2.2 Village Hall; awaiting news of a grant application towards repair of the guttering.

7.3 **Gateside**

7.3.1 CA AGM; there has been a change of some officers of the CA.

7.3.2 Play park; residents are awaiting the installation of the new play equipment.

7.4 **Strathmiglo**

7.4.1 Bird scarer; a bird scarer placed south of Skene Street has been causing a nuisance to residents, it is unclear whether the farmer has been contacted, a previous occurrence resulted in the scarer being relocated and 'business end' faced away from the houses. To be raised at the Strathmiglo CA.

8.0 **Other Service Providers;**

8.1 Auchtermuchty Health Centre; The Chair and Secretary met with the Practice Manager and one of the Partners and were informed that the main issue was that the number of appointments the Health Centre could offer was limited – this situation had been compounded by the loss of a clinician largely due to a £30K increase in N.I. costs. They are to look into appointment allocation and acquiring a new computer system but feel that there are simply not enough appointment slots to meet present demand. They are to look at the frequency some individual patients request appointments and discuss possible alternatives.

Discussion was also held regarding the formation of 'walk in' clinics – though it was thought by some that you cannot just walk in but have to telephone 101 and they then allocate an appointment.

8.2 Smart meters; there is a large number of local residents who cannot get their smart meter to connect to the network thereby unable to take advantage of offers being made by suppliers for cheaper energy. At present there appears to be no incentive for companies to rectify the issue, it is hoped that the penalties due to come into force may have the desired effect.

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

9.1 Licensing Board; the request for information regarding the license application for off-sales in Lochiebank Place has not been replied to. The Chair will attend the meeting.

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

11.0 **AOCB;**

11.1 CC Accounts; the Treasurer asked for an opinion of members to the amount held as reserve by the CC. In previous years this has been around £500 mark but with the allocation of monies from Foundation Scotland [not including funds held for micro-grant applications] it will be considerably higher this year and could be distributed to the four CAs. It was proposed that this balance be maintained and that the CC further encourage micro-grant applications. AGREED.

To meet with Fife Council stipulations the Treasurer will report to the meeting transactions made in the previous month. It was recognised that transactions beyond the control of the Treasurer e.g. bank charges, Data Protection fee or those required for the CC to function e.g. hall rents will be paid without reference to another bank signatory as will transactions approved by members at a CC meeting e.g. micro-grant allocations, the redistribution of Fife grant. AGREED.

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

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, in Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30 pm.**