

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 10th meeting of the Community Council, held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday
25th November 2019 in Gateside Memorial Hall

Present: Susan JACK [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty],
Helen BOWMAN [Auchtermuchty], Shona DRYBURGH
[Auchtermuchty], Marj KEDDIE [Auchtermuchty], Bobby THOMSON
[Gateside], Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Ian McAULAY [Dunshalt],
Valerie WEIR [GATESIDE]

Attending: Cllr. Andy HEER and several members of the public.

1.0 Welcome & Apologies: The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies: Matthew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Jane KERR
[Strathmiglo], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], PC.'s Parker and
Goudie.

2.0 Police Matters; Due to shift patterns the police were unable to attend.

3.0 Declarations of Interest; It was agreed to make these when appropriate.

4.0 Minutes of Meeting; The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th
October 2019 in Dunshalt Village Hall were accepted as correct with one
correction; paragraph 6.2 to be replaced by below.

6.2 Low Road Development; Helen and John Davie had a meeting on 21st
October with two representatives from Gladman - Michael Izzi (Land
Director) and Luke Garret (Chartered Surveyor). This was not under the
auspices of the Community Council but John reported back to the meeting. It
was a positive meeting but it was clear that Gladman already had well
developed plans for the Low Road and had already met with a Fife Council
planner. Their plans were not in the area of Stratheden Place designated for
housing in the current Fifeplan. Following this meeting John developed
plans which he had already shown to Willie Rennie MSP during Willie's
summer tour. Willie had been very positive and suggested we could take the
placemaking formula forward as a means of developing our ideas for
Auchtermuchty and he cited Crail as an example. John said that a previous
application at Millflat had been withdrawn, which was the only site where
the landowner was willing to sell and a builder was ready to build, however
that site has been proven to be completely inadequate and it should never
have been put into the Local Plan. People in Auchtermuchty are entitled to
new housing and there has only been 6 houses built in the last 13 years,

which is very inadequate. Many communities around Fife are feeling so dejected by the plans that have been forced upon them by Fife Council, that they have decided to develop their own plans. The plan that Gladman produced at the meeting with John and Helen showed a string of houses, which run parallel with Carswell Wynd, it then ran down past the nursing home. The plan showed houses that ran into the field in the shape of a V. They explained this was a 'vista' so that the houses didn't encourage upon the views of the Lomond Hills. However, this area is not zoned for housing in the Local Plan. The road down to the Health Centre is substandard and the plan showed far more than 20 units - 49 is the actual number. Fundamentally this plan is very flawed. Gladman do not appear to be interested in the area zoned for housing behind the garage.

5.0 Matters Arising:

5.1 Members of the Community Council were asked by the Secretary to bring along any ideas that they might have regarding the course 'Place Making,' and what they thought could lead to community empowerment, however due to the fact that there were a number of local residents who wished to discuss Low Road, it was agreed to place this on the agenda for the next meeting which will be held on Monday 27th January 2020. Can members please look at all the slides that were previously provided, and come up with ideas which could lead to community empowerment. These ideas would work along the principles of allowing communities to deal with their own plans, accessing them throughout the whole planning process, which would bring about planning changes within their communities, that would lead to enhancing their own community.

5.2 Road Works Auchtermuchty: No update on problem on Burnside with road level. The full length of the High street from Junction with A91 to Pitmedden Wynd will be re-surfaced.

5.3 Street Lighting Auchtermuchty; It is understood that the problem with the lights failing, has now been resolved.

5.4 Scottish Water attended a minor flood at the foot of Millflat in Auchtermuchty; The hydrant had not been switched off since the last inspection. This meant that water was collecting as it was unable to drain away. We were assured it is now fixed.

5.5 Health Centre Meeting; Susan Jack and Alan Muirhead met the Practice Manager and Partners of the Health Center along with two members of Falkland Community Council. The meeting went very well, and was very useful. It was stressed that in general a good service was provided and the Flu immunisation clinic had gone very well. The manager appreciated the frustrating issue of having to phone many times from 8 am to try to get

through to get an on the day appointment. One solution that was suggested, was a call queueing system which would eliminate the need to make many calls until the Health Centre phone was answered. This had been considered previously but at the time was too expensive but it would be looked at again given new software that was now available. A text service reminding you of your appointment was also discussed. Many other NHS services already offer text services and this is also something that will be considered.

The Practice Manager highlighted that the practice did continue to improve their service, e.g. they had recently acquired a new ECG machine and this was something that the public might not be aware of. It was suggested that the Community Council and the Community Associations should be used as communication vehicles, e.g. by sharing the Health Centres Newsletter.

There is a new GP's Charter that is coming into effect. The Charter states that each practise should employ their own, nursing specialists, i.e. a phlebotomist, a physiotherapist, a psychiatric nurse etc. A significant number of new nurses require to be trained before this can be fully implemented.

The practice would like to thank patients for their assistance in helping the G.P's who regularly train students as it is important that the student remains in the room whilst you are being assessed unless you request otherwise.

Problems for patients living in outlying areas were discussed, e.g. for are a patient living in an outlying area, if a blood test is needed following on from a consultation, can you request that the blood test be taken at that appointment, rather than having to make a separate appointment to return for the blood test.

For those who have difficulty getting to the Health Centre there are a number of services that supply volunteer drivers.

6.0 Other Business

6.1 Gladman Development (Carswell Wynd); Questions from concerned residents from Carswell Wynd centred on how far forward the plan was before it could reach the Planning Application stage. It was suggested that the site might have to undergo an Environmental Impact Screening Assessment, but it is not always necessary, it is up to the planning department to decide. A major development is 50 houses, this developer has set out 49 houses, perhaps hoping that the planning department would consider this plan as a minor development. However this plan takes in more than 2 hectares which will most likely take it back into the realms of being a major development. It was also suggested that you have to take the number of houses in Auchtermuchty and offset it against the number of houses that are proposed to be built in percentage terms, which would then take the allowable figure down to 30 units. The residents were concerned about a large body of water in the field that has been evident for the past six weeks. John Davie advised that if you do nothing, then the houses will be built. He also stated that Gladman are very good at this business. He said that it is allowable to build affordable houses on the greenbelt. John advised that we should set up a sub committee, to develop our

own community development plan. He also suggested that in the future, more onus will be placed on Community Councils to help prepare plans with help from the community at large. He stated that Fife Council are struggling to prepare their own 5 year plan. John Davie will be meeting Alan Muirhead and Andy Heer later this week to show them the plan that he independently drew up as an option to consider for the field. John's plan is merely a suggestion at this stage. Perhaps we could have a joint approach with the C.C. the C.A. and A.C.T. It became apparent that one resident who attended the meeting was there to represent the Community Trust, and as such, both he and Andy Heer felt that the A.C.T. could possibly take on the development project, however, not everyone was in agreement with that.

7.0 Fife Council Matters

7.1 Gateside; 4 Community Councils (Abernethy, Glenfarg, Bridge of Earn and A & S) have been invited to take ownership of two wind-turbines, sited at Binn Farm. The turbines will cost £6 million to buy. Loans are already in place if needed and no money will be required from the Community Councils to proceed. As yet none of the C.C.'s have actually agreed to take ownership. Legal and financial firms have been contracted to look at the viability of the proposal and the risks involved. Once these reports have been received and examined a final decision on whether to proceed or not will be taken. It will be necessary in that case, to circulate the information with the general public, whether it be through social media or local publications i.e. Muchty Matters. Each of the areas involved plan to hold a public meeting in the first two weeks of January. People must be prepared to commit to a long term project as the turbines have a projected life span of 20 years and the really significant benefits occur towards the end of that period.

7.1.2 There will be a meeting on 27th November in Strathmiglo Community Centre to discuss the fate of Gateside school.

7.2 Auchtermuchty; The resident who owns many vehicles, leaving residents in the area with problems parking, has been informed that the Community Council have been notified about the problem.

7.3 Dunshalt; There has been a delay in opening the shop due to Scottish Water and a problem with pipes. Once the shop is completed, it is hoped to open in December.

7.4 The Christmas Fayre was successful.

7.5 Burnside; There has been a problem with people parking their cars to walk their dogs. The way they park makes it difficult for residents to access their

own drive. There is also a problem with dog fouling. Notices were requested to prevent this. Andy Heer will request them from Fife Council.

8.0 Other Service Providers; Nothing other than in 5.3 and 5.4

9.0 Planning Applications; The Secretary drew attention to applications submitted in the last month.

10. Any Other Competent Business; None

Date and venue of next meeting of the Community Council;
Monday 27th January 2020, 7.30pm, Strathmiglo Village Hall.