

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 11th meeting of the Community Council, held at 7.30 p.m. on
Monday 27th January 2020 in Auchtermuchty Community Centre [not
Strathmiglo Public Hall]

PRESENT: Helen BOWMAN [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Marj KEDDIE
[Auchtermuchty], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Ian MCCAULAY [Dunshalt], Bobby THOMSON
[Gateside], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER and members of the public

- 1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed Community Councillors, Fife Councillors and members of the public.
Apologies: Maaïke COOK [Strathmiglo], Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Matthew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Valerie WEIR [Gateside], Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Community Police Officers.
- 2.0 Police Matters; there was no community newsletter or word from officers, though the meeting was informed that there is now a new area Sergeant.
- 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 25th November 2019 in Gateside Memorial Hall were accepted as correct.
- 5.0 Matters Arising:
 - 5.1 Place Making; due to the full agenda it was agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.
 - 5.2 Burnside, Auchtermuchty road works; no problems have arisen from the road level.
- 6.0 Other business
 - 6.1 Gladman Development; Stuart Szylak spoke to the process of planning development, the position so far with the development, key points that have arisen and the terms used to "assist the community understand the planning application and process". This included Planning in Principle, greenfield sites, Fife Planning Policy [particularly the Local Development Plan], formation of a master plan for the development and that Fife Council may grant the application if they feel any problems that become evident during the process can be overcome.
John Davie spoke at length informing the meeting about the formation of an action group initially to look at the present application but with the intention that it would form a 'Structure Plan' taking in the views and concerns of local residents that would allow for an overview of acceptable future development in the environs of Auchtermuchty. He was of the opinion that an ad hoc group would allow for a single focus that the Community Council could not do. It was suggested that the group work through one of the existing community organisations such as the Auchtermuchty Community Association or Auchtermuchty Community Trust as they are already constituted and regulated.
The Chair opened the discussion to the meeting and a number of comments were made including landscape setting and its influence with past proposals, the change of land use, how a comment is made to a planning application, the effect of the development on school and GP provision and whether the development should be classified as a major development. As Fife Council are to make a decision on the application shortly, all comments/objections are required to be submitted by 12th February - this can be done online. As it was felt that there would be insufficient time to form the action group and have it respond, it would be prudent for concerned individuals to submit their own response remembering that objections must be based on planning grounds/policy. [It was

suggested that, for future use, an exemplar or template could be produced to aid residents unfamiliar with the planning process]

Communication information concerning the matter was discussed and it was suggested that the local Auchtermuchty Facebook page, the online "Muchty Rants" and the Community Council's own website could be used.

The point was raised that the communities within the ward are in need of housing, and the Community Council have in the past suggested areas for possible development, that some development will have to be accepted even where there are problems - the least worst option.

It was agreed that the Community Council, though accepting the need for affordable housing, would file an objection based on the number of houses planned, the use of a greenfield site, landscape concerns and existing zoned areas in the community should be used. It was also noted that claims by the developer [Gladman] to have consulted the Community Council are false.

7.0 Fife Council

7.1 Strathmiglo:

7.1.1 A91/A912 road sign; the damaged sign has been reported.

7.2 Auchtermuchty

7.2.1 B936; road verges are being eroded by traffic running off the road edge causing gullies to form, it was also noted that since the crash barriers were removed from a section of the road two cars have left the road causing delays for their recovery.

7.2.2 Uneven Pavement; on the south side of the junction of High St. and Parliament Pl. the uneven pavement surface has caused at least two pedestrians to fall.

This item lead to a discussion as to why Fife Council persist in carrying out a series of temporary repairs to areas [which must cost more] rather than one permanent repair. There was also criticism of the '5 day promise' by which potholes are repaired within 5 days of reporting regardless of weather conditions that cause the repair to quickly fail.

7.3 Dunshalt

7.3.1 Village shop; after a delay due to unforeseen circumstances, the shop is set to open within the next two weeks.

7.4 Gateside

7.4.1 Blacksmith; it is noted that a blacksmith has opened for business in the old mill.

7.4.2 Burn's Supper; all are welcome to attend the Gateside Burn's Supper this weekend.

8.0 Other Service Providers; none

9.0 Planning

9.1 Applications; the Secretary drew attention to applications that appeared on the Fife list since the last meeting.

10.0 Correspondence; this has been circulated to members via email.

11.0 AOCB;

11.1 Hire of Halls; the question of cost, and how to hire local venues for public meetings was raised by the proposed planning action group. The price per hour of the Community Centre was given but again it was recommended that the proposed group work through one of the existing organisations who could also assist with possible funding sources.

11.2 Resignation; Marj Keddie informed the meeting that she is to resign from the Community Council.

12.0 Date and venue of next meeting of the Community Council.

Monday 24th February, 7.30pm, Auchtermuchty Community Centre.