

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 13th meeting of the Community Council, held at 7.30 p.m. on 29th June 2020 [March, April and May meetings being suspended due to Co-Vid 19 pandemic precautions] via Zoom conferencing online facility

PRESENT: Helen BOWMAN [Auchtermuchty], Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Ian MCCAULAY [Dunshalt], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo],

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN

- 1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed Community Councillors, Fife Councillors and gave a brief suggestion as to how the online meeting could be conducted. The meeting had been advertised through the community but there had been no requests from members of the public for access information.
Apologies: Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Matthew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Valerie WEIR [Gateside], PS Helen MANUAL, PC Dawn DOHERTY
- 2.0 Police Matters; No police presence.
- 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 24th February held in Auchtermuchty Community Centre were accepted as correct. [Amendments had been circulated prior to the meeting]
- 5.0 Matters Arising:
 - 5.1 5.1 - There has been interest shown that may fill the two vacancies on the Community Council, contact will be made. Valerie Weir will be absent from meeting for a period of time due to personal commitments.
 - 5.2 6.1 - There has been no formal news regarding the development. The planning officer in charge had been contacted but as yet has not replied. Anecdotal information suggests that the lowering of the number of houses to 30 would be acceptable to the developer. Both Councillors Heer and Lothian have withdrawn from the planning process and will refrain from comment. Cllr. Lothian as a neighbour to the site has a personal connection, Cllr. Heer has in the past suggested an alternative use for the site and may be seen as a competitor.
 - 5.3 6.2 - The current lockdown situation has resolved the issue with Zoom meeting seen as an alternative to a physical meeting.
 - 5.4 6.3 - Appreciation was expressed by the Chair, and members, to Shona Dryburgh for her work in establishing and maintaining the Community Council's Facebook presence. It has proved itself useful in the current climate including advertising the meeting on Zoom.
 - 5.5 7.1.1 - A new parking sign has been ordered though it was thought that most locals were aware that a parking area exists without signage.
 - 5.6 7.3.2 - The inconsiderate parking is still an issue, perhaps exacerbated at the present time by walkers parking to access the Lomond Hills.
 - 5.7 7.4.1 - A local resident has cleared the majority of the blockage. The question of river inspections has to be answered but as the Fife Coast & Countryside Trust have recently been in the area dealing with Giant Hogweed they would be useful to consult. Chair will make contact.
- 6.0 Other business. Will be taken under AOCB
- 7.0 Fife Council

- 7.1 Auchtermuchty: Co-vid update. The Community Centre has been coordinating activities including the distribution of foodstuffs. Hot meals, pack lunches distributed and a shop/chemist service established. A phone link has been set up where requests can be made to chat and to make contact. Cllr. Lothian suggested that the Community Council consider a way by which these contributions to the community could be acknowledged/celebrated.
- 7.1.1 Millflat road; there is an overhanging hedge causing problems to vehicular traffic. Though it appears that Fife Council have undertaken cutting in the past through a 'grace and favour' arrangement it is the landowner's responsibility. It was suggested that local residents taking action would be more expeditious. [Though please note the possibility of birds nesting]
- 7.2 Dunshalt: Co-vid update. The village shop has been acting as an information hub linked to groups in the area. It was running a delivery service while closed for lockdown though now is open to the public during limited hours with safe precautions in place.
- 7.2.1 Hall opening; the village hall was looking for advice/guidance as to when it can reopen. It was agreed that these decisions are being made at a Scottish Government level and are yet to be made. On a related issue, it should be remembered that water systems would need to be flushed to deal with a possible Legionella contamination [some hot water systems have a built in cycle] before opening. Advice should be available from a number of health related sources. [e.g. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/legionella.htm>]
- 7.2.2 Eden footbridge; a number of footboards are in need of repair showing signs of possible rot, though should be a simple repair. Cllr. Lothian will follow-up though he expressed disappointment, as the bridge had been a very substantial construction.
- 7.3 Gateside: Co-vid update. A traffic light system has been established [green - okay, amber - look in, red - need assistance] with neighbours looking out for one another. There was a question whether the school may be used to allow social distancing, it was pointed out that the Scottish Government plan is at present all schools to return full time with no social distancing therefore it would not be needed.
- 7.3.1 Recreational parking; mass parking, in the main to access Glenvale area, has taken place partially blocking local roads [e.g. Dryside] and causing major inconvenience and worry that emergency vehicles would not gain access. Police and Fife Coast & Countryside Trust have been involved. It is hoped that the problem will solve itself as more areas are opened through lockdown easing.
- 7.4 Strathmiglo: Co-Vid update. A support group and phone contact have been established where various forms of assistance can be requested [with access to personal details strictly limited]. A food larder/swap shop was opened in the school grounds. Activities have been organised including scarecrow building, drawing competitions and art installations in the village.
- 7.4.1 Bellfield housing; new residents have drawn attention the danger to pedestrians seeking to walk to the village from the development and that children would be attending Falkland Primary. It was thought that a footpath had been in the original planning [builders working on site have informed the residents that they would be allowed to walk along a field boundary which has proved not to be the case] but did not appear in subsequent plans. It is very unlikely that Fife Council would build a roadside pavement to link the development to the village and establishing a good relationship with the local landowner is the best option.
- 8.0 Other Service Providers; any information received by the Secretary is distributed to members.
- 8.1 Health Centre; the Chair has requested that the Community Council be copied into any distribution of information by the Centre to aid with the dissemination. It was also recognised that the Centre is running in a very different fashion than the norm and may be doing so for some considerable time.

- 9.0 Planning Applications; the Secretary drew attention to the fact that there was very little activity in the area with tree pruning and window replacement typical applications. Members can be added to a Fife Council mailing list to receive weekly updates directly through development.central@fife.gov.uk.
- 10.0 Correspondence; this has been circulated to members via email.
- 11.0 AOCB;
- 11.1 July meeting; the Community Council does not usually meet in July but it was felt that given the circumstances that it matters arise a Zoom meeting could be arranged to allow discussion. It would be hoped to restart physical meeting in August.
- 11.2 AGM; this would normally be a short meeting prior to a regular meeting. There is no set date for the AGM but it would be hoped to timetable it for August this year.
- 11.3 Financial report; this will be given at the AGM with copies of the accounts circulated before hand.
- 12.0 Date and venue of next meeting of the Community Council.

Monday 24th August, 8 pm [following the AGM at 7.30 pm] via Zoom.