

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 14th meeting of the Community Council, held at 7.30 p.m.
on 24th August via Zoom conferencing online facility

PRESENT: Maaïke COOK [Strathmiglo], Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Ian MCCAULAY [Dunshalt], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo],

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN.

- 1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed Community Councillors, Fife Councillors Apologies: Helen BOWMAN [Auchtermuchty], Mathew MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Bobby THOMSON [Gateside],
- 2.0 Police Matters: No police presence at the meeting, Secretary informed he meeting that police reports were to be three monthly in future and that he would continue to forward out any he received.
- 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 29th June were accepted as correct.
- 5.0 Matters Arising:
 - 5.1 7.1 Covid related activities; It was agreed that the Community Council should determine a means to acknowledge the positive action taken by residents in the community during the Covid situation. One possibility would be a press release from the Council. Chair will formulate a release and circulate it to members before submission. Other ideas could also be considered.
 - 5.2 7.2.2. Eden footbridge; it was reported that work was being undertaken.
 - 5.3 7.3.1 Glenvale parking; the situation continues to be a concern. Fife Countryside rangers have been very helpful and police officers have been attending regularly. Signs warning of 'large vehicles in use' have been issued to local farmers. The walks in the area have been advertised in a number of forums [including Fife Council's] making it very [too] popular. It was noted that the road is part of the cycle network and the volume of traffic on such a narrow road makes it dangerous for cyclists. It was recommended that members take part in the online consultation concerning the Lomond Regional Park - including Glenvale - due to take place at 6.30 pm 2nd September. It is hoped that the number of cars will reduce in time but meantime Fife Councillors will bring the situation to the attention of Fife Council departments and request stopping of the promotion of the area. Chair has circulated a questionnaire from the Fife Coast & Countryside Trust which she recommends be completed by members.
- 6.0 Fife Council
 - 6.1 Auchtermuchty
 - 6.1.1 Gladman development; no news from developer despite requests.
 - 6.1.2 Lower Melville Woods planning application; the Chair has submitted an objection [circulated to members] as a member of the public but stating her position as

Lomond Hills Regional Park RTIF meeting 1830 - 1930 hrs Wednesday 2nd September (discussing car parks at East Lomond, Craigmear, Glenvale and Birnie and Gaddon Lochs).
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84366199989?pwd=QnNvZ1Eyc292SmMyeExReWdaQ3dxZz09>

Chair of the Council. It covers justification of location choice, vulnerability of the site to environmental pollutions, transportation of materials to the site, detrimental effects to the outdoor amenity of the area and the intrusion on the lives of residents. It was noted that the application took a considerable time to appear on the weekly planning lists impeding the proper consultation process. It was suggested that a comparison be made with the process of consultation undertaken for the Binn Farm development. Though technically outwith the Community Council's area it would have hoped that such a major development would have been drawn to the attention of all CC's that may be affected.

It was noted that the development is following a common route of a department of Fife Council applying to Fife Council for permission. The meeting was assured by Cllr. Lothian that this is now a rigorous process.

6.1.3 Burnside telephone box; Shona Dryburgh brought to the Council's attention the desire of local residents to install a defibrillator in the now out of use telephone box. This would require the purchase of box by a local statutory/charitable body. Contact has been made with organisations that would assist in the installation and local volunteers have come forward willing to maintain it. Ian McCaulay pointed out that Dunshalt had gone through the process and would be happy to help.

It was agreed that the Council would support the initiative recommending that it be actioned through the Auchtermuchty Community Association or the Community Heartbeat group [the organisation which assisted Dunshalt] and if necessary the Council would purchase the box if it could then be gifted to a local group as the Council is not in a position to take on responsibility for property

6.1.4 Street lights; there have been sporadic outages, though it appears they occur in the same streets. It was recommended that these be reported immediately. A useful tool for this is [provides map for easy identification of lamp in question]

<https://online.fifedirect.org.uk/lagan/reportit/index.cfm?fuseaction=reportit.locate&objectid=1>

6.1.5 Low Road wall; despite inspections giving the wall the all clear it collapsed. Temporary barriers have been installed and it is thought that money should be available through an 'inclement weather fund' and that repairs will be undertaken.

6.2 Dunshalt

6.2.1 Village hall; risk assessments have been undertaken and a plan established to allow the reopening of the hall.

6.2.2 Village shop; a licence application has been made to allow the sale of alcohol between 10am and 10pm.

6.3 Gateside

6.3.1 Station Road; water has been running down the road though source is uncertain. Chair will consult local resident and forward information to Cllr. Lothian.

6.3.2 Bower Park; with children playing in the area and the number of delivery vehicles increasing local residents/Community Association would like to erect signs warning drivers of children playing in the area. It was recommended that they just do it a number are available online.

6.3.3 No. 23 bus; the withdrawal of this service will isolate Gateside/Burnside from public transport. Fife Councillors have found that there appears to be no joined up thinking when it comes to buses crossing regional boundaries. Though there seems no future for this, much reduced, service it was thought that exploring the extension of the No. 66 could be an option.

6.4 Strathmiglo

6.4.1 Tree in river; a local resident had contacted Willie Rennie and Wendy Chamberlain concerning the problem tree [its position in the river and debris form a barrier, causing water to back up and threaten local properties] and wondered whether any contact had been made with Fife Council. There are volunteers willing to

tackle the problem once the landowner's permission has been granted. Jane Kerr will look out an email/phone number and pass it on.

6.4.2 Litter in verge; responsibility for tidying up litter was raised as areas around the village are becoming untidy. Fife Council does conduct litter picks and there is the possibility of a local litter pick being arranged. One particularly effected area is that around the new Bellfield development on the A912, it was thought that a large amount of the litter has come from the site. This is a dangerous road for a volunteer litter pick, it was suggested that the Community Association contact the developers to ask for a tidy up.

6.4.3 King George V toilet block; no progress with the demolition.

7.0 Other Service Providers

The Secretary forwards on all correspondence received.

7.1 Radio reception; it was brought to the attention of the meeting that the radio reception, particularly that of BBC Scotland has deteriorated and there appears no explanation.

8.0 Planning

The Secretary drew attention to the fact that members can be added to a Fife Council mailing list to receive weekly updates directly through development.central@fife.gov.uk.

8.1 Of note; Strath Tavern; Bill Torrance will submit a comment on the development to stress the desire that the developed section stay as part of the public house in future.

9.0 Correspondence

This is circulated to members via email. Secretary will resend any material that fails to get through.

10.0 AOCB

10.1 Strathmiglo as a destination; it was suggested locally that Strathmiglo and environs be promoted as a 'destination' akin to Falkland. Maaike Cooke pointed out that there are no public facilities in the immediate area, this seems to have halted the proposal.

10.2 Facebook; Jane Kerr felt that thanks should be expressed to Shona Dryburgh for her on-going maintenance of the Council's Facebook page. Agreed.

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

Monday 28th September at 7.30 pm in Gateside Memorial Hall [or Zoom online, will be confirmed nearer the date]