Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 27th October in Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

PRESENT: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Mark GIBSON [Auchtermuchty], Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Andrew MACNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. Gary HOLT, and two members of the public.

1.0 **Welcome and Apologies**: The Chair welcomed all those attending.

Apologies: PC's HADDOW and LOWE.

2.0 **Declarations of interest:** these will be made when appropriate.

3.0 **Police**: it was noted that the latest police report had been circulated.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th September were accepted as correct.

5.0 **Matters Arising: [not on the Agenda]** none

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Issues concerning the use of King George V park, Strathmiglo; R. Marr spoke to the meeting of the disruption caused to their household arising from the activities of the football club using the park and the problem of 'inconsiderate' parking by those attending. In dealings with the club representatives the response has been in the main positive and attempts to help have been made, though they have not solved the problem of volume and duration of the noise made in the preparation for matches/training and storage of equipment and requests for the club to 'steward' the parking has been refused. Attempts to reason with those parking the vehicles – which have blocked entrances to their property [with dropped kerbs] and prevented tradesmen from accessing to carry out repairs – have been met with not only a lack of consideration but often abusive and aggressive behaviour. There are now concerns for the safety of the family members with the worry of 'retribution'. Contact has been made with local Police Officers on a number of occasions resulting in them being advised to contact Fife Council as there was 'nothing they could do'. When contact has been made with Fife Council they are passed from department to department each claiming that the issue is not part of their remit. The members expressed their sympathy and also their disappointment at the lack of action by both the local Police Officers and Fife Council.

A number of suggestions were made; contact should be made with the Community Safety Team via the Fife Council's Safer Communities website [https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/community-life2/safer-communities] – they should be able to advise and act as mediators. Contact could be made with the Scottish Football Association – all clubs should be affiliated – as such action brings the game into disrepute and the club could be sanctioned. Fife Council – from whom the club rents the use of the pitch - could be asked to examine the rental agreement to see if such behaviour constitutes a breach in their contract. Relocation of the storage container was discussed but as the current location was chosen by Fife Council this may be unlikely. It was suggested that Police Traffic Officers could be asked to visit during a match/training to determine whether the road is being obstructed – it was felt that emergency vehicles would be unable to pass along Kirk Wynd to the east of the park and West Road to the west of the park. Parking across a dropped kerb is now illegal and the police should be taking action. The opinion was expressed that unfortunately in previous incidents involving badly 'parked' cars police action was negligible and the number of enforcement officers regulating parking within Fife so low there was little effect.

The Council wished them the best and asked them to keep us informed with any progress – or not – that is made.

6.2 Development of the old church hall, High Street Strathmiglo; B. Gray spoke to the meeting expressing his support and that the proposed development would be advantageous to the village and that likely alternatives would cause more problems. The Council agreed that the proposed development was welcome as the building had been in a state of disrepair for many years but were still obliged to raise the issue of parking provision as this has been and is of major concern to a large number of residents in Strathmiglo – and indeed all the communities.

6.3 BWTCF; S. Jack has attempted to find out how many grant applications – the number not the detail - had been made for this tranche but as yet has had no response. The Treasurer noted that the £800 that was due for the next bout of micro-grants is yet to appear in the Council's bank account. There is still funds available from the monies previously transferred to the Council and local Associations and groups should be encouraged to apply.

6.4 Community Action Plan [CAP]; this is now a fixed item on the Council's agenda, information from T. Rodgers has been circulated to members.

6.5 Resilience Group; the visit to Yetts of Muckhart to gather information about 'leaky barriers' installed there went ahead, a 2nd visit is to be arranged. The Group have been asked to submit an article for the Flood Forum newsletter.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Auchtermuchty**

7.1.1 Millflat works; issues have arisen resulting from poor site practice that are deemed by residents as detrimental to their health, specifically the amount of dust that is being created by the movement of material on site. There were also concerns about the movement of heavy plant machinery – on occasion extending out beyond the site boundary over footpaths and roadways. The Chair informed the meeting that as part of the planning conditions set, all residents should have received a 'newsletter' that included the site manager's contact details before works had begun. Whether this has happened should be determined and that residents should be encouraged to contact the site manger when any infringements occurred. It was also suggested that the planning enforcement team be made aware of the situation.

7.1.2 Crayfish; negotiating between the River Eden Sustainability Project and NatureScot concerning the trial of removal techniques. at present it is illegal to remove crayfish from the location that they are found indeed all contact with them is discouraged.

7.2 **Dunshalt**

7.2.1 Speedwatch group; action by the team recently resulted in the details of a number of vehicles being passed on to the Police.

7.2.2 Footbridge over the Eden; it was reported that a spar is broken and is in need of repair.

7.3 **Gateside**

7.3.1 Old Town; road repairs have been carried out.

7.3.2 787 airport bus; is working well and much appreciated.

7.4 **Strathmiglo**

7.4.1 Christmas Fair; is set for the 22nd November.

7.4.2 Bus pull in bay; B. Torrance asked the opinion of the Fife Councillors as to the possibility of bus pull in bays being constructed on the A91 where it meets the end of Stock Wynd to allow services such as the 787 airport bus to serve the residents of Strathmiglo, he intends to raise the matter at the Community Association meeting to gauge support. The general opinion was not too positive but Cllr. Holt will raise the possibility at meetings he is part of with the bus companies.

8.0 **Other Service Providers;**

8.1 Auchtermuchty Community Centre; notice of the Community Centre's AGM has been circulated – 7pm Wednesday 29th October.

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

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

11.0 **AOCB;** none

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

Monday 24th November, via Zoom conferencing, at 7.30 pm.