

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 38th meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30pm on the 27th March 2023 in Dunshalt Village Hall.

PRESENT: Maaike COOK [Strathmiglo], Shona DRYBURGH [Auchtermuchty], Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], Susan JACK [Gateside], Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Steve MCHARDY [Dunshalt], Andrew MCNAUGHTON [Gateside], Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Gary HOLT, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, PC. Haddow and PC. Lowe.

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

Apologies: Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Matt MCDONALD [Dunshalt], Derek THOMPSON [Gateside], , Cllr. David MACDIARMID.

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

3.0 **Police:** Officers Haddow and Lowe present. February report has been circulated with nothing of major significance – 4 crimes in area. March report to be circulated shortly. Biggest concern at present is vehicle theft in NE Fife. Warnings to residents have been issued, suggested that this be repeated through local social media platforms, keyless entry cars appear to be targeted, a task force has been formed. Officers are still looking for Speedwatch volunteers, training has been started but more wanted. It was reported that shell cases have been found on Falkland Estate, possible poaching, and a 4x4 vehicle seen at Strathmiglo Public Hall having been driven up the Cotton Road damaging the verge. It is not known if the two incidents are related, any further information coming to light will be passed on to officers.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th February were accepted.

5.0 **Matters Arising:** the Chair will take items and individual community matters within the agenda.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Parish Online mapping system; the Secretary has made an application in the name of the Community Council and is awaiting a username and password. Those wishing to access the site should contact the Secretary.

6.2 Local Place Plan; while the Steering Group are awaiting an initial meeting with Community Enterprise various sources of funding are being explored. It is recognised that while the groundwork is being undertaken by the Auchtermuchty Community Trust any LLP formed is to be registered with Fife Council in the name of the Community Council. Steering groups members will keep the CC updated

6.3 Binn Wind Turbine Community Fund; the names of possible panel member have been forwarded by Strathmiglo, Dunshalt and Gateside, it was hope one could be put forward from Auchtermuchty – possibly as reserve as each CC is only allowed 3 members. [Alan Muirhead will step in] Comments were made concerning the application form [found online at Foundation Scotland], it was felt that the information being gathered and evidence requested is inappropriate to the CC's situation and making the process of application more complicated than necessary. The CC would welcome comments from groups who have made an application as to their thoughts on the process. The issue will be raised at the next meeting with GreenCat/ Foundation Scotland as it is felt that the CC is not getting value for money. Drawdown of funds – the CC is required to register with Foundation Scotland before this can happen. Sample paperwork eg. grant application forms, are to be distributed to CCs. Once the CC is in receipt of funds a group/organisation will have to submit a formal application on which the CC will make a decision, that will be minuted.

7.0 **Fife Council:**

7.1 **Dunshalt:**

7.1.1 Play Park upgrade; despite previous consultation that had not reached a conclusion, work has now started in the removal of existing play park equipment with no warning. Neither Fife Councillors or local community group were contacted. It is not known what is to be installed, though a budget of £20,000 has apparently been set aside, it was general thought that this would not be sufficient and local fund raising could have boosted the total had the community been forewarned. A site meeting is planned and the community group will feedback to the CC.

Discussion was held at this point concerning the failure of Fife Council to communicate both with outside bodies and between Fife departments. It was felt that this issue urgently needed attention and that there is a simple remedy.

7.2 **Gateside:**

7.2.1 Toasty Tuesday; though funding is discontinued at the end of the month, it has been agreed to continue the session [though without the toasties] providing tea and a warm social space.

7.2.2 Speed calming; both speed bumps and signage are now in place, other road marking and electronic speed indicator are still to be installed. At present most reaction has been positive, though the design of the bumps is more severe than most making reduction of speed very necessary.

7.2.3 Gateside CA; AGM at the next meeting.

7.2.4 Glenvale parking; a meeting at Giffordtown, attended by Andy Heer, explained the Fife Coast & Countryside new approach to parking at their sites. Ticket machines have been installed at other sites [and vandalised] but no plans for Glenvale. It was felt that not having a ticket left users uncertain as to how they could prove payment. Though CCs had been told about such explanatory meetings via email it was felt that use of local press and posted notices would have aided the spreading of the message.

7.2.5 Local Land Managers and FCCT; meetings are now being re-established after a lengthy period to discuss land use, and misuse, in the area.

7.3 **Strathmiglo:**

7.3.1 Paths Group; the group has been told that Fife Council will undertake the feasibility study necessary for the Strathmiglo to Auchtermuchty path. A recent meeting with land owners has raised issues over route of path, but it is hoped that a scheduled site visit will help overcome concerns.

7.3.2 Youth shelter; consultation at the recent Conservation event highlighted a desire for a shelter in the KGV Park that could be used by local youth. A site meeting with Fife Council has been arranged to discuss the possibilities.

7.3.4 Coronation bench; the installation of a bench near the village hall wildflower garden is being discussed.

7.3.5 A912 litter picking; the litter picking by Fife Council workers on the A912 was most appreciated, it was unfortunate that it only took a couple of days before it began to return.

7.4 **Auchtermuchty**

7.4.1 Warm Hub; while official funding has ended, the group have the necessary funds to continue.

7.4.2 Auchtermuchty CA; the latest position – a meeting is to be held in April, there will be no officers as all have resigned, if there is no interest shown by the general public in continuing, steps will be taken to close down the Association.

7.4.3 General state of streets; after the recent retiral of the local street cleaner there has been a noticeable deterioration in the general tidiness of the town. A request was made to return to the dedicated street cleaner rather than travelling squads.

7.4.4 Cemetery; it was reported that items placed by headstones had been removed. It was observed that in Dundee there is a strict policy as to what can be left by headstones and it is not known if Fife Council have a similar policy, though it was noted in Strathmiglo a wide variety of items are left.

7.4.5 No entry Millflat; the road sign appears to be in the wrong place and partially obscured to function properly, though it was thought that most coming down the wrong way were locals and knew the situation. Incidents should however be reported preferably with the registration number of the vehicle.

8.0 **OSP:** the Secretary forwards all relevant information that he receives.

9.0 **Planning:**

9.1 Orchard Flat; an objection to the intended parking restrictions has been submitted, there was a suggestion that residents could be allocated spaces from the public parking area though it appears the area concerned is rarely used by locals.

9.2 Leckiebank application; the Secretary sent out the details of this application in case anyone wished to comment.

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

10.1 Calsay Gardens; the Secretary received a request to apply for funds from the Locality Fund to update the turning roundabout at the end of Calsay Gardens. Cllr. Lothian stated that this type of use was not the intention of the fund. The Secretary will not be applying.

11.0 **AOCB;** none

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

Monday 24th April, Strathmiglo Public Hall, 7.30p.m.