

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.30 pm on the 26th February 2024 via Zoom conferencing.

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

ATTENDING:

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

Apologies: Ian MACAULAY [Dunshalt], Cllr. Gary HOLT, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDIARMID, PC's HADDOW and LOWE.

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

3.0 **Police:** no police presence [Fife police do not use Zoom but officers hope to attend from March once in person meetings resume], latest report had been circulated. It was asked if there had been any increase in foot patrols as had been mentioned in the report, no one could confirm an increase. It was also noted that 'Pop-Up Bob' had not been seen for a while.

4.0 **Minutes of Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th January were accepted with one correction;

4.1 8.1 Health Centre; in reference to the current employee who is retiring, they should not have been referred to as a pharmacist.

5.0 **Matters Arising:**

5.1 Resilience Group; after a successful first meeting, the second has been planned for the 8th March 2pm in the Church Session House, Auchtermuchty. All Community Councillors are welcome.

5.2 Road signage; speed limit signs still awaited, the point was made that Falkland has been successful in obtaining changes to speed limits, signage and indeed the position of signage within a much shorter time frame than we have. Fife Council is again seen to be inconsistent in its approach to communities. A. Heer will write, in a joint approach with the Auchtermuchty Action on Speed group, to our three Councillors. It was the consensus of the meeting that Fife Council is waiting for central funding linked to the national 20 mph policy rather than follow other local authorities in dealing with the issue now. There have been trials of speed restrictions in communities within Fife Region but the reports on their success or otherwise have yet to be released.

5.3 Road issues raised; the culvert on the A912/A91 junction on program to be checked, potholes are an ongoing issue to be reported [it is noted that repairs to potholes in winter are difficult and often fail], speed indicator Station Road, Auchtermuchty is working at present but the choice of solar power over a mains connection was again questioned – this issue will be included when A. Heer contacts the councillors.

5.4 Binn Wind Farm fund; there has been no movement apart from an invitation for representatives of the communities to meet. S.Jack will attempt to re-invigorate the issue with the assistance of A. McNaughton. There should be another round of grant allocations shortly but no details have been released by FoundationScotland. Directorship appointments have still to be made.

6.0 **Other Business:**

6.1 Community Council Forum; a TEAMS online meeting was held with representation from a number of Community Councils each of whom had their own issues and particular situations. Funding was an issue for a number particularly for those attempting to undertake community activities, non-attendance

of their local Fife Councillors was also raised by some. There may be an attempt to have regular Community Council forums with an approach to Scottish Government to formalise such meetings. Our situation with our local associations and community trust organising and running events while also having the ability to register as a charity and apply for grants [which the Community Council cannot] is a distinct advantage. It was noted that stand alone Community Councils could form a partnership operation.

7.0 Fife Council:

7.1 Strathmiglo

7.1.1 New Cemetery water tap; this has been malfunctioning for over a year and is a major inconvenience, the fault reported on a number of occasions. A. Heer will contact Bereavement Services.

7.1.2 Flood pod bags; the issue of used bags was raised. It was noted that these bags are re-usable [though awkward to handle when wet] and could be stored for future use, the contents are biodegradable and compostable, the outer bag can be disposed of with normal waste. Though this information is printed on the label it should be brought to the attention of local residents.

7.2 Auchtermuchty; issue covered under other items

7.3 Dunshalt

7.3.1 Dunshalt/Freuchie Road; at a number of sites the condition of the road has become very poor to point of dangerous to road users. Break up of road surface and soil intrusion from the verge have narrowed the usable road area [this appears to be an issue on a number of rural roads]. There was a question of responsibility for the soil intrusion, Fife Council/local land owner and whether discussions are being held to remedy the situation. A.Heer will contact neighbouring Community Councils to make a combined approach to Fife Council. It was thought useful to contact Moffat and Williamson to find out if it is an issue effecting the local bus service.

7.3.2 Flood Pods; possible sites have been identified but not finalised.

7.3.3 Play park fundraising; this has been very successful and has exceeded their target.

7.4 Gateside

7.4.1 Social events; these are changing with the season, Toasty Tuesday to end though Soup Fridays will continue.

7.4.2 Play park; monies are being raised locally before applications for grants are made. It was noted that Fife Voluntary Action are a very useful group to contact when undertaking local initiatives.

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

8.1 Fibre broadband; G.Simpson had a reply from the Scottish Government regarding the implementation of policy in our area, we will have to make do with ‘superfast’ at best as ‘ultrafast’ will require a provider to take on the connecting of properties.

9.0 Planning: Access to the lists can be made at <https://planning.fife.gov.uk/online/search.do?action=simple>

9.1 Strathmiglo;
<https://planning.fife.gov.uk/online/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S7IHKYHFLZ600>
the erection of two houses on the western entrance to the village. The development falls outside the settlement boundary though is a brownfield site currently used for agricultural storage. This will be discussed at the next Strathmiglo Community Association meeting [6th March] with conclusions forwarded to the Community Council. The Community Council will register as a statutory consultee.

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

11.0 **AOCB;**

11.1 River Eden Sustainability Partnership[RESP], Letham meeting; a number of Community Councillors attended, the local farming community were well represented in the main expressing discontent with not being allowed to deal with the issues arising as they saw necessary and that regulations being imposed were not helping the situation. SEPA and Scottish Water put forward that actions taken in the past were not going to cope with current and future weather conditions. Possible solutions were likely to take time and be expensive with land managers arguing that short term fixes should be allowed. Two main issues were highlighted, that of controlling water entering communities ie slowing it down and getting water that was there out quickly. S. Jack suggested that the Resilience Group be represented on RESP though also argued that this level of issue should be the responsibility of a statutory body rather than hard working and enthusiastic volunteers. M. Cooke wanted to emphasise the role of individual responsibility when dealing with issues effecting private property and not always looking to others to 'fix it'.

As a side note the meetings attention was drawn to the healthy population of beavers in Birnie Loch and the question of when they will make their presence felt in the River Eden.

11.2 Local Place Plan; progress is being made, the steering group has been running for a year and version 2 of the plan is about to be released for a period of consultation in April after which it will be submitted to Fife Council in June. The current document is formed of two parts, a Local Place Plan [related to land and building use] and a Community Action Plan [projects that people would like to see undertaken in the area].

11.3 Future meetings; meetings will alternate between Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo unless the availability of either Dunshalt Village Hall or Gateside Memorial Hall changes.

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

Monday 25th March, Public Hall, Strathmiglo at 7.30 pm.