

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 3rd Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 pm on Monday 28th January 2008
In the Village Hall, Gateside, Fife

PRESENT: 1. George AITKEN [Strathmiglo], 2. David COWLING [Gateside], 3. Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], 4. Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], 5. Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], 6. Bill GUDGEON [Dunshelt], 7. Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], 8. Bobby THOMSON [Gateside], & 9. Eric CARSLAKE [Gateside].

ATTENDING: Councillor Donald LOTHIAN, and 1 member of the public.

1.0. WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chairman welcomed all present.

Apologies: Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshelt].

2.0 MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting held in the Village Hall, Strathmiglo, on Monday 26th November was read and agreed.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS: as there was no police representative matters would be dealt with as they arose.

The Secretary had commented to Mike King that their presence was missed, the Secretary will write to invite a police representative to the next meeting.

4.0 MATTERS & BUSINESS ARISING:

4.1 Wind Farm at Rossie, Auchtermuchty; The Chair gave a brief report on the progress of the enquiry noting that there had been a good attendance through out the proceedings. A. Heer stated that he was impressed by the way the enquiry was managed, and the manner in which the Reporter had conducted the meetings. The Reporter's Decision will be announced in 2 to 3 months.

4.2 Rethinking Scottish Local Government; A. Muirhead, who had attended, noted that the speakers were of high calibre and recommended viewing the presentations given, these are available via the web contact the Secretary for details. One of the presentations compiled evidence from a variety of political party manifestoes that pointed to 'great things' for community councils. A situation that he awaits with anticipation.

4.3 Lomond Hills Regional Park Partnership; G. Aitken gave a brief report on the AGM of this body noting that representation from south of the Lomond Hills appeared sparse, a reversal of previous years. The first meeting is to be held on the 29th January.

4.4 Playing out conference, Dunfermline; The Secretary attended this Fife Council organised conference whose overall finding appeared to be that if a project is to be successful then it must involve the children from the start. Presentations made are available, contact the Secretary for details. Contacts were made at the conference with individuals and organisations that may prove useful in the future. The Chair pointed out that it was always a good idea to have a 'new face' representing the Community Council at such meetings to show the depth of representation within the Community Council.

4.5 Meet the Officers Evening; B. Thomson, A. Heer and A. Muirhead attended. There was a mixed reaction with some positive aspects as it allowed for some misconceptions held by the police officers to be dispelled. One of the main functions of the evening was to introduce new facilities available to Community Councils including a new email address for the exclusive use of Community Council members with Community Council matters.

EACOMM@fife.pnn.police.uk

This is planned to be manned from 9am – 5pm, 5 days a week

4.6 Mushroom farm, Dunshelt; The Secretary has written asking for further details, as the multiple applications regarding the site appear, in some aspects, to refer to the same part of the site.

4.7 Planning Modernisation Seminar, Edinburgh; It was agreed that the Chair and the Secretary should attend.

4.8 Core Paths – final Draft Proposals; All the latest maps are on Fife's web site and there appears to be no changes from the previous draft, though it would be recommended that the local Community Associations make a more detailed examination.

[It was noticed that Transportation have included in Gateside a path from the Old Town to Station Road along a tree line that would cross private land. Further developments are awaited with interest.]

4.9 Binn Farm - Waste to Energy; The Chair has been in correspondence with various interested parties over the Christmas period, concerning the matter of the Community Council's lack of right to consultation as a result of not being in the constituency that the development is located. Iain Smith MSP has written to the Scottish Government on the matter and awaits a reply. Community Councils in Perth & Kinross are still fighting the development.

5.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS

5.1 Gateside

5.1.1 Street lighting; upgrading work not completed – to be raised in the Community Association. Cllr. Lothian to raise matter of lack of consultation with local interest with Fife Council.

- 5.1.2 Widened footpath opposite Gateside Inn; Traffic speed and late reaction by drivers is still causing concern to local residents.
- 5.2 Auchtermuchty
 - 5.2.1 Station Road Gateway; The gateway is now complete, no other 'features' are to be added.
 - 5.2.2 Kinloch House, Newburgh Road; Puddling is now common and can extend into the middle of the road causing concerns over road safety and damage to surrounding property.
- 5.3 Dunshelt
 - 5.3.1 Water mains; Further leaks have occurred, one noticeably breaking through the tarmac of the main road close to the Ladybank junction. This has been reported [in December '07] but no work has been undertaken. Cllr. Lothian to pursue, he will check to see if the Scottish Power being undertaken in the same area is helping or hindering situation. The Secretary has been in contact with the interim Chief Executive of Scottish Water [November '07] whose reply included the contact number for the local officer. The Secretary will contact them to ask for an update on the situation.
 - 5.3.2 Flooding; Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that the flood study of the area will be reported on at the March meeting of the Community Council. In answer to G. Aitken, Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that the report was to cover the Dunshelt area only.
- 5.4 Strathmiglo
 - 5.4.1 Exposed sewer pipe, south bank River Eden; A 5 metre section of sewer pipe was exposed due to erosion of the river bank. G. Aitken contacted SEPA who involved Scottish Water resulting in a temporary repair being undertaken. Further works will be required but no details have as yet been given to the Community Council. The matter will be raised at the Strathmiglo Community Association's next meeting.
 - 5.4.2 Traffic Survey; A traffic monitoring device has been put in place on the A912 south of the Toll Bridge entrance to the village, but its location, being immediately before a bend in the road approaching the village gateway, will fail to provide any meaningful speed related statistics.
 - 5.4.3 Site visit by Transportation; [5.1.1] Issues raised by this visit will be raised by Cllr. Lothian at the next Community Association meeting.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

- 6.1 None not covered under Fife Council matters.

7.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Secretary is still having difficulty in persuading Fife Development Services that he is the new contact point for the Community Council. He also stated that he would prefer Fife to allow the option of electronic communication [i.e. email] in distributing the planning lists thus saving the expense of the four paper copies that they send out at present.

7.1 No comments made to other applications.

The Chair informed 'newer' members that traditionally the Community Council prefers not comment on domestic applications unless they were to set a precedent or the applications are not clear in what is being proposed.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary listed the incoming and outgoing correspondence since the previous meeting.

Of note;

- 8.1 Landscape consultants have been appointed by Fife to determine future landscape designation. There is to be a meeting held in the Corn Exchange, Cupar, on the 20th March 2008 which requires responses to be submitted by the 8th February 2008. It was agreed that the Chair would prepare a submission including comment on the situation as it stands with designation and that the consultation process was conducted in the main over the festive/holiday period – a situation he notes that is occurring more frequently – causing difficulties for the Community Council.
- 8.2 Statement of Gambling policy, Fife; A reply is requested by the 15th February 2008, A. Heer to look at the document and the Secretary will reply that we have seen it.
- 8.3 Local Services Offices, change of hours; A correspondence from Colin Gilbert informs the Community Council that the Local Service Office in Auchtermuchty will from the 28th January 2008 only be open Tuesdays and Fridays.
- 8.4 Community Council Seminar, 10th May; The Chair recommended attendance to 'newer' members. Names of those proposing to attend – and experienced members volunteering to run workshops – are to be passed to the Secretary. A reply from the Community Council must be with Fife by the 29th February.

9.0 AOB

- 9.1 Hall rents for Community Council meetings; The Treasurer requested that any members having contact with those responsible for any of the halls used to send in invoices for previous meetings.

Date/venue of the next meeting;

Auchtermuchty Town Hall, at 7.30 p.m. Monday the 25th February 2008.

BILL TORRANCE

Minute Secretary.

5th February 2008.