

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 4th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 pm on Monday 25th February 2008
In Auchtermuchty Town Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Councillors Donald LOTHIAN, David MACDIARMID, Colin GILBERT [Fife Council], Sergeant Angela McLaren and PC Andrew Pearson [Fife Police] 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, Gateside, on Monday 28th January 2008 was accepted.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS: [taken on arrival of Police officers]

The Chair introduced the Community Council members to Sergeant McLaren and PC Pearson.

Sgt. McLaren gave the meeting an idea of how local issues are to be tackled in future through the use of the community officers who have been assigned to our area, PC Andrew Pearson (in attendance) and PC Ruth Goldie. The point was made that all 4 communities of the Community Council will be covered by the same officers. When on shift and barring call outs, officers will attend meetings – though as community officers work weekends, Monday meetings are very difficult to attend due to shift patterns. Where they are unable to attend the officers will contact the Community Council for information on the issues raised.

Question/issues brought to the officers attention at the meeting included;

- Speeding – Gateside in particular – and a request for more speed checks made.
- Cllr. Lothian praised the police handling of a ‘problem’ family in Auchtermuchty.
- Patrols – more and at random times - around the communities were requested as a preventative measure.
- Vehicle traffic on the Strathmiglo/Falkland cycle path, with Sgt. McLaren confirming that this was indeed an offence and that it is important that individuals are reported and identified where possible.

- Single contact phone number for non-emergencies – 0845 600 5702
- Congestion caused by lorries unloading at Sands shop in Auchtermuchty – compounded by radios being left on and doors left open.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance and contribution.

4.0 MATTERS & BUSINESS ARISING:

- 4.1 Wind Farm at Rossie, Auchtermuchty; The Reporter's decision is available from the Chair or Secretary though it is to be soon available on the web. Barring an appeal [legal] by Energiekontor the matter has now been resolved.
- 4.2 Lomond Hills Regional Park Partnership; G. Aitken reported on its meeting on the 29th January; issues included the election of office bearers, signage within the park and the possible formation of a branded 'image' for the 'Gateway'. The Chair agreed that further work would be needed before such an idea could proceed.
Cllr. Lothian commented on the meeting pointing out that he liked the positive thinking that was coming forward but disappointed at the 'empty seats' and non-representation of some areas effected.
- 4.3 Planning Modernisation Seminar, Edinburgh; The Secretary gave a report on the seminar highlighting as the most notable issue, the removal of many items [approx. 19%] from the those needing planning approval. As the Community Council does not as a rule comment, the effects will be felt by Fife Council.
- 4.4 Planning for People; The Chair brought to attention of members a seminar to be held in the Town House, Kirkcaldy, on the 29th March. It is to focus on how 'people' might react to planning applications. The Chair recommended attendance by all those who could, details from the Secretary.
- 4.5 Local Landscape Designation Review; The Secretary has made our submission, as copied to members. A seminar is to be arranged at the Corn Exchange, Cupar in May. Details will be available at the next meeting.
Note: Meeting date was actually 20th March. Secretary informed all by email immediately after meeting(26February).
- 4.6 Community Council Seminar; The Chair and Secretary recommend attendance at this seminar on the 10th May in Fife House, particularly by those new to the Community Council.
- 4.7 Future Strategy; The Chair explained that he wanted to open discussion on the future strategy of the Community Council. At present the Council is reactive to events and its actions usually limited to a core of office bearers. He recommended that we should become more proactive in calling for Fife

Council and other agencies to respond to our agenda, for example in the subject of area Forums.

The Chair sees this as a regular item on the agenda of future meetings where members can bring issues that could be taken forward.

5.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS

5.1 Auchtermuchty

5.1.1 Cllr. Lothian pointed out that matters raised in the previous minute have been taken up with the Community Association.

5.1.2 A. Heer asked Cllr. Lothian to pass on the request for the removal of chewing gum on the pavement around the Bank.

5.2 Dunshelt

5.2.1 Cllr. Lothian stated that to his knowledge the Flood Study is to be reported on at the March meeting of the Community Council – to be held in Dunshelt.

5.3 Gateside

5.3.1 Widened footpath opposite Gateside Inn; Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that discussions have been held and further thought is to be given to the situation.

5.3.2 Traffic increase due to diversions; The Community Council is awaiting a reply via Colin Stirling [Fife] from Perth & Kinross regarding the traffic increase due to the choice of diversions during the closure of the Glenfarg-Perth road.

5.3.3 Street lighting; Cllr. Lothian passed on an apology from Transportation about the lack of consultation.

5.3.4 Traffic calming signage; B. Smeaton commented that the speed reduction sign appears set below 30mph and therefore likely to cause 'umbrage' rather than restraint. The Chair commented that car traffic has appeared to have reduced in speed but HGVs have shown no reduction.

5.4 Strathmiglo

5.4.1 Exposed sewer pipe, south bank River Eden; Little has appeared to have happened concerning this, G. Aitken recommended contacting SEPA as they were very responsive when the matter was initially raised with them.

5.4.2 Dog-bins; Emptying of dog-bins, particularly in the King George V Park is erratic with not all the bins being emptied at the same time. NOTED

5.4.3 Recycling facilities; The locking of the recycle bins has prevented larger plastic containers being put into them. NOTED

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

6.1 None.

7.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

7.1 No comments made to applications.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Of note;

8.1 The RAF community officer, who has entered into correspondence with the Secretary, has offered to speak to a meeting concerning the need for low flying practice in our area. The Secretary will ask for an information pack if one is available.

Date/venue of the next meeting;
Dunshelt Village Hall, at 7.30 p.m. Monday 31st March 2008.

BILL TORRANCE
Minute Secretary.
12th March 2008.