

# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 7th Meeting of the Community Council,  
Held at 7.30 pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
In Strathmiglo Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, PC EWART, PC BROWN [arrived 7.45pm after attending another meeting], Colin GILBERT [Fife Council], Andy Jones [Police camera department]

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

Apologies: Jane KERR [Strathmiglo] Bob SMEATON [Auchtermuchty], Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE, Cllr. David MACDIARMID.

2.0 MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Gateside, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008 was accepted after two corrections;

5.1.1 'moving towards adoption' should have read 'adopting a grace and favour attitude'

5.3.1 'Bondgate road surface' should have read 'Bondgate and Madras Road road surface'.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS: [taken at the beginning of the meeting]

3.1 The Chair spoke to the subject of excessive traffic speed in the area and the problems it causes, highlighting the A91 as an example making particular reference to the heavy goods vehicles [HGVs] and the danger to pedestrians where the main pedestrian routes are adjacent to the road. He concluded with the opinion, agreed by the body of the meeting, that 'enforcement' action should be taken as little else appears to have an effect.

Two members of the public addressed the meeting on the subject of traffic speed passed the village of Burnside. They had obtained traffic data relating to the area, a summary of which was presented to the meeting, as evidence that their concerns were well founded. High speeds were seen to be a danger to pedestrians and traffic attempting to join the A91 from the village. A question was raised if the data breakdown detailed the types of vehicles using excessive speed. Andy Jones advise the meeting that a covert survey was to be undertaken in the area in the next week [24 hours a day, for 7 days with one survey point level with the middle of the village] in which this level of detail would be obtained. Once the

data was collected a meeting would be arranged with interested parties to discuss possible measures.

Andy Jones also informed the meeting that data collection points would be set up at Gateside School and Gateside Memorial Hall, and the calibration of the speed calming sign to the east end of Gateside checked. Further, where the company names of HGVs perceived to be using excessive speed were reported the companies would be contacted, possibly in collaboration with the primary school to increase the 'embarrassment' factor.

The Chair thanked the members of the public for their contribution at which point they left with Andy Jones to conduct a site visit with a view to obtain possible positioning for traffic calming measures/speed camera operation.

Matters brought to the attention of the meeting;

- 3.1 Dunshalt 20MPH; the speed monitor at the entrance to the village appears to trigger at 25MPH when traffic is entering a 20MPH zone, there were questions as to why this would be the case.
- 3.2 Cash Feus speeding/ speed signage; George Aitken was critical of the placement of the 20MPH road markings as parked vehicles obscure them. The Community Council will join with the Strathmiglo Community Association in their efforts to secure physical traffic calming measures. In the course of the discussion, the Chair agreed with PC Ewart that while Gateside, Auchtermuchty, Dunshalt and Strathmiglo are not alone in their problems with traffic speeding, they are the villages covered by this Community Council.
- 3.3 Accidents Dunshalt/Auchtermuchty; there appears to be an increase in the number of accidents happening at the bends in the road between Dunshalt and Auchtermuchty. PC Ewart was of the opinion that though the road surface may be a contributory factor, speed was no doubt playing a major part. The Secretary had written to Transportation concerning the matter but has as yet had no reply.

At this point in the meeting the Chair raised the issue of non-response to communications by departments within Fife Council and suggested that where no reply had been received in a given time period, the matter should be referred directly to the Chief Executive.

4.0 MATTERS & BUSINESS ARISING:

- 4.1 Core paths; Andy Heer was in communication with Brian Stewart [the party involved with the disputed path], who expressed his willingness to attend a future meeting if requested. Mr Stewart had explained that he had had full title to the land in dispute for a number of years and had been in discussion with Fife representatives [at the time NE Fife District Council] concerning its possible use as a pathway when it was agreed that it was not suitable. He expressed his concern that such information had not been passed on to the Community Council and local associations concerned. The Chair pointed out that if a path has never been a recognised 'public right of way' then the fact that members of the public have used it for a considerable number of years is immaterial [despite the feeling of the local population]. He also expressed the opinion that the 'alternative' route suggested – i.e. the use of the Dryside road – was not a true alternative for a

route between Gateside and Strathmiglo. Pedestrian safety on the Dryside would also become an issue. He hoped that the Core Path body would look to land adjacent to the initial route that would be more in line with their intention to continue the path through to Auchtermuchty.

Cllr. Lothian and Alison Irving [Access Officer, Fife Council] will meet Mr. Stewart to further discuss the matter and report back to the Community Council. Cllr. Lothian is to attend the Planning Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> May that is to approve the draft report on the Core Paths – leading to a consultation period – at which he will raise the matter.

On a related matter the Secretary reminded the meeting of the Access Seminar to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June and that booking a place would be essential. Details are available on request.

- 4.2 City Region Boundaries; this was placed on the agenda for general discussion around the circulated documents from the Chair and Freuchie Community Council. The Chair's interpretation of Freuchie's approach is that it is broadly similar to our own, in that it would be undesirable if the Community Council area – or worse part of it – to be left as a 'rump' if the Tay and Forth bridgehead areas were to extend well into Fife. Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that decisions concerning the boundaries were due to be made around September 2008.
- 4.3 Association of Scottish Community Councils; the Secretary attended a meeting of this body and reported back on three areas. Firstly Data Protection, it appears that the Community Council falls under the auspices of the data protection laws and therefore must be registered. Whereas some Councils, e.g Glasgow, Highland and Perth & Kinross pay the £35 registration fee for all their Community Councils, Fife Council has refused to do so. He suggested that the Community Council pay the fee and take the matter up with Fife Council. **AGREED**  
Second and Third, a National Model and a Code of Conduct – copies of which were circulated to members – will be put on to the June agenda for further discussion.  
Various papers and documents brought back from the meeting are available from the Secretary on request.
- 4.4 St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan; The Secretary has circulated papers from the Freuchie and Falkland Community Council that request further consultation due to their temporary removal from the Local Plan area and the amount of time that has taken place since the consultation was undertaken. The Chair, while agreeing with their reasoning, saw little prospect of this occurring and stressed the need for very close scrutiny of the final version. The Secretary will pass on the Community Council's support for their endeavours.
- 4.5 Community Council's web site; All Community Councillors have been registered with the site as users. It is the intention to run for a period of time with Councillors only as a pilot, with the intention then to open it to the general public.  
On the topic of publicising the Community Council's activities, the Chair suggested that an 'abridged' and agreed selection of topics covered in

the meetings should be sent for publication – to the press and web site – as soon as possible following a meeting. AGREED.

## 5.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS

### 5.1 Strathmiglo

- 5.1.1 Container Kirk Wynd car park; George Aitken has been informed by the owners that the container in Kirk Wynd was, and still is, hired to Building Services for the past seven months. Cllr. Lothian to pursue.
- 5.1.2 Flood Insurance; The Secretary contacted Esure and was informed that the postcode given – Strathmiglo – was in the top 10% flood risk. On further enquiry from more reliable sources he was informed that though some areas fall in the 1 in 200 year risk category most of the area falls in the 1 in 1000 year category. It would appear that this particular company was reacting to previous claims.
- 5.1.3 Exposed sewer pipe, south bank River Eden; No progress evident.

### 5.2 Auchtermuchty

- 5.2.1 Bondgate/Madras Road road surface; Bondgate repairs have been undertaken, while Madras Rd. has been classified as 'unsightly' but not requiring repair at present. Cllr. Lothian to follow up.
- 5.2.2 Review of town halls; Andy Heer informed the meeting that Auchtermuchty has been included in a review of town halls as to their 'fitness for purpose'. Cllr. Lothian will circulate related documents as they become available.

### 5.3 Dunshalt

- 5.3.1 Flood study; Apparently 'imminent' though no word received by the Secretary. Colin Gilbert [Fife Council] will pursue for the Community Council.

### 5.4 Gateside

- 5.4.1 Bower Park; Holes in road have been repaired.

## 6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

- 6.1 No separate matters.

## 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 Bus Service review; Consultation is taking place at a number of venues. It is hoped that these will be widely advertised.
- 8.2 Scottish Public Services Ombudsman; The Chair attended an interesting lecture by the SPS ombudsman, papers are available on request.

#### 9.0 AOB

- 9.1 None

Date/venue of the next meeting;  
Auchtermuchty Town Hall, at 7.30 p.m. Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

BILL TORRANCE  
Minute Secretary.  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2008.