

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 9th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 pm on Monday 25th August 2008
In Dunshalt Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDIARMID, Colin GILBERT [Fife Council] and three members of the public Valerie Weir, John McFadzean, Brian McGill

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

Apologies: Bob SMEATON [Auchtermuchty], PC. PEARSON, Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE, Eric CARSLAKE [Gateside].

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the Meeting held in the Town Hall, Auchtermuchty, on Monday 30th June 2008 was accepted with one correction.

5.1 The group referred to as the "Police Camera Department" are called the 'Fife Safety Camera Partnership' [FSCP].

3.0 POLICE MATTERS: No police representative was present. The Chair reported on a visit by Andy Jones [FSCP] who had expressed his surprise at the negative attitude of drivers to operatives of the cameras. The siting of road sign indicating a 'speed camera' is imminent.

No new matters.

4.0 MATTERS & BUSINESS ARISING:

4.1 Nether Urquhart planning application; *[Taken out of order before 3.0 Police Matters due to the presence of interested members of the public.]*
A paddock to courtyard development that the Chair pointed out would have a visual impact from both Gateside and Strathmiglo viewpoints and that it was outwith existing Fife policy concerning development in the countryside. He recommended that, despite planning permission which was given for development in that area under the North East Fife District some years ago apparently being interpreted by Fife Development Services as permanent approval, the Community Council raise an objection.

Mr McFadzean, a local resident, gave reasons for his objection to the development including its proximity to a working farm and the problems that often occur.

The meeting AGREED that an objection be prepared and submitted.

- 4.2 Flooding Review; The Secretary, amongst others present, had looked for the report to have been published and released by now. Colin Gilbert informed the meeting that the report had now been discussed at a Locality Meeting and it is hoped that it will be released in the very near future. He will inform the Secretary as soon as he has been informed that this has happened.

Gordon Simpson informed the meeting that it is accepted in Dunshalt that a local farmer had made a significant contribution to the prevention of flooding by undertaking work at his own volition. He also pointed out that there is evidence that the effort in clearing of road ditches and gullies has been much reduced.

The Chair expressed the Community Council's sympathy for those affected by the recent flooding.

- 4.3 Core Path; The Chair reported on a meeting with the Access Officer from which came a commitment to the Eden Valley route. This would be in three stages. First Gateside to Burnside – including the Yellow Road and past Gateside Mill, second joining the Strathmiglo Community woodland to Auchtermuchty and third connecting Strathmiglo to Gateside.

We are still within the statutory period of consultation and if anyone has anything to add they should contact the Secretary.

- 4.4 Community Trusts; The Secretary reported on moves by Fife Council to change how these Trusts are organised and how they disperse their funds. As Fife Council has administered them for many years and most have only small amounts of money, he sees this as a sensible move, but would expect to be kept informed of any changes before final decisions were made.

- 4.5 Association of Scottish Community Councils [ASCC]; Members were asked if there were any issues that they would like raised with the ASCC they should contact the Chair or the Secretary.

- 4.6 Finalised Draft Local Plan [DLP]; The Chair reported that though the DLP was finalised in 2006 and never published it has now appeared on the Fife Council website with no publicity. Within it there appears to be little that will affect the Community Council's area and it may be surpassed following the publication of the Structure Plan. He informed the meeting that the consultation period 'begins' in 2009, but may be brought forward on the Structure Plan's return, and should be tackled with the Landscape Review in mind.

Cllr. Lothian expressed his concern that there appeared to be no area designated for future small-scale development needed to maintain a 'healthy' community.

4.7 Future Strategy; No new matters, but will remain an item on future agenda.

5.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS

5.1 Dunshalt

5.1.1 Flood study; Previously covered.

5.2 Gateside

5.2.1 Old Town road repairs; Residents are pleased that repairs have been undertaken but unfortunately some parts were missed.

5.3 Strathmiglo

5.3.1 Bellfield development; It has come to residents attention that plans have been drawn up for a large development on the site of what had been Bellfield Chicken Farm. The application has not appeared on Fife Development service's list or web site. As this development would be in breach of Fife's development policies on development in the countryside, though it was pointed out at the meeting that this area may be interpreted as a 'brown field site', it was AGREED that the Community Council begin preparing an objection to be submitted now, rather than wait until the next meeting.

5.4 Auchtermuchty

5.4.1 Public Hall review; No news as yet.

5.4.2 Auchtermuchty Festival; A locality meeting is to be held and it is hoped that contributions in the form of local feedback will come from as wide a range as possible.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS: None

7.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Secretary listed planning applications in the area not covered in previous discussion.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Of note;

- 8.1 British Telecom; There has been some difficulty in finding a 'responsible' contact in relation to the Strathmiglo Exchange. Further attempts will be made.
- 8.2 Bus route change; A notice was distributed to members by the Secretary but Gordon Simpson pointed out that the information had not been displayed at the more useful location of the bus stops. There is anecdotal evidence that the changes have not been of universal benefit to users in the community and the Secretary will write to Stagecoach and Transportation in relation to the Strathmiglo-Gateside-Perth route.

9.0 AOCB: None

Date/venue of the next meeting;

Gateside Memorial Hall, at 7.30 p.m. Monday 29th September 2008.

BILL TORRANCE
Minute Secretary.
31st August 2008.