

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 14th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 23rd February 2009
In Gateside Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Colin GILBERT [Fife Council] and Cllr. David McDIARMID.

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

Apologies: Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE, PC. Ian LAING

2.0 MINUTES:
The Minute of the meeting held in Gateside Village Hall on 26th January 2009 was accepted.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS:

3.1 Policing Plan; The Secretary commented on the short time that had been allocated for consultation and informed the meeting that points raised by members had been passed on as part of the Community Council's comments. There was a common thread to most of the points in that the Policing Plan was a statement of what was expected of Fife Police rather a 'plan of action' of how they intend to improve the service.

3.2 Areas of concern; The Secretary will raise the continuing problem of speeding, in particular in the Burnside/Gateside area where the problem is persistent even with the use of speed cameras.
The Secretary was asked to request the presence of the Police motorbike section in the area of the A91/A912, with an emphasis on Sundays, as they were very effective in 'calming' the motorbike traffic out for the 'Sunday run'.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

4.1 Fife Structure Plan; The Chair submitted the comments which had been circulated to members.

4.2 St. Andrews and East Fife Local Plan; The Chair formulated comments on the said plan but found his endeavours complicated by the various other plans, in particular the Strategic Environment Assessment, which are in play simultaneously and in the main written in a nigh incomprehensible

manner. The Chair therefore has 'rolled' comments on these plans together covering the following points –

- The time this process has been going on
- The area boundaries used within it
- Special landscape areas
- Landscape settlement areas
- Wind farm search
- Settlement boundaries
- Sustainable development

The submission will be circulated to members for comment then posted on the Community Council's web site.

A letter was received from Cllr. Andrew Arbuckle concerning a request made to officers [of Fife Council] to look for areas, in smaller communities, for possible development as it appears large-scale development have been hit by the current financial situation. General discussion took place as to how this linked to the Local Plan, how little progress has been made in the past 5 years and the perilous state that has been reached re. Development/planning.

The Chair will respond to Cllr. Arbuckle in an appropriate fashion.

- 4.3 Fife Elderly Forum; a request has been received for volunteers to take part. [It is hoped that there was no special reason that Community Councils were specifically targeted]
- 4.4 Joint Management of Small Schools; consultation papers had been circulated to members for discussion. The Chair felt that the question of 'Ethos' had been overlooked or at least understated and that a Head teacher is more than simply someone to run the school. General discussion followed and it was noted that it is very likely that Gateside and Strathmiglo would be included in such a scheme. The Chair will write to Ken Greer [Fife Education] with our views.
- 4.5 Climate Change Fund; the issue was raised by the Secretary to ensure that Community Associations were aware of the availability of funds. A forum will take place on the 11th March at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes. Those interested should attend.

5.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

5.1 GATESIDE

- 5.1.1 Main Road culverts; the drainage in the Main Road is still causing concern, Cllr. Lothian will pursue.
- 5.1.2 Dryside potholes; a number of holes are causing concern, Cllr. Lothian recommended that all potholes be reported through the Fife reporting system.
- 5.1.3 Gritting; the residents of Bower Park would like to express their thanks for the standard of gritting that took place over the last bad weather period.

5.2 STRATHMIGLO

- 5.2.1 Damaged sewer pipe; The Secretary received a reply from Scottish Water which coincided with email correspondence being undertaken by B. Torrance. This resulted in a site meeting where G. Aitken and D. Cowling met with Scottish Water representatives. A further letter has been received stating works will be carried out 'by' the summer.

It emerged that reinstatement of the riverbank may be the responsibility of the landowner. The Secretary will respond asking whether discussions have begun with Fife Council concerning the reinstatement of the riverbank to have the position put into writing.

- 5.2.2 General road conditions; G.Aitken pointed out to the meeting that the state of roads through the village has now reached an unacceptable condition which is very likely lead to injury, in particular to cyclists, and damage to vehicles. Cllr. Lothian repeated his advice that all pot holes be reported individually – particularly if they are of a depth to require emergency work. G. Aitken volunteered to undertake a survey of the roads in the village. The Secretary will write to Transportation concerning the general state of repair.

The Chair emphasised the need for members to take on this 'tactic' of reporting issues where a reporting facility was available.

5.3 AUCHTERMUCHTY

- 5.3.1 Hall control; it was noted that the Auchtermuchty Festival Group have expressed an interest in taking over the running of the Town Hall and that the Auchtermuchty Theatre Group had expressed a similar interest for the Victoria Hall. A preliminary meeting of all involved has taken place with Fife Council representative.

5.4 DUNSHALT

- 5.4.1 Flood Study; G. Simpson asked the meeting who the best contact would be concerning the study and the apparent lack of willingness to report to the residents of Dunshalt its findings. He expressed his disappointment that there appears to be no intention to make direct contact with the Community Council or the Dunshalt Community Association [DCA]. The Chair recommended that the DCA and the Community Council act together in their approach as this was a strategic matter. G. Simpson and the Secretary will liaise.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

- 6.1 Power outages; G. Simpson recommended that even where the power returns automatically a report should still be made. This would establish a record of incidents that would lead to a repair schedule including this area. If no reports are made no repairs will be scheduled.

7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary listed planning applications in the area.

7.1 56 High St, Auchtermuchty; Cllr. Lothian reported to the meeting that despite local objections the committee recommended approval. The Secretary reported on his discussions with Development Services [planning] regarding the changes between the 1st and 2nd sets of plans. During this discussion there appeared to be confusion as to whether a Community Council is a statutory consultee. The Chair is writing to J. Birrell [Fife] for written clarification.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Of note;

8.1 Licensing Board; license renewals for Auchtermuchty Bowling Club, Myres Castle and the Cycle Tavern.

9.0 AOCB

The Secretary reported to those who had not read the Fife Herald that the A91 Melville Lodge to Cupar road is to be closed for a period of time.

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Strathmiglo Village Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 30th March 2009.