

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 15th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 30th March 2009
In Strathmiglo Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN and PC. Ian LAING

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

Apologies: Eric CARSLAKE [Gateside], Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE, and Cllr. David McDIARMID.

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Gateside Village Hall on 23rd February 2009 was accepted.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS:

3.1 Speeding, Gateside: PC Laing told the meeting that he had requested a postcode check on offenders that highlighted the fact that the majority come from outside our area. The lack of effect of the speed checks, and the resulting disappointment of local residents, may be due to this. He stated that it was their intention to maintain the level of checks and that publicity will be sought for those prosecuted.

Dunshalt [Ladybank Road] is another area of concern with inappropriate speeds being used – though Gordon Simpson did say that this has been a problem area for a while. PC Laing pointed out that this would be a difficult area to use a 'speed gun'.

3.2 Dunshalt parking; Gordon Simpson asked if anything could be done concerning those who are parking irresponsibly around the traffic calming measures. PC Laing said that unless there were parking restriction signage little could be done.

3.3 Disorder;

Strathmiglo: There were a number of incidents but no pattern to their occurrence. They consisted of vandalism, stone throwing and general nuisance.

Auchtermuchty: 8 Disorder cards were completed – mainly at weekends – a large number of underage drinkers were dealt with under the 'Guardian' scheme (i.e. taken home) though a number of those involved are coming from outside our area. Of note was

the comment of the offenders that they targeted towns with no public drinking ban.

Gordon Simpson reported that it was 'general knowledge' that there was a gang culture forming in the area with reports of problems on the Bell Baxter buses. PC Laing commented on the problems developing with large numbers of youths causing concerns particularly those coming from outside the area with the intention of creating disorder.

- 3.4 Motorbikes and sports cars; Gordon Simpson asked PC Laing if the same attention was given to those driving cars, particularly sports cars, around the area on the 'Sunday run' as was requested for motorbikes at the last meeting. PC Laing responded by pointing out that at the moment the problems appear to be with motorbikes.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

- 4.1 Fife Structure Plan; Receipt of our comments has been received. The Chair has formulated the opinion that the St. Andrews and East Fife Local Plan has now been overtaken by events.
- 4.1 Joint Management of Small Schools; The Chair's comments [circulated to members] were submitted as was a formal complaint concerning the fact that consultation submission date given was after the meeting where the matter was to be discussed, had taken place. There has been no acknowledgement of submission or complaint prior to the meeting.
- 4.2 Wester Nether Urquhart; To be noted, an appeal has been submitted against the application refusal but the Community Council's position is unchanged.
- 4.3 New Planning System; The Secretary and Andy Heer thought that it would be of benefit to the members of the Community Council to receive some form of training in the new system, possibly through the use of forums being organised by Planning Aid. The Secretary suggested that this might be done in conjunction with neighbouring Community Councils. The Secretary will write to gauge interest.

5 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

5.1 STRATHMIGLO

- 5.1.1 General road conditions; G.Aitken reported 3 of the worst potholes which were dealt with but the general condition of the roads is still very poor and a threat to safety particularly that of pedestrians and cyclists. The Secretary will write to Head of Transportation in support of the Community Association and the local Community Councillors.
- 5.1.2 Damaged sewer pipe; The Secretary received written confirmation of the verbal agreement concerning the repairs to the riverbank discussed at the previous meeting.

5.2 AUCHTERMUCHTY

No new business.

5.3 DUNSHALT

5.3.1 Flood Study; G. Simpson asked the Secretary to request a formal statement from Fife as to their position on the Flood Prevention Report and their intentions to disseminate it's findings.

5.4 GATESIDE

5.4.1 Bower Park; Cllr. Lothian thought it of note that Bower Park is to be resurfaced and its footpaths and lighting to be upgraded. Those attending expressed comments.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

6.1 Telephones; The Secretary noted that both telephone boxes in our area that were listed previously are to be retained

7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary listed planning applications in the area.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary listed the incoming and outgoing correspondence since the previous meeting pointing out that a large amount of correspondence [i.e. that arriving by email] is now routinely forwarded on to members.

Of note;

7.1 Auchtermuchty bridge work; Written confirmation of the work to be undertaken has been received.

8.0 AOCB

None

9.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Auchtermuchty Town Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 27th April 2009.