

# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Community Council,  
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
In Auchtermuchty Town 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. Eric CARSLAKE [Gateside].

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David McDIARMID, Colin GILBERT [Fife], Sgt. Seath and PC Ian LAING

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

Apologies: Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE and Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt].

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Strathmiglo Village Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009 was accepted.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS:

3.1 Disorder; PC Laing informed the meeting that a number of disorder cards were completed. Dunshalt 1, Auchtermuchty 4 and Strathmiglo 9. In Strathmiglo these appear to concern the same group of – local – youths active around the school and cemetery areas. The matter is to be raised at the Strathmiglo Community Association meeting which PC. Laing will attend.

3.2 Motorbikes; A further request was made for the presence of police motorbike/s particularly at the weekend. PC Laing explained that this might be difficult due to resources being stretched in the area in part due to the congregation of large numbers in Crail.

Speeding; A particular incident involving a lorry belonging to 'Ochilmount' was reported – unfortunately the registration number could not be read. The company has been contacted on previous occasions and PC. Laing will contact them again.

3.4 Information leaflet; Fife Constabulary have published an information leaflet with useful telephone numbers etc. A number will be brought to the next meeting.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

4.1 St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan; The Secretary referred to the latest Plan and wondered whether this is a 'Plan' or still a 'Draft' as it appears to be heading for Committee in May and Planning in June with consultation thereafter. The Chair questioned the order but the Councillors present

assured the meeting that this was still a draft format and open to consultation.

- 4.2 Joint Management of Small Schools; The Chair had received a response from Mr Hinds informing the meeting that the primary consultation with the Head teachers and School bodies had been to inform 'officers' where such joint management might be supported and that, due to requests, the consultation dates are to be held open and the responses circulated. The Secretary and the Chair put forward the suggestion that the Chair write to request that primary consultation include submissions from the Community Councils. AGREED.  
Cllr. Lothian expressed his disappointment that the correspondence had been unsatisfactory. The meeting thanked Cllr. Lothian for his support in the matter.
- 4.2 Schools Consultation (Scotland] Bill; The Secretary has forwarded correspondence and drew the meetings attention to the website holding the relevant documents with a request that the issue be put on to the next meetings agenda.
- 4.3 Binn Farm Incinerator; The Chair expressed his pleasure at the response of SEPA. They asked that a SEPA officer attend one of the next meetings, this was agreed by those present. The Chair was critical of his previous letter in that he felt that he had failed to convey the influence of local weather conditions strongly enough. He also highlighted the restrictions – in particular financial – that prevent the Community Council being able to adequately comment on fine detail especially the complex technical specifications involved.  
A. Heer reminded the meeting that the facility already in place had received a number of reprimands concerning breaches of conditions of operation and felt that a poor track record should count against them.

#### 4 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

##### 4.1 AUCHTERMUCHTY

- 4.1.1 Potholes; A. Heer pointed out to the meeting – in the spirit of Gateside's Bower Park residents – that a number of reported pot holes had been dealt with most effectively by Fife Services.

##### 4.2 DUNSHALT

- 4.2.1 Flood Prevention Study; A lack of information available to local residents is an on-going concern. The next Community Council meeting is to be held in Dunshalt and it was felt that this would be an ideal opportunity for an official representation to rectify this. The Secretary will write to a variety of officers with the hope of attendance.

##### 4.3 GATESIDE

- 4.3.1 Daffodils planted by Fife Services have been much commented on – in a positive manner!

##### 4.4 STRATHMIGLO

- 4.4.1 General road conditions; The Secretary has had no reply to correspondence. The worst potholes were reported and these have been filled but others have formed, with many quickly reaching a dangerous condition. J. Kerr reminded the meeting

that a number of village residents are reliant on mobility scooters that are not designed to cope with the 'near 4X4' conditions that they encounter. G. Aitken warned that litigation and involvement by the national press must be imminent. The Chair suggested requesting a site visit by a senior management officer to underline the seriousness. AGREED. The Secretary will write contacting a number of possible officers suggesting dates.

- 4.4.2 Ban on drinking in public; J. Kerr asked the meeting whether such a ban would cover the Community Council as a whole or be specific to the Community Association areas. [Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that this was a bye-law and not a licensing matter] The Chair replied that he felt that it should cover all the Community Associations i.e. the whole Community Council area and that no Community Association had as yet requested such a ban to be put in place. Cllr. Lothian commented that the department responsible for dealing with such matters has a very considerable workload at present and care would have to be taken to ensure that any request was not lost in the paper trail. The Secretary will write to Legal Services to enquire about procedures.

## 6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

- 6.1 Electricity supplies; 'Micro' interruptions continue in the area as well as some more substantial breaks. A. Heer attempted to report interruptions but accessed an automated reply system that he found very unsatisfactory. Others reporting problems had more success. Cllr. Lothian reported to the meeting that there appeared to have been a serious incident in the Auchtermuchty area causing disruption and that that may have knock-on effects.

## 7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary listed planning applications in the area.

Of note;

- 7.1 Wester Nether Urquhart: the Secretary reported that the application had been resubmitted with no discernible changes and that our objection was also resubmitted. The Chair attended the NE Fife Area Committee meeting where the application was refused. The Chair also thanked Cllr. Lothian for pointing out to the Planning meeting that the Community Council objection was not included in the papers. No news is available concerning progress of the appeal.
- 7.2 Bellfield; An appeal against Fife's refusal is to go to the Scottish Government. The Chair and Secretary felt that although our original objection should be forwarded to the Reporter an additional copy should be sent direct. AGREED.

## 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;

- 8.1 The Secretary's request to neighbouring Community Councils concerning the possible organising of a joint seminar with the help of Planning Aid has met with no response.

#### 9.0 AOCB

- 9.1 The Treasurer circulated a draft income/expenditure report to those present at the meeting. This was approved by the meeting and will now be subject to independent examination.
- 9.2 The Chair thanked all those attending in particular Colin Gilbert [Fife] for his regular attendance, which was much appreciated.

#### 10.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Dunshalt Village Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009.