

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 17th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th May 2009
In Dunshalt Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David McDIARMID and PC Ian LAING

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

Apologies: Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE and George AITKEN [Strathmiglo]

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Auchtermuchty Town Hall on 27th April 2009 was accepted.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS: PC Laing reported on –

3.1 Speeding; PC Laing has written to Ochilmount concerning the speed of its lorries through Gateside but has yet to receive a reply. The comment was made that speed is still an issue within Dunshalt Main St. until there is a police presence at which point it 'disappears'.

3.2 Policing Plan; The promised leaflets were distributed to the members.

3.3 Disorder;

In Gateside there were disturbances in and around the school grounds, PC Laing will visit the school to talk to pupils and staff.

In Strathmiglo scramble motorcycles have been causing a nuisance in the area and fires have been lit in the community woodland – evidence of which had been found during a recent litter pick – PC Laing has spoken to the Head teacher at the school.

In Auchtermuchty there have been 5 disorder forms completed, 3 concerning the same incident with water balloons being thrown at passing vehicles.

In Dunshalt it was reported that youths have been nuisance and possible danger – to themselves – by taking part in street games in the main thoroughfare.

3.4 Motorbikes; Road bikes are still regarded as a problem with speed on the A91 between Burnside and Auchtermuchty the main issue. PC Laing is looking to possible joint action with Perth & Kinross police particularly at weekends.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

- 4.1 Fife Structure Plan/SEA/Local Plan; The Secretary was in receipt of correspondence from the Scottish Government informing the Community Council that the Fife Structure Plan has been approved – with a few minor changes – and is therefore now in effect. It should shortly be posted on the Scottish Government’s website. The Local Plan, it was believed, was to be sent out for local area consultation but has not. Fife Councillors have had a 2nd ‘preview’ and it is understood that both Area and Planning committees will be achieved in June followed by public consultation.
- 4.2 Joint Management of Small Schools; The Chair has been informed that Brian Kirkcaldy [Fife Education] will supply a consultation review and that consideration will be given to including Community Councillors in the consultation process.
- 4.2 Strathmiglo Roads/Transportation Drop-in Event; The Secretary and George Aitken reported on the site visit to Strathmiglo with Sara Wilson from Fife Transportation. This was regarded as a useful visit with particular complaints being noted. *For the information of members we were informed that 40mm is the minimum depth for a hole to be classified as a ‘pothole’.* The meeting was also informed that work on Strathmiglo High St would be undertaken in the next financial year with monthly inspections until then with necessary remedial work being undertaken within 5 days. Transportation Drop-In in Auchtermuchty was regarded by the Secretary as a useful event, particularly for matching faces to emails. Another is to be scheduled for Cupar. There was good representation from Fife Transportation and Stagecoach had representatives to answer bus related enquires. Cllr. Lothian has asked for any conclusions and possible outcomes to be copied to him.
In a related matter the Secretary informed the meeting that he had received an email – forwarded to members – from Gordon Hughes of Transportation which stated that speed cushions in Cash Feus were unlikely due to costs, but a ‘SLOW DOWN’ will be installed on the A912 though later in the year.
- 4.3 Dunshalt Flooding; The Secretary reported that he had received information concerning the matter that afternoon. He had requested a ‘hard-copy’ of the report but was informed that these were not issued to the public but a copy would be available in future at the Cupar office. Bill Torrance questioned the categorising of the Community Council as the “public” as it is an elected body, and though accepting that it might be financially prohibitive to issue copies to every member of the public who asked for one we have only requested a single copy. The Chair suggested that the Community Council make a request under the Freedom of Information legislation. This was AGREED and the Secretary will pursue.
- 4.4 Bellfield; The Secretary reported that he has had difficulty in ensuring that our comments/objection has been passed on to the Reporter as the relevant paperwork from Fife states that we have made no comment. By accessing the Reporter’s website the Secretary has managed to gain an invitation to a site visit that is to be undertaken, the Chair will attend. Strathmiglo Community Association should receive separate correspondence and therefore have its own invite.
- 4.5 Nether Urquhart; An appeal has been made against the application refusal which will take the form of a public hearing. No date has been set or Reporter allocated as yet. The Secretary has ensured that our submissions have been received and that future correspondence will be made directly to the Community Council.
- 4.6 Gateside Church; The Secretary is in receipt of an email from a firm of architects seeking the Community Council’s view on the possible

conversion of Gateside Church to residential accommodation. The Chair reported that there had been several expressions of interest in the property but suggested that it was not the Community Council's place to make comment unless the redevelopment effected strategic issues within the community. AGREED

- 4.7 Binn Farm Incinerator; The Chair had written to the Perthshire Advertiser in response to their coverage of the Shore Road, Perth, incinerator development which was published. The Chair has also written to Perth MP, Pete Wishart, who had been voicing an opinion on the Shore Road development but had made no comment concerning Binn Farm. He has as yet had no reply. The Scottish Government has responded to previous correspondence by pointing out – at length – that the Binn Farm development has planning permission. The Secretary has arranged the attendance of the SEPA case officer at the next Community Council meeting – to be held in Gateside Village Hall on 29th June. The Chair expressed the opinion that the Binn Farm Incinerator will go ahead and therefore the Community Council should ensure that as many safeguards as possible are set in place. Andy Heer reported that the Auchtermuchty Community Association was arranging a site visit and was sure that Community Council members would be welcome. The meeting was also informed that local MP Sir Menzies Campbell had written to the Chief Executive of SEPA in support of the request that SEPA should arrange some form of public meeting/consultation exercise.
- 4.8 Community Council Support Group; The Secretary reminded the meeting that the re-formation of the group had been proposed some time ago. The group, whose remit will cover only those matters that effect all Community Councils and therefore will exclude issues specific to one, is to run under the Chair of Cllr. Lothian. Related papers will shortly be available on the Fife website. The Secretary will email the Community Councils' representative to make initial contact. Gordon Simpson suggested that cross border/boundary planning consultation might make an ideal topic to be raised with such a body.

4 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

4.1 DUNSHALT

- 4.1.1 One-Way system; finalisation of the one-way system will take time as the last stages require a Traffic Order.

4.2 GATESIDE

- 4.2.1 Bower Park; Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that the street lights are not to be replaced but the resurfacing will take place. Parking in the area was also discussed, but as Cllr. Lothian has made a number of site visits and the matter is being discussed at the Gateside Community Association it was felt that matter should be left in their capable hands.

4.3 STRATHMIGLO

- 4.3.1 Ban on drinking in public; The Secretary has received correspondence to the effect that the next review will take place at the end of this year and that all Community Councils will be contacted at that time.

4.4 AUCHTERMUCHTY

4.4.1 Town Hall; The Secretary was in receipt of a rather perplexing letter pertaining to be from the 'coordinator of halls' addressing the issue of public halls in Auchtermuchty. As there appear to be a number of inconsistencies within the letter it has been passed to Cllr. Lothian with the hope that he might be able to shed some light on its contents or sender.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

None

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.

9.0 AOCB

Non

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Gateside Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 29th June 2009.

Please note that the 1st item on the agenda will be the SEPA case officer and that Gateside Community Association members will be invited.