

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 18th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 29th June 2009
In Gateside Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Colin GILBERT [Fife Council], Michelle HICKSON [SEPA] and 11 members of the public.

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

Apologies: David COWLING [Gateside], PC Ian LAING, Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE, and Cllr. David McDIARMID

2.0 Binn Farm Incinerator, Michelle Hickson [SEPA]

Ms Hickson introduced herself as a SEPA inspector, based in Perth, who is dealing with the Binn Farm Incinerator's application to operate. She started by giving a background to the proposal, a description of the process of dealing with the application and any likely checks and balances that may be put in place if the application was granted.

The materials reclamation unit and the incinerator are to work separately with a sorting shed for 'dry' recyclable materials with only unsuitable materials sent to the incinerator.

The incinerator is to be seen as an alternative to landfill. Waste is to be deposited into a 'pit' [this will be inside a building operating under a negative pressure system with regulations stipulating the amount of waste that can be stockpiled on the site] where it will be 'mixed' by a grabber and deposited on a chain conveyor belt to be fed into the incinerator. The remaining ash is of two types, 'bottom ash' will be sent to the construction industry in the main e.g. road building, 'fly ash' taken from the air purification system and containing hazardous materials must be safely collected and contained then disposed of in specified landfills. As this is a HEAT TO ELECTRIC system the electricity produced will be fed into the national grid, the waste hot water has no specified use as yet.

Sufficient information has been supplied by the applicants consultants to allow the 'application to operate' – categorised as a small installation – to be lodged with SEPA but much more is required for the process to carry on – it may be that the applicants are more familiar with the English/Welsh systems which require less information. A wide range of information that is 'site specific' is required and notices are to be served on the applicant to supply information that SEPA considers necessary, e.g. their plans for coping with 'odour' from the 'pit' if the incinerator has to be stopped, as at present the only option is to 'burn' it, what

their plans are for dealing with waste during a maintenance shut down. This process could take a considerable time, e.g. if the information once examined is still not thought detailed enough then further notices would be served.

SEPA must make all consultation public. To this effect they have set up a website to hold documents relating to the application while a paper copy of the application will be held in Auchtermuchty Public Library. The consultation phase so far has produced 64 objections that will each be examined; this phase has now closed though comments will still be accepted. Outside agencies are now 'officially' consulted and these bodies will then submit their comments while SEPA specialists examine specific areas of the application. As responses come in they are matched to the application and where the application fails to answer a particular point further information will be sought from the applicant. Interested parties will be informed of further consultation periods e.g. when new information has been gathered, as the process is likely to take up to 12 months.

A decision document will then be produced and taken to a SEPA review group where the decision will be accepted or not. If the applicant fails notice will be posted on the web, if the applicant is successful then the decision and the reasons behind it will be posted with a 28 days period allowed for comment. Where the application has been granted conditions will be applied, most straight from existing regulation for waste disposal plants but others will be site specific.

Ms Hickson indicated her willingness to return to the Community Council to discuss any concerns within the determination period and also once a decision has been made. Help is also available at the SEPA Perth office.

- discussion took place at this point over the surprising fact that the incinerator could be built without permission to operate.

If an operating licence is granted – which SEPA are obliged to do if all conditions set are met - any changes to the operation of the plant would require a new application. New conditions of operation can be added at any time if reasons justify.

- questions were asked about the monitoring of performance and those conditions set for operation.

Online monitoring/testing e.g. for noxious gases, are required to be automatic [with an automatic shutdown system built in] and records of these tests secure and maintained in the system. The aim of SEPA would be to have a plant that operated 24/7 continuously on FULL as this would produce the best results. Expansion of the plant is a planning matter and the size of the building will be a clue as to whether development is likely. SEPA can only regulate the amount of waste burnt not how big the building is. Energy recovery is a stipulation set by SEPA but they can only compel the applicants to provide connections to possible uses not what it is to be connected to.

Regulation of the site is through initially a risk assessment being carried out with a 'prediction' of how well the site should operate. Within the 1st year a larger number of checks will be carried out through both announced and unannounced visits. Reports and records of performance have to be supplied to SEPA with spot checks conducted to insure accuracy. The 2nd year's inspection

would be governed by the results of the 1st year's assessment. Results of the assessment would be put on to the web site.
Where conditions have been – substantially – breached SEPA have the authority to shut down the plant.

- Air quality monitoring [for a period of around 6 months] is to be carried out in the area by SEPA [may only be in Perth & Kinross] to find the 'base' level - i.e. what it's like before further development. This is likely to take place December '09 to July '10 through a period of changing weather patterns.

Contact will be maintained with the Community Council and reports will be sent where Ms Hickson cannot attend herself. A link to the SEPA web site and contact details for Ms Hickson will be placed on the Community Council's own web site.

[Ms Hickson left the meeting at 9.30]

3.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Dunshalt Village Hall on 25th May 2009 was accepted with one correction;

4.2 The Secretary and George Aitken reported on the Site visit to Strathmiglo by Fife Transportation.

4.0 POLICE MATTERS:

The Secretary reported on communication with PC Laing with nothing serious to relate.

Cllr. Lothian told the meeting that PC Laing is now the designated officer to liaise with the Lomond Regional Park body.

5.0 CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

This has been circulated to all members and the Secretary suggested that he relay any questions to the Chair and that these would be discussed at the next meeting. AGREED.

6.0 MATTERS ARISING:

6.1 St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan; The main issue of concern was the proposed development to the south of the Low Road in Auchtermuchty. A total of 20 houses are proposed during the term of the plan with the rest of the field marked for development of another 20 houses post 2018. The Community Council will return to this matter in future meetings.

6.2 Fife Access Forum; The Secretary, Bobby Thomson and Eric Carslake all attended and found it worthwhile. Progress has been made on the core paths but not as much as was hoped. Documentation can be accessed through the web.

6.3 Strathmiglo High St; The Secretary sought input on the proposed build-outs to be constructed on High Street. No concerns were raised. Secretary will pass this information to Transportation.

7.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

7.1 GATESIDE

7.1.1 Speed warning sign; a request was made to have the signs calibration checked. Cllr. Lothian will pursue.

7.2 STRATHMIGLO

- 7.2.1 Exposed sewer pipe; work has been undertaken and the pipe is now covered. All think a very good job was done.

7.3 AUCHTERMUCHTY

- 7.3.1 'Coordinator of halls' letter; this is thought to be a hoax and will be dropped.
- 7.3.2 The Burn appears to be clogging with weed. It is thought that a clearance operation is due before the Festival therefore will put matter on hold.
- 7.3.3 Speeding in Glassarts Glen; local residents are greatly concerned by the irresponsible drivers travelling along this road at excessive speeds. The police have been involved but with little effect – the vehicles are not technically speeding. A request was made that traffic calming measures be put in place. Cllr Lothian will raise the issue with the Council and requested a map showing the locations where residents propose 'speed humps' be constructed.

7.4 Dunshalt

- 7.4.1 One way system at Wynd; local residents have put forward a request to the Dunshalt Community Association, to have the recently installed one way system removed. NOTED

8.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

- 8.1 Melville Lodge Recycling; residents of Gateside – supported by members at the meeting – would like to pass on their compliments for the good service that they have received at the facility. Cllr. Lothian will do his best to ensure that this is passed on.

9.0 PLANNING

The Secretary listed planning applications in the area.

Of note;

- 9.1 Old Dunshalt Primary School; the planned extensions do not appear to be in character to the surrounding buildings. The Secretary will raise the matter with the Chair.
- 9.2 Bellfield; the Chair attended the site visit, it is now at the written submission stage.
- 9.3 Nether Urquhart; the Community Council has been asked if it wants to give evidence. The Secretary will discuss with the Chair.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Of note;

- 10.1 Street cleaning; this is now to be undertaken by area rather than local teams. The Secretary has a map showing the areas.
- 10.2 Dunshalt Flood Study; the 'only' paper copy of the draft report is now available for view in the Cupar offices. The Secretary and Gordon Simpson will arrange to have a look.

8.0 AOCB

None

9.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Strathmiglo Village Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 31st August 2009.