

# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Community Council,  
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
In Gateside Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David McDIARMID, Sgt. Julie Seath and PC Ian Laing

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

Apologies: Eric CARSLAKE [Gateside], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], PC Goldie, PC Murray and Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE.

2.0 MINUTES: The Minute of the meeting held in Dunshalt Village Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 was accepted.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS: PC Laing reported on what he felt had been a quiet period [according to the number of call cards completed] in the area. He informed the meeting that, as a result of concerns raised, when the safety camera van is due to be sited in Gateside it will stop off in Sandygates, Strathmiglo.  
With no other matters to be raised the officers left the meeting.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

4.1 St. A & E.F. Local Plan; the Chair reported on a well attended meeting held in Auchtermuchty which had focused on the two areas of development south of the Low Road. In summary he took the view that though these particular developments would be met with opposition the need for development in general received a sympathetic reception. The Chair suggested that the Community Council make comment on the proposed housing development shown in the plan – and one other discussed but not shown, including in this comment a general synopsis of the Community Council's position concerning housing development within the settlements. [How we see future needs being met]. He also alluded to the 'Greenspace' initiative and hoped that this would be drawn into future discussions. Cllr. Lothian raised the implications of the developments in question on possible routes of a resurrected Auchtermuchty Bypass.  
A. Heer reported that he had attended a meeting organised by Planning Aid where it was intimated that the Local Plan may be adopted by 2011.  
The Chair proposed an ad hoc group meet to formulate the Community Council's response, couching this in as positive manner as possible including items that we deem important but have been excluded from the Plan.

4.2 Binn Farm Complex; The Secretary referred to the proposed development in Shore Road, Perth, which is now very unlikely to proceed and questioned the impact of this

on the Binn Farm complex. The initial application for Binn Farm is still active but information from SEPA raises the possibility that a change may be made in the type of process used from incineration to gasification.

The Chair referred to his correspondence with Keith Winter [Fife Council] concerning inter-council communication, and informed the meeting that the response, which came from Jim Birrell [Fife council], confirmed that no such communication was in evidence and the matter was being pursued with Perth & Kinross. The Chair was interested in what Fife Council's thoughts were on the matter and was disappointed that they had not expressed them.

4.3 Flooding/Drainage; The Chair reported on an inspection that he conducted in the area during the recent 'inclement' weather. He made observations on the A912 North of Gateside, the A91 West of Gateside, Station Road, Dryside and Cash Feus in Strathmiglo. He expressed the considered opinion that flooding was now occurring in places with no historic precedent. B. Torrance expressed the view that change in land use/management adjacent to these roads was a contributory factor and felt that Fife Council had the powers to pursue the matter with the land owners. The Chair was of the opinion that as the water was on the road Fife Council should examine and seek solutions to the problem.

4.4 Core Paths;

Strathmiglo to Auchtermuchty; The Auchtermuchty Landscape and Environment (ALE) group had been asked to become involved in helping to set up a local initiative to look at possible ways of providing an off-road path between Strathmiglo and Auchtermuchty. The ALE group felt the matter was best left with Fife Council.

4.5 Roadside shrines; B. Torrance, having raised the issue at previous meetings, asked if the matter had progressed as the shrine on the A912 Falkland to New Inn was now becoming a dangerous distraction to drivers. Others at the meeting referred to the vehicles stopping at the shrine creating a hazard to their passengers and other road users. Cllrs. Lothian and McDiarmid reflected on the delicacy of the matter and hoped that it would be dealt with on a suitable occasion.

## 5 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

### 5.1 Gateside

It would appear that work has been undertaken on the gullies on the Main Road as they are now functioning.

### 5.2 Strathmiglo

5.2.1 A912 build-out; A large pothole has developed. G. Aitken to phone in to have it dealt with.

5.2.2 Post Office closure; A date has been set [6<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2010] for the existing Post Office due to bereavement. There has apparently been interest in taking on a counter service elsewhere in the village. The Secretary will contact Post Office Counters [?] asking for information.

### 5.3 Auchtermuchty

A. Heer attended a meeting of local Community Centre Officials in Cupar where it was intimated that funding to Community Centres was to be reduced. At this meeting the use of Auchtermuchty Town Hall and the

Auchtermuchty Council Offices was raised. The possibility of the Library service being moved into the Council Offices was expressed thereby giving the library more space and also enabling council facilities to be provided for longer periods.

5.4 Dunshalt

None

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

6.1 Melville Lodge Refuse site; workers expressed their appreciation of a letter of commendation from the residents of Gateside.

6.2 Scottish Water; A. Heer gave credit for the quality of representative sent to answer questions from the public at a recent meeting.

7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary highlighted the fact that there had been no planning applications in the area in the past 5 weeks.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary listed the incoming and outgoing correspondence since the previous meeting, copies of which are, where possible, forwarded to members by email.

Of note;

8.1 DigitalUK; have sent out an update on the transition to digital TV.

8.2 Greenspace; The Secretary asked if those wishing/intending to attend the forum could inform him.

9.0 AOCB

9.1 Association of Scottish Community Councils; The Secretary attended the AGM where he felt that the best presentation came from the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland [APRS]. [Details of the AGM are available on the ASCC website] The Chair suggested that the Community Council become a member of the APRS. The Secretary felt that this organisation was more relevant than bodies such as the National Trust and Natural Heritage. AGREED

9.2 SMART Community Fife; A. Heer represented the Community Council at the SMART Community's AGM.

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Strathmiglo Village Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010