

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 23rd Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th January 2010
In Strathmiglo 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, Colin GILBERT [Fife Council]

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

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

2.0 MINUTES: The Minute of the meeting held in Gateside Village Hall on 30th November 2009 was accepted.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS:

3.1 New Community Policing Policy; The Secretary received notification concerning the proposed implementation of the new Community Engagement Model, the major impact of which would be the withdrawal of police attendance at Community Council meetings and the setting up of bi-monthly meetings to which the Community Council was encouraged to send representation to discuss the priorities for policing in the area. Further details, e.g. the constituency areas that these meetings would cover, the status of Community Councils at these meetings, were absent therefore a specific response would be difficult. The Chair recommended that a reply be made expressing our disappointment at the reduction in service caused by the loss of a valuable contact point. AGREED Cllr. Lothian raised the point that attending all Community Council meetings in the ward is a considerable drain on police manpower time and was possibly seen as unsustainable. NOTED
The meeting was also grateful to the police officers that had attended meetings in the past in their own time.

3.2 Auchtermuchty; A. Heer reported on speculation that there had been a 'rash' of incidents in the town and had been hoping for a police presence to provide more definite information.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

4.1 St. A & E.F. Local Plan;

4.1.1 The Secretary reported that the Community Council's submission had been received, acknowledged both electronically and in print.

4.1.2 It has come to the attention of the Community Council that an objection has been submitted, in particular to the area for development to the south of the Low Road in Auchtermuchty. This objection includes a proposal for an

alternative development to the east of Station Road. Cllr. Lothian expressed a desire for feedback on such a proposal, as it appears to have had little publicity.

4.1.3 The Fife Planning/Development website appears not to be including known objections to proposals [including 4.1.2]. It is recommended that members check the site, Cllr. Lothian will make enquiries.

4.2 Binn Farm Complex;

4.2.1 Members attending the public meetings organized by the development company were impressed by the presentations. Gateside Community Association, who have taken up the offer by the developers to send representation, have extended an invitation to members to attend.

4.2.2 It is reported that offensive smells have been evident in recent weeks and the Secretary has received information concerning communication between SEPA and SITA including that concerning a warning notice which was sent in December.

4.2.3 A request for a site visit by members of the Community Council was made. The Chair will contact Binn Farm to make arrangements.

4.3 Trusts reorganisation; Information was distributed to members. The Secretary asked if the members of the reorganised trust would be Fife Officers, Cllr. Lothian replied that it was his understanding that this would be the case.

4.4 Community Council Scheme Review;

4.3.1 The Secretary raised the change to the timescale in responding to planning issues as this would leave little leeway. The Secretary will respond with an observation.

4.3.2 The Treasurer noted that accounts of the Community Council will take a new form and hopes that the change over is 'painless'.

4.3.3 The Minute Secretary noted that a 'hardcopy' of minutes is to signed at the following meeting and stored presumably for inspection. He questioned the need as at present the minutes are put 'online' on the Community Council's website for all to inspect.

4.5 Severe weather; The Chair made a general comment comparing Fife's briefing papers being issued and the actual events on the ground. He felt that the failure to tackle the conditions was known to all and sited specific examples. Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that he had been in touch with a number of officials over the mis-direction of resources. The Chair observed that an inquiry conducted by an independent agent would be advisable to prevent repetition.

5 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

5.1 Strathmiglo

5.1.1 Road repairs; It was commented that temporary repairs were being tackled in such a way that they will not last until the major road works are undertaken.

5.1.2 Post Office closure; The Secretary has contacted Post Office Services, they have stated that they are committed to finding a replacement location.

5.1.3 Leaf collectors; G.Aitken witnessed leaf collectors dumping leaves into the river rather than removing them and raised the point that blockage of the river is still a problem that this will not help.

5.2 Auchtermuchty; No new business not already covered.

5.3 Dunshalt; No new business not already covered.

5.4 Gateside; No new business not already covered.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

None

7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary highlighted the fact that there had been only 1 planning application in the area in the past 2 months. The Chair commented on the correlation between planning applications and the economic health of the area.

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 License applications by the Strathmiglo Bowling Club and Sands, Auchtermuchty.

8.2 From Scottish National Heritage concerning prohibited operations in Turflundie Wood SSSI.

9.0 AOCB

9.1 C. Gilbert presented a laminated map of the ward area to the Community Council for use at meetings, this will be held by the Secretary. Maps of each community are to follow.

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Auchtermuchty Town Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 22nd February 2010.