

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 25th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 29th March 2010
In Dunshalt 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, Colin GILBERT [Fife Council] and 1 member of the public

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

Apologies: Eric CARSLAKE [Gateside], and Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE.

2.0 MINUTES: The Minute of the meeting held in Auchtermuchty Town Hall on 22nd February 2010 was accepted.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS:

3.1 New Community Policing Policy; The Chair explained the new arrangements for Police /Community contact for the benefit of the member of the public.

3.2 Feedback; It was agreed that the Police meetings held in Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo had raised problems that were common to both settlements. The Chair expressed the opinion that though they both went well, the meeting in Strathmiglo was better attended. The Secretary felt that this may have been due to the better publicity and hoped that the next meeting in Auchtermuchty [4th May 2010] would be better publicized and as a result better attended.

3.3 New items; None

4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

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

4.1.1 The Secretary has left this topic on the Agenda as we await its publication. The Chair has looked for but so far failed to find the Community Council's submission which should have appeared on the related website. The Secretary had several major criticisms of the site itself and the communication generated by it. The Chair commented that it appears some submissions are being 'broken up' and sections placed under a number of headings. Cllr. Lothian is to pursue the matter of the Community Council's submission as – pointed out by the Chair – this will be the only official record of the Community Council's involvement in the process.

4.2 Binn Farm Complex;

4.2.1 A meeting [over 100 in the audience] was held in Abernethy, organized by the local Community Council and attended by A. Heer. He reported that SEPA have put a report to the Procurator concerning the odour emanating from the site and that there was no mention of any other 'technologies'

discussion was solely concerning the incinerator. As the alternative developments are technically by 'different' organizations SEPA cannot use existing complaints as objections. SEPA continues to request details for which SITA claim there is no legal requirement. This is now in the hands of SEPA's legal department.

4.3 Strathmiglo Post Office;

The Secretary wrote as agreed and is in receipt of a reply which appears to show that decisions concerning the location of the replacement PO had been made before the end of the consultation period. The Chair acknowledged the strength of local feeling and asked Maureen Boyce – local campaigner – to give an account of the action taken. This included organised letter writing, Press reports submitted and published, advice sought from the Citizen's Advice and listing a number of organisations/individuals contacted.

The Chair inquired of the meeting if there was anything that the Community Council could do further that was within our remit. As there was still a major concern over access to the premises and privacy of transactions, it was felt that the Community Council ask the Post Office Counter Services [POCS] for a copy of the plans of the proposed layout. AGREED

G. Aitken commented that he felt the POCS were 'settling' for Sands as the easiest option and that should Strath' Garage be give the contract this would require planning applications for the alteration of their premises and therefore a time delay in the re-starting of Post Office services in the village.

4.4 Bellfield; The Secretary reported on the re-application. A Community Council objection had been submitted in February, but had not as yet appeared in the relevant section in the Fife website – though a comment that he entered stating that an objection had been submitted does appear. No acknowledgement has been received concerning the objection or related correspondence. The Secretary finds this an appalling state of affairs for a public authority. Cllrs Lothian and MacDairmid will pursue.

G. Aitken cited a planning issue in Strathmiglo as a further example of disorganisation within Development Services, where smoke stacks had been erected despite objections, visits by officers and being advised that the planning application for the stacks had been withdrawn. Cllr. Lothian suggested that the withdrawal of the planning application could be part of a re-application as the development may differ from the original.

4.5 TAYplan; The Secretary reported that a large amount of documentation has been received and he would endeavour to circulate it by the most efficient means possible. He is of the opinion that that this will go ahead and that we should familiarise ourselves as best we can. There are to be Community Councillor briefings held in Perth/Dundee on the 13/15th April. Further information available on request.

5 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

The general state of roads in the area was discussed and while it was agreed that demands on Fife Council would be great as a result of the period of weather we should still be pressing for work to be undertaken as soon as possible.

5.1 Dunshalt;

Shields Farm road: C. Gilbert is awaiting a reply as to what is to be done.

High St Roadworks: these appear to be complete but signage and barriers have not been removed.

5.2 Gateside;

Speed Camera: parked vehicles are preventing the camera van from taking up position, there appears to be some deliberate intention.

5.3 Strathmiglo;

High St: the road condition has deteriorated to a point that cannot wait for the complete road surfacing work. Cllr. Lothian will report it.

5.4 Auchtermuchty; No new business not already covered.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

6.1 Electricity Supply; There was an interruption to the local supply for over 2 hours.

6.2 Scottish Water; the leak outside Auchtermuchty school requires further work.

7.0 PLANNING

The Chair made comment that the sudden flourish of planning applications may be signalling an improvement in the local economy,. The Secretary had supplied members with a current list of planning applications. No comments or objections are to be raised.

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.

9.0 AOCB None

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting;

Gateside Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 26th April 2010.