

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 29th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 30th August 2010
In Gateside Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MacDiarmid and 2 members of the public.

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present and reminded the meeting that its Gateside location, out of the usual meeting order, was to facilitate the attendance of local residents to the SITA presentation.

Apologies: Jane KERR [Strathmiglo] and Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE.

2.0 Presentation by SITA.

Four members of their staff represented SITA in presenting the proposed gasification unit at the Binn Farm Complex. They took the meeting through the processes that would be undertaken at the plant and answered questions from the floor – these were numerous and wide-ranging.

3.0 MINUTES: The Chair reminded the meeting that as the previous meeting had not been quorate, in accepting the minutes they would 'homologate' any decisions made by it.
The Minute of the meeting held in Auchtermuchty Town Hall on 28th June 2010 was accepted by those present.

4.0 POLICE MATTERS: This item is to be retained on future agenda even though no police presence is expected.

4.1 **Police Forum;** a meeting is to be held in Auchtermuchty on Thursday 2nd September.

4.2 **Speed camera;** the meeting was informed that camera siting difficulties in Gateside have been resolved.

G. Simpson, having pointed out the traffic calming success of the mini-roundabout in Falkland, suggested that this could be a possible solution to Gateside's continuing speeding problem. The Chair suggested that this be put on to a future agenda after it has been raised with the Gateside Community Association.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING:

5.1 **St. A & E.F. Local Plan;** The Chair informed the meeting that Miss Penny Uprichard – St Andrews – is to appeal against the Structure Plan and this may further delay progress.

5.2 **Community Council Elections;** The Chair – here and at frequent occasions throughout the evening – reminded those present of the forthcoming elections for the posts of Community Councilors and the importance of alerting local residents

to the possibility of putting themselves forward. The September meeting will be the last for the present councilors – though office-bearers will stay in post up to but not including the October meeting. Nomination forms are to be in to Fife by 16th September, a statement of those nominated will be made by 21st September and the election – should one be required – held on the 14th October.

5.3 **Lancesston Wind Turbine;** The Chair informed the meeting that an ad hoc group had held discussions over the summer – as there was no Community Council meeting in the period – as a response was thought necessary. It came to the conclusion that due to the existing Landscape Policy in effect in NE Fife and the visual impact resulting from the size of the proposed turbine that an objection be made, suggesting a move away from the skyline down towards the farm buildings could be a solution. The proponent – present at the meeting – explained that the location and choice of size for the turbine was to maximise the efficiency of the system. The Chair asked the meeting to ratify the decision to object. AGREED with 2 abstentions.

B. Torrance suggested that the Community Council should at some future meeting discuss the circumstances when no objection would be made to a turbine application and when new developments were deemed aesthetically acceptable.

5.4 **Fife Council Service Restructure:** The Secretary has circulated information concerning Colin Gilbert's move to a new post. The Secretary requested that it be minuted, and that he write to the relevant individuals, that the Community Council see his advice and help over many years as a great service for which he has our thanks. AGREED

5.5 **Review of Polling Places;** The Secretary informed the meeting that this was on the agenda to ensure that members were aware of the forthcoming review and the possible changes that may ensue.

6.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS: [The Chair reiterated for those present the strategic nature of this part of the meeting]

6.1 Gateside;

6.1.1 B. Thomson brought to the meetings attention the recurring problems of the road gullies on the A912 failing to collect water and the safety issue caused by the water spilling out on to the carriageway.

6.2 Strathmiglo;

6.2.1 It is the agreed local consensus that the High Street road works were a job well done. The Chair recommended a 'thank-you' letter to the contractors. AGREED

6.2.2 G. Aitken raised the issue of the poor quality of footpath and road surface restoration as the street lighting replacement work is being undertaken. He has written as an individual but thought it needed to be brought to the attention of the Community Council. Cllr. Lothian will get more information at the next meeting of the Strathmiglo Community Association.

6.3 Auchtermuchty;

6.3.1 'Muchty Festival, A. Heer commended the environmental services on a sterling [small s] job in clearing up afterwards.

6.4 Dunshalt;

6.4.1 Water/effluent has been seen coming out of a drain near the park. The Dunshalt Community Association has mentioned this problem to the authorities. Cllr. Lothian will pursue.

7.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

7.1 Bus Service; The threatened no. 36 bus service through to Perth is to be funded by Perth & Kinross. [Period of funding undetermined]

7.2 Bank of Scotland; The Bank of Scotland is to close its Auchtermuchty branch completely. The Chair suggested that an objection to the closure be made by the Community Council. AGREED

7.3 Post Office services in Strathmiglo; The Chair questioned the consultation process concerning the alterations made to the service provision in Strathmiglo. The initial changes were made with scant regard to local views, he hopes that there will a 'proper' level of consultation when the promised review is undertaken.

7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary reported on applications made in the area, no comments or objections are to be raised.

Of note;

The Lancesston wind turbine discussed under 5.3

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;

Dunshalt Village Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 27th September 2010.