

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 2nd Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 14th December 2010
[postponed from the 29th November]
In the Auchtermuchty Community Centre Hall.

PRESENT: 1. Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], 2. Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], 3. George AITKEN [Strathmiglo], 4. Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], 5. David COWLING [Gateside], 6. Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], & 8. Bobby Thomson [Gateside]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Sgt. Mather, PC. Cameron and 28 members of the public

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present then gave an explanation and apology for the change of date and venue for this meeting. The Chair also gave a brief background to the Community Council – its existence and its operation – for the benefit of those members of the public attending.

Apologies: David JONES [Gateside], Cllr. David MACDIARMID and Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

[for the convenience of the members of the public present the planning application relating to the Forest Hills Hotel, Auchtermuchty was taken earlier than specified in the agenda]

7.1 Forest Hills Hotel; The Community Council had to consider submitting an objection to the application for a change of use of the hotel into a 'House in Multiple Occupation' with the specific purpose to house those categorised as homeless by Fife Council. The applicant was present at the meeting and the Chair gave him 5 minutes to present his application and its background with the request that he be allowed to do so without interruption.

Question were then asked of the applicant to solicit information relevant to the application.

- Level of staffing; the building would be staffed at all times.
- Will referrals be vetted; yes
- Will they accept 'Section 7' referrals – a reference to drug users; probably not
- Who would apply for the licence; the applicant
- Access through the neighbouring garden will only be for fire escape or essential maintenance; yes
- Where will refuse bin storage take place; this has not been decided yet
- What will be the total number of trained staff; no answer was given
- What would happen if the applicant 'moves on' and the establishment 'fails'; the licence would be revoked
- Where would the occupants come from; places would be given at the request of Fife Council

The Minute Secretary asked for clarification as to whether the objections being made were to the principle of the application or the detail as all information requested concerned the technical side of the application. The Chair felt that the applicant was not in a position to answer and no response came from the members of the public present.

The Chair went on to explain the process by which the Community Council would decide and that this decision would be placed on the Community Council's website with the minutes of the meeting.

Cllr. Lothian, being a member of the committee likely to make the decision on the application, told the meeting that he was unable to express an opinion at this time.

Andy Heer informed the meeting that the application would be further discussed at the next meeting of the Auchtermuchty Community Association on the 11th January 2011.

At this point the Chair made it clear to the members of the public that though they would be most welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting this would be an opportunity to leave.

2.0 POLICE MATTERS:

2.1 **Police Forum;** the next police forum will take place on the 6th January 2011, though a police presence is still possible at community/association meetings if a request is made.

2.2 **Safety Camera Van/Traffic;** Sgt. Mather and PC. Cameron have made numerous requests – more than our population base officially warrants – for the Safety Camera Van to be in our area, and were of the opinion that this was occurring. It was mentioned that recently a number of 'quarry' lorries have made their presence felt particularly in the Gateside area, local residents have been asked to gather information – contractor's names and registration numbers.

2.3 **Operation Blitzen;** this is to target underage drinking – including sales -. A CCTV camera will be operating in the area.

3.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Strathmiglo Village Hall on Monday 25th October 2010 was accepted by those present.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING & other business:

4.1 **Forest Hill application;** The Chair, while acknowledging that 'local' objections were for a variety of reasons, pointed out that if the application was accepted, this would end commercial activity in the town square. It was agreed that the Secretary would put in a 'holding' objection to Fife while the Chair draws up a full objection focusing in particular on the need to regenerate the commercial aspect of the square. This will be circulated to all members for comment before submission.

4.2 **St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan;** The Chair informed the meeting that it has been reported in the press that public forums will be organized so that the 'new' plan process can be initiated, even though the 'old' plan has not come into effect. [See Tayplan website or Courier 14/12/10 for details] Cllr. Lothian explained that this was due to the timetabling set for Fife Council that did/does not allow for delay in the process. Fife Council also appears not to have agreed to whether there is to be 1 or 2 plans to cover Fife adding to the confusion.

4.3 **Binn Farm;** The Chair formal application has been made for the extension to the life of the landfill operation – as was explained at the public meeting in Gateside, and the invitation to the Community Council for a site visit in the spring was repeated – in person – to the Chair.

4.4 **Gateside Pedestrian Crossing;** it was reported to the meeting that local opinions are positive towards these works. Construction is anticipated before the end of the current financial year.

4.5 **Wind Energy;** comments are requested to the updated document at www.fifedirect.org.uk/windenergy until 14 January 2011. The Chair will circulate his thoughts.

4.6 **Community Plan [Draft];** The Chair felt that there was no need for Community Council statement though individual members may want to comment.

4.7 **Forestry;** the Chair reported on a letter received from Menzies Campbell MP which confirms that Forestry is a devolved matter and that the UK Government's proposal for the sale of Forest Commission stock will not apply in Scotland unless the Scottish Parliament should so decide.

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

5.1 **Auchtermuchty;**

5.1.1 **Primary School area;** the area outside the primary school is in need of attention, Cllr. Lothian will attend.

5.1.2 **Future of public halls;** a meeting is to be held in Auchtermuchty to further discuss the future of the public halls in the town.

5.2 **Dunshalt;** no new strategic matters were brought to the attention of the meeting, though Andy Heer asked if Dunshalt's approach to the alcohol in public ban was known. The meeting was not able to supply an answer.

5.3 **Gateside;** no new strategic matters were brought to the attention of the meeting.

5.4 **Strathmiglo;**

5.4.1 **Possible 20mph zone in Glebe Park;** Cllr. Lothian explained that Fife Council is resistant to change and added that funding would be a major issue. He will pursue.

5.4.2 **Millfield Court;** the pathway from Millfield Court and the California is still in the plans.

5.4.3 **King George V park gates;** George Aitken reported that though splendidly made the new gates to the park would be better fitted with more secure hinges before they are removed by person/persons unknown.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS: none

7.0 PLANNING

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

Of note;

7.2 **Raemore Farm wind turbine;** the Chair thought this worthy of comment as an example of a well-sited turbine.

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.

8.0 AOCB

9.1 Alcohol Bye Laws; It appears that at present Strathmiglo and Auchtermuchty would be in favour of a ban on drinking in public with Gateside against and

Dunshalt unknown. Cllr. Lothian felt that it would be acceptable for each community to respond as it thought best. Further discussion may be necessary.

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting.

[Dunshalt Village Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 31st January 2011].