

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 3rd Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 31st January 2011
In the Dunshalt Village 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], 7 Bobby Thomson [Gateside], & 8 David JONES [Gateside]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDIARMID

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

Apologies:], Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], and Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE.

2.0 POLICE MATTERS:

2.1 **Police Forum;** The Vice-chair, Secretary and Cllr. Lothian along with Robert Allison of the Strathmiglo Community Association and 1 other made up the audience participation of the Police Forum on 6th January. Cllr. Lothian expressed the opinion that if there was a specific local issue then attendance might be larger. The next police forum will take place on the 3rd March 2011 in Strathmiglo.

3.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Auchtermuchty Community Centre on Tuesday 14th December 2010 was accepted by those present.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING & other business:

4.1 **St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan;** The Secretary retains this item on the agenda as we await it production.

4.2 **Forest Hill application;** The Community Council's objection has been submitted [and can be read on the CC website] and the application is expected to be considered in March 2011.
The Chair gave a resume of the meeting for the benefit of Cllr. MacDiarmid, he also suggested that, as there was a legitimate social work concern, a copy be forwarded to the Director of Social Work. AGREED the Chair will action.

4.3 **Binn Farm;** In response to the invitation from SITA a representation from the Community Council, David Cowling and Bobby Thomson, visited the SITA facility in Dumfries. The Chair felt that travelling on the bus provided by the firm – considering the independence of the Community Council - could be deemed inappropriate and therefore arranged alternative transport [a contribution towards the cost was agreed by the meeting]. He considered the visit 'interesting' though he felt that the site was 'untidy'. Cllr. MacDiarmid also attended and found it 'useful'.

- 4.4 **Strathmiglo Post Office;** Bill Torrance, in response to local concern, asked that the Community Council write to Post Office Counter Services to request a copy of the results of the MORI poll - conducted in the area regarding the change in Post Office Service provision – and that the Community Council be informed as to the date and form the review of the service provided is to be undertaken. AGREED

The issue will be dealt with through the Strathmiglo Community Association in future though matters pertaining to the wider area will be brought to the Community Council.

- 4.5 **Gateside Wind Turbine;** it was noted that the application for a wind turbine at Lanceson Farm was passed at committee.
- 4.6 **Wind Energy Guidance Response;** The Chair gave a summary of his review of the 56-page document [the review was circulated to members for comment] that starts by linking this document to existing policies. It then focuses on the detail including comments on diagrams and boundary maps - that were perhaps not all they could have been. It includes comment on how such developments, even those with small numbers of turbines, can impact on the landscape and concludes with an expression of willingness to take part in consultation processes. The Chair was thanked for his work.
- 4.7 **Other business;** Cllr. MacDiarmid queried why the Community Council did not object to the Clatto Wind Farm as a number of the surrounding Community Councils had. The Chair explained that there had been discussion concerning the matter and it was felt that we as a community Council do not object to the principle of wind farms – and that this farm was not within our area though it may be visible from some areas.

5.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

- 5.1 Dunshalt;
- 5.1.1 **Pot holes;** a general comment was made on the state of the roads around Dunshalt
- 5.1.2 **Footpaths;** it was asked if it were possible to conduct a review of footpath clearing in severe weather, in particular those paths which link communities. Cllr. Lothian felt that the recent weather was an extreme condition and that in general Fife Council had coped as well, though he agreed that specific local problems could always be examined.
- 5.2 Gateside; [see under planning]
- 5.3 Strathmiglo;
- 5.3.1 **A912/High Street junction area;** The general road condition and the existence of a number of large potholes were commented on.
- 5.3.2 **King George V park gates;** the newly installed gate at the northeastern corner of the park has been reported to be causing difficulties to disabled access. This will be brought to the Strathmiglo Community Association.
- 5.3.3 **Sandygates/Glebe Park/A912 speed calming sign;** the local community are still awaiting the promised installation. This will be brought to the Strathmiglo Community Association.
- 5.4 Auchtermuchty;

- 5.4.1 **Road conditions;** comment was made on the general condition of the roads in the area in particular Mournipea and the south lane of the main A91 exit to the west.
- 5.4.2 **Southern Approaches;** A. Heer told the meeting that there is local interest in an improvement project to the entrance to the town from the south, with the suggestion that an orchard could be formed by the footpath. Cllr. Lothian explained that there was monies in the current budget that might make this possible.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS: none

7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary reported on applications made in the area.

Of note;

- 7.1 **Edenshead Church, Gateside;** an application has been lodged for conversion to a domestic property.
- 7.2 **Holiday Caravan Site, Gateside;** a change of use application has been made to allow an area of woodland to be converted into a caravan site. The Chair recommended that as the application had been submitted on the day of the meeting [31/1/2011] that the members read all documentation concerning the application – available on the Fife Planning Website – ready to discuss the application at the next meeting. The Secretary will write and request an extension to the standard submission date.

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 **RSPB;** the RSPB is requesting letters of support for its Sea Eagle project underway around the Vane Farm bird sanctuary.
- 8.2 **New community Council members;** the Secretary received notification of induction training for new members. Anyone interested should contact him

8.0 AOCB
None

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting.

Gateside Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 28th February 2011