

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 4th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 28th February 2011
In the Gateside 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 and 19 members of the public

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: *19 members of the public were present to observe the Meeting, all of them in connection with the Planning Application for the construction of a Caravan Site within Gateside. The Chair welcomed those present and intimated his intention to allow some 30 minutes before the meeting commenced to allow people to express their views on the proposal. He asked however that should those who wished to contribute be from outside Gateside, that they should make this clear. In the event this public participation period had to be extended to almost an hour. All of those who spoke were in one way or another opposed to the proposal. The exception being the Applicant who interjected and identified himself as the Chair was closing the session and thanking those who had attended and taken part. The applicant clearly felt that all of those who had spoken had in one way or another misrepresented his proposal. The Chair however intimated that this was not a public meeting as such, and that the time constraints meant that he must now commence the publicly advertised Community Council Meeting.*

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

2.0 MINUTES:
The Minute of the meeting held in Dunshalt Village Hall on Monday 31st January 2011 was accepted by those present.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS:

3.1 **Police Forum;** The Chair in explaining the lack of police presence at the meeting gave a brief introduction to the 'new' Police Forum format. The next police forum will take place on the 3rd March 2011 in Strathmiglo at which Community Councillors would bring forward issues of concern within the communities.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING & other business:

4.1 **St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan;** It is expected that Scottish Ministers will make their decisions in due course.

4.2 **Forest Hill application;** Cllr. Lothian was of the impression that the application would be heard at the end of March.

4.3 **Gateside Caravan Park application;** Following, and in light of, the contributions made by Community Councillors during the 'open' forum prior to the commencement of the Meeting itself, the Chair tabled the motion to the effect

that 'the Community Council should lodge formal Objection to the planning application with Fife Council'. This was seconded by the Vice-chair. There being no other motion made, the vote was taken on a show of hands. There being 8 in favour of the motion, with none against, and none abstaining

- 4.4 **Auchtermuchty Wind Farms;** A. Heer informed the meeting that two screening requests have been made to Fife Council as to ascertain whether a full EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) should accompany planning applications for the installation of wind turbines at 2 sites on the outskirts of Auchtermuchty. A. Heer recommended that the Community Council respond to Fife Council that a full EIA must accompany any future planning application for the proposed sites. AGREED

5.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

The Chair related to the Councillors present the wide concerns about the condition of roads in the area as a result of the recent severe weather in particular those roads off the 'main' thoroughfare. Cllr. Lothian responded by stating that a great deal of money has already been invested in the roads but recognised that there are localised problems that will need attended to. He hoped that all potholes/situations causing concern had been reported and recommended the use of photographs in identifying locations.

G. Aitken commented that where reported potholes had been temporarily 'fixed' potholes nearby – equally bad – had been left.

Cllr. MacDairmid expressed the personal opinion that waiting for a permanent repair would be better than a temporary repair undertaken quickly.

5.1 Gateside;

- 5.1.1 **Pedestrian crossing;** D. Jones questioned the delays to the installation of the proposed pedestrian crossing. Cllr. Lothian pointed out that a great deal of outstanding works have been delayed [by as much as 2 months] due to the demands placed on the services by the severe weather. Though there were local concerns that this delay would mean that the crossing would 'slip' from the works schedule, Cllr. Lothian reassured the meeting that it would still go ahead.

5.2 Strathmiglo;

Cllr. Lothian will report on local issues to the Strathmiglo Community Association meeting.

- 5.2.1 **Maps used by Fife;** B. Torrance brought to the attention of the meeting and the Councillors present, a large number of inaccuracies in Google maps relating to Strathmiglo and was concerned that these may effect planning/policy decisions or carrying out of services by agents undertaken by Fife Council to carry out works. A. Heer added that he had noticed such errors relating to Auchtermuchty. Cllr. Lothian will enquire into the source of maps used by Fife Council and the accuracy thereof.

5.3 Auchtermuchty;

- 5.3.1 **Undermining of the B936 ;** A. Heer brought the Councillors attention to the suspected undermining of the B936 by a nearby stream. He has emailed details to Cllr. Lothian who will pursue.

5.4 Dunshalt; None

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS: none

7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary reported on applications made in the area.

Of note;

7.1 **Wind turbine, Pitmedden Farm;** The Secretary felt that there was no need to comment.

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 **Association for the protection of rural Scotland;** the Chair will attend as a member of the executive.

8.2 **Scottish Community Council meeting;** the Secretary will attend.

9.0 AOCB; none

The Chair thanked all present for their cooperation in a 'hectic' meeting and welcomed that fact that a large number of the public had stayed for the full meeting.

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting.

Strathmiglo Village Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 28th March 2011