

# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Community Council,  
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August  
in the Strathmiglo Village Hall.

PRESENT: 1. Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], 2. Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], 3. Andy HEER [Auchtermuchty], 4. Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], 5. Bobby Thomson [Gateside], 6. George AITKEN [Strathmiglo], & 7. David COWLING [Gateside],

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDIARMID, Jonathon SIMPKINS, Neil Brand

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all present.

Apologies: Gordon SIMPSON [Dunshalt], David JONES [Gateside].

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Gateside Village Hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011 was accepted by those present.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS:

3.1 **Bulk haulage lorries;** B. Torrance had raised his concern over the number, and speed, of bulk haulage lorries that were using the A912 he thought they were connected to works at Tullis Russell in Glenrothes as their number has decreased since earth moving works there appear complete. It was reported by Bobby Thomson that their presence had been felt in Gateside.

3.2 **Community Engagement meeting;** The next meeting is to be held in Auchtermuchty on the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING & other business:

4.1 **Binn Farm;** The Secretary wished to ensure that all members were aware of the next community engagement meeting, taking place on the 29<sup>th</sup> September in Abernethy Community Hall.

4.2 **Gateside Caravan Park application;** As this had not appeared on the August listing the Chair suspected that it would appear in the September planning lists. Cllr. Lothian suggested that, as there were ongoing concerns over this development, its appearance in the listings might be later than that.

4.3 **Wind Farms;** The Secretary kept this item on the agenda as there have been a number of 'notes of interest' in the area. Neil Brand attended the meeting and gave Community Councillors forewarning and details of an application he is making to erect two wind turbines [20m hub height, 27m to blade tip] on his farms at Kilwhiss and Nethermyres near Dunshalt. As these have not yet appeared in the Fife planning lists the Chair suggested that the

Community Council could not yet comment officially but thanked Mr Brand for coming to the meeting. The Chair then gave Mr Brand some background information on how the Community Council has approached previous applications for wind turbines and its observations made to Fife Council concerning them.

4.4 **Alcohol ban byelaw;** The Secretary reported to the meeting that he had written as instructed to Fife Council indicating the changes to the draft plans in the Strathmiglo area that had been agreed at the previous meeting. As yet he has had no response.

A. Heer told the meeting of concerns being expressed in Auchtermuchty as to how the change in the Byelaw will affect the Auchtermuchty Festival. He felt that most, if not all, are based on misinformation, as it is existing licensing law that has resulted in a number of incidents in the area and not the proposed byelaw change.

Cllr. MacDairmid spoke to the meeting of his feelings concerning the proposed introduction and that it would have a negative effect on the ambiance and reputation of the area. He felt that this was a heavy-handed approach and that it had been decided upon by a comparatively small group. He stated that he had raised an objection to the introduction at all the Community Council meetings he has attended where this matter was raised.

The Chair responded by stating that the matter had been discussed by at all the Community Association meetings in the area, which had then fed back their findings to the Community Council. The Secretary also remarked on the number of ways in Auchtermuchty used to make the public aware of the discussion and the opportunities they had to comment.

The Minute Secretary asked Cllr. MacDairmid to ensure those minutes of meetings he attends, where the matter is raised are correct, as there appears to be no record of such an objection.

## 5.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

### 5.1 Strathmiglo;

5.1.1 **Grounds maintenance;** G. Aitken reported that he had received a number of complaints that the cemetery and park environs are not being properly maintained and this had been a problem for some time. There appears to be a demarcation issue over which Fife Council body is responsible. Cllr. Lothian will investigate.

5.1.2 **Road repairs;** B. Torrance expressed his disappointment that road maintenance teams appear to tackle only marked areas while there are obvious repairs needed close by. He had been led to believe through Fife Council's own publicity materials that these groups had the autonomy to make on site decisions but this does not appear to be the case. The Chair added a comment on the failure to make permanent repairs to the road surface rather than the series of temporary measures being undertaken.

### 5.2 Auchtermuchty;

5.2.1 **Potential blockage of 'The Burn';** Substantial vegetation has been noted threatening to block the flow of the Burn through Auchtermuchty. Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that he has reported this. A. Heer will inform Cllr. Lothian if the remedial works have been undertaken.

### 5.3 Dunshalt;

5.3.1 **Ladybank Road – car parking;** N. Brand told the meeting that while the 'boxes' segregating areas for parking are a success, when people park cars outside these areas it becomes very difficult to manoeuvre large [farm] vehicles along the road.

5.4 Gateside;

5.4.1 **Pedestrian crossing;** The Chair reported on the successful installation and operation of the crossing and that benefits are already being felt.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

6.1 Electricity; There have been a number of short cut-offs in the area and A. Heer reported on the difficulty in getting through to report such outages, being redirected to different phone numbers.

6.2 Scottish Water; The Secretary informed the Community Council of the annual consultative meeting that is to be held, the Secretary will attend.

6.3 BEAR; Local residents have been informed of the closure of the A92 and the traffic redirection but the public information meeting held in Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo appear were poorly attended due to lack of publicity.

7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary reported on applications made in the area.

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 **Community Council survey;** A survey is being conducted on-line by Reform Scotland, members should respond on an individual basis.

9.0 AOCB;

9.1 **Mileage Allowance;** The Treasurer suggested to the meeting that the Community Council adopt the same rate as Fife Council of 40p per mile for travel related to Community Council duties. AGREED

9.2 **Recycling 4 Bins system;** G. Aitken reported on comments made to him that residents are finding that the green 'plastics' bins are filling quickly and that there may be a demand for the collections be increased to a weekly period.

9.3 **Chair election;** The Chair reminded members that he will be stepping down as from the next meeting [AGM] at which he will make a Chair's report.

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting.

Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30pm Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011