

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 15th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 26th March
in the Dunshalt Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDIARMID

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Vice Chair welcomed members attending, Andy Heer having withdrawn from the Chair pending the outcome of the May Local Elections.

Apologies: Cllr. Andrew ARBUCKLE.

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Auchtermuchty Community Centre on Monday 27th February 2012 was accepted by those present.

3.0 POLICE MATTERS:

3.1 **Burnside/Station Rd junction;** near to this junction, an inconsiderately parked van is thought likely to be the cause of an accident in the near future. Cllr. Lothian has reported the situation.

3.2 **Community Engagement Meeting [CEM];** the recorded rate of crime was reported to be down in the local area, though the theft of diesel has been on the increase. The next CEM will be held on the 3rd May in Auchtermuchty Town Hall.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING & other business:

4.1 **Alcohol Ban;** the Secretary is awaiting confirmation from Mike Melville [Fife Council] regarding the areas exempted from the ban during the Auchtermuchty Festival.

4.2 **Proposed UK Parliamentary Constituency Boundary changes;** it was reported that an article in the 'Courier' suggested that the Commission is to look again at the situation in the Howe of Fife with a view more in line with the status quo, this has yet to be confirmed.

4.3 **Post Office services;** Andy Heer reported on a conversation with David Sands, regarding the Coop/Sands buyout, that it was Mr Sands' understanding that the Post Office services were to remain in Strathmiglo and Auchtermuchty after the sale.

5.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

- 5.1 Dunshalt; Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that matters are being dealt with through the Dunshalt Community Association
- 5.2 Gateside;
5.2.1 **Bower Park;** local concern has been expressed concerning an extension to a dwelling for which no planning application appears to have been made. Cllr. Lothain pointed out that some developments fell into categories that did not require such application and suggested that neighbours to the site would be best contacting Fife Planning direct with their concerns.
- 5.3 Strathmiglo;
5.3.1 **Bellfield Chicken Farm/Development site;** it is recognised that the site has become an 'eyesore' and that there may be an issue involving debris from the breakdown of the suspected asbestos roofing sheets and insulation materials being blown off the site. Cllr. Lothian will request an inspection.
- 5.4 Auchtermuchty
5.4.1 **Royal Hotel;** as the enterprise had been closed for business, information was sought as to the alcohol licence attached to the property. Cllr. Lothian will examine the paperwork involved.

6.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:

- 6.1 **Electricity;** it was reported that the supply to parts of Strathmiglo and Auchtermuchty had been interrupted for a period since the last meeting but no cause was discerned.

7.0 PLANNING

The Secretary raised the question of the effectiveness of the Planning website where access has been denied, items deemed unavailable and where there is the need to fully register and obtain a login name before you can submit comments. He also pointed out that applications were known to have been missed from the e-mailing sent out to the Community Council, this constituting a major failing where Community Council's do not otherwise constantly check for new applications.

The Secretary then reported on applications made in the area.

Of note;

- 7.1 **Wind turbine applications;** a number of applications are pending for our area including
- : a screening request for a 80m turbine at Bannaty Farm, Burnside for which it has been deemed that at present no EIA is required.
 - : a full application for a 84m turbine a Rossie Den, in this case some of the evidence submitted to support that application is questionable, e.g. the bird species found in the area is under reported. It is also felt that given the history of the site were this application to succeed it would be followed by applications for others. It was felt that such developments of 80/90m turbines would have an impact on the area. The Community Council will submit an objection to this application.
 - : a full application for two 19m turbines at Bannaty Farm Cottage, Burnside [application submitted Aug. 2011]
- The turbine at Demperton Farm mentioned under 7.1 of the minute of 27th February is still thought to be under consideration and that though no full application has been made one could yet be submitted.

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 **Tayplan materials;** hard copies of materials related to the Tayplan are sent out to the Secretary and are available to members but these are reproduced on the Tayplan website at – www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk

8.2 **Core Paths;** information related to the Core Paths can be found at – www.fifedirect.org.uk/corepaths

9.0 AOCB;

9.1 **Community Council Accounts;** The Treasurer circulated copies of the Community Council Income/Expenditure for the year 2011-2012 and explained some difficulties there had been regarding the bank signatories.

9.2 **Recruitment of new Community Council members;** discussion centred on the need to obtain new members from those communities not fully represented on the Community Council. Question were asked as to the need for the two tiers of involvement – the Community Associations and the Community Council and the possibility of following the majority of Fife where each community would have its own Community Council. This matter will be raised at future meetings.

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting.

Gateside Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 30th April 2012