

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 18th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th June
in the Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

PRESENT: 1. Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], 2. Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], 3. Bobby Thomson [Gateside], 4. George AITKEN [Strathmiglo]. 5. Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], 6. Christine LITTLE [Auchtermuchty], & 7. Marj KEDDIE [Auchtermuchty]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Helen Bowman, Wendy Gudmundsson and Cllr. David MACDIARMID

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed members attending.

Apologies: Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN,

2.0 CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

A new member was put forward for co-option to the Community Council to represent Dunshalt – Wendy GUDMUNDSSON. AGREED

3.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Strathmiglo Village Hall on Monday 28th May 2012 was accepted by those present.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING: NONE

5.0 OTHER BUSINESS:

5.1 **Leckiebank Road development;** Helen Bowman a local resident related to the meeting a series of events regarding a proposed development in the Leckiebank road area over the Jubilee weekend. A Planning Enforcement officer on a visit deemed that nothing unlawful had occurred and describe what had been done as 'site clearance', as this had included the demolition of a large piece of standing wall H. Bowman contested that it had gone far beyond that. Looking on Fife Region's planning website she then found the application for the development had been refused though a second application had been submitted at a later date. The second application necessitated access from Leckiebank Road, this she understood had been previously deemed unacceptable and it also appeared to contain the implication that there would be a lessening of traffic as it was concerned with the redevelopment of a 'works' – this had not been a going concern for a great many years and would have no effect on traffic volume. The Secretary responded by relating the Community Council's actions regarding the previous applications related to the site. The Community Council had not opposed the demolition of the existing structure when outline planning permission was sought. When the first planning application was made the small extension outside the village envelope was noted but no objection was made.

Discussion followed to establish a clearer picture of the situation. It was noted that as there has been an extended time period the Community Council is no longer a statutory consultee but if 6 or more objections were lodged the application would have to go before the Planning Committee. The Community Council will submit an objection on the grounds of constrained vehicular access and the restricted line of sight.

5.2 **Burnside Wind Turbines;** the Secretary wished to ensure that all members were aware of the location and scale of the proposed development.

6.0 POLICE MATTERS:

6.1 **Community Engagement Meeting [CEM];** the next CEM will be in Strathmiglo on Thursday 5th July.

6.2 **Thefts from rural locations;** Cllr. Heer has received notice of several thefts from outbuildings and remote properties and passed on the warning issued by Fife police.

7.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS:

7.1 Auchtermuchty

7.1.1 **Royal Burgh;** Cllr. Heer has been endeavouring to get the Royal Burgh of Auchtermuchty signs replaced.

7.1.2 **Auchtermuchty/Strathmiglo path;** Cllr. Lothian has been in communication with the Outdoor Access team and Fife Rangers in an attempt to progress the matter. Jane Kerr proposed the formation of a pressure group – which she was willing to lead – to attempt to push things forward. The Secretary pointed out that the main stumbling block would be to gain permission from the landowners involved. Cllr. Heer will contact Jane Kerr with names of useful contacts. The Chair raised the issue of the Gateside/Strathmiglo path and hoped that this would also be included in any future discussions.

7.1.3 **Public convenience;** it is noted that the only business to allow members of the public to use its facilities is about to withdraw access. This would leave no public conveniences in Auchtermuchty.

7.2 Dunshalt

7.2.1 **Safe route Dunshalt/Auchtermuchty;** Wendy Gudmundsson told the meeting that Dunshalt residents were looking to have the existing pathway upgraded to ensure that it could be used throughout the year and in all weather. Cllr. Lothian had been approached giving the impression that it was being handled from the Auchtermuchty side. There is concern that children attending Auchtermuchty Primary School but living in Dunshalt have no safe route to school and as a result are excluded from participating in after-school activities, as the transport laid on does not permit this. This matter could be raised with the school [a Safe Route To School and an Inclusion Policy should have been formulated] as well as Fife Council.

7.3 Gateside;

7.3.1 **Blocked road drains;** Bobby Thomson highlighted the blocked culverts, causing substantial amounts of water to remain on the main road. It appears that though the drains are being cleared the connecting pipe work is not.

7.4 Strathmiglo;

7.4.1 **Bellfield Chicken Farm/Development site;** Cllr. Lothian has not had replies to his inquiries. Cllr MacDairmid will try to arrange a site visit with Environmental Health. The Secretary and Chair will hope to attend such a visit.

7.4.2 **Closure of the A912;** Cllr. Heer relayed to the meeting that a reply had been received concerning the closure and the work undertaken, in that it had been necessary to prepare for the surface dressing that followed. It was pointed out that the surface dressing process might have been a more apt time to close the road considering the traffic that the workforce had to contend with.

It was noted that it appears that residents and businesses located in the Pillars of Hercules which were much effected by the road closure and which have no other access had not been directly informed of the pending closure.

- 7.4.3 **Toll Bridge drain;** a large body of water forms at the west end of the Toll Bridge as the drain is blocked.
- 7.4.4 **Toll Bridge dredging;** despite repeated assurances that this work is due to be undertaken we are still waiting. During heavy rain it is evident that water is being held up from passing under the bridge.

8.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS: None

9.0 PLANNING:

- 9.1 Though noting that the application for three 81m turbines has been 'closed' Secretary was concerned that the statement included the comment that no Environmental Impact Assessment [EIA] would be required for such a development. The Secretary will seek out the details and background of this comment and its validity.

The Secretary reported on those applications that appeared on the Fife list since the last meeting.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE: covered under previous items

11.0 AOCB; None

10.0 Date and venue of next meeting.

Dunshalt Village Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 27th August 2012