

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 20th Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 29th October
in the Strathmiglo Village Hall.

PRESENT: 1. Bill TORRANCE [Strathmiglo], 2. Alan MUIRHEAD [Auchtermuchty], 3. Bobby Thomson [Gateside], 4. Ilona Mair [Dunshalt], 5. Christine LITTLE [Auchtermuchty], 6. George AITKEN [Strathmiglo], and 7. Valerie WEIR [Gateside]

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDIARMID

Before the meeting began the Chair spoke on the recent death of Brian Bowden a notable worthy of the local area, a person who had given a great deal of time and effort to the community through his membership over the years of both the Community Council and the Strathmiglo Community Association. The sympathies of the Community Council were extended to his wife Joan.

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed members attending.

Apologies: Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Marj KEDDIE [Auchtermuchty]

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Gateside Memorial Hall on Monday 24th September was accepted by those present.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.1 **Lomond Hills access 10.2;** Cllr. Heer informed the meeting that ongoing discussions are being held on this matter.

3.2 **Safe route to school 6.4.1;** Cllr. Heer had contacted the relevant Fife departments and was told that the school had responsibility and was at present conducting a review. The previous review was formulated before the closure of Dunshalt Primary School and it was hoped that the new policy would take this into account. Cllr. Heer will pursue.

3.3 **Personal information disclosure 10.3;** Cllr. Heer had found out that this was standard practice in schools and was sure that only appropriate agencies would be granted access.

4.0 OTHER BUSINESS:

4.1 **Binn Farm;** The Chair and Secretary attended the last forum meeting but felt that no 'new' news had been forthcoming. Those attending were made aware that funds were being made available to local communities – this is from a fund established based on £5000 per megawatt produced. The Chair felt that with the four communities within the Community Council's area a straight 25 split of any monies would be fair. He also informed the meeting that it is John McGregor that he is in contact with.
The Secretary informed the meeting that a public exhibition is to be held on the 23rd November in the Masonic Lodge, Abernethy and on the 24th November in Glenfarg Village Hall. There is a possibility of a further exhibition being held in Strathmiglo at a later date.

4.2 **Biomass Plant material transportation;** the Chair voiced the opinion that the transportation of biomass material from the newly formed storage area at Binn Farm and its transportation to the Combined Heat and Power unit in Glenrothes will lead a large number of heavy vehicles passing through the Community Council's

area. Cllr. Lothian informed the meeting that a traffic management plan had already been submitted to Fife Council concerning this. It appears that the route would take - 2 vehicles an hour, 12 hours a day for 6 days per week, plus return journey – From Bein Inn to Gateside, then through Auchtermuchty to Melville Lodge Roundabout and then on to Glenrothes. The Chair suggested that the A912 would be a tempting shortcut for the drivers.

Cllr. Heer said that there was a new application for a larger biomass plant in Glenrothes and that this would involve a change to the traffic management plan. The Secretary suggested that an objection be lodged [AGREED] and that contact be made with Falkland Community Council to ensure that they are aware of the situation.

Cllr. Heer will raise the issue at Community Council and Community Association meetings that he attends and the matter of the traffic management plan being established without local consultation.

The Secretary had obtained a map relating to the traffic management plan, which specified road numbers that bore no relation to the actual road numbers in the area, raising concern about the care being taken in formulating the plan.

4.3 **Gateside House;** the Secretary and Jane Kerr met with the Reporter on a site visit. It was obvious during that time that the site was agricultural contrary to the application. It is hoped that a report will be issued by mid November.

4.4 **Glenrothes Hospital;** the Secretary reported on a meeting of representatives from all the Community Councils in the Howe – Cllr. Heer also attended. There was no discussion on the closure of the hospital only the removal of the out-of-hours GP provision. Dunfermline and West Fife Partnership have responsibility for out-of-hours in Fife which is why they are conducting the consultation. It was felt that the Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy – which at present has no out-of-hours provision between the hours of midnight and 8:00 a.m.– should provide a 24-hour service but not at the expense of Glenrothes. A compromise – out-of-hours provision maintained to midnight in Glenrothes and a full service established in Kirkcaldy - has now been suggested by Ladybank Community Council.

After some discussion the Secretary proposed that the Community Council support the proposal. AGREED It was pointed out that individuals can and are encouraged to, make their own submissions.

4.5 **Demperston wind turbine;** the application for an 84m turbine has been submitted. The Secretary recommended that an objection be submitted. AGREED

4.6 **Rossie wind turbines;** the application for an 84m turbine at Rossie has been refused but the applicant has appealed the decision. The Secretary felt that the Community Council had taken all the steps it could – our objection will be passed on with all the other relevant documents – though he suggested that he sends a note to the Reporter stating that we still object. [DPEA website has details of the case – PPA/250/2141. Original application, objections and Fife's submission can be viewed]

5.0 POLICE MATTERS:

5.1 **Community Engagement Meeting [CEM];** the Secretary and Jane Kerr attended. The next CEM will be in Strathmiglo, Thursday 1st November.

5.2 **Burnside speeding;** camera units are to be deployed on the A92 at Burnside from the 5th November.

6.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS: [not already covered]

6.1 Strathmiglo No new business

6.2 Auchtermuchty

6.2.1 **Street lighting;** it appears that street lighting is back to its expected schedule.

6.3 Dunshalt No new business

6.4 Gateside No new business

7.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS: No new business

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

Of note;

8.1 Window replacement Auchtermuchty; Cllr. MacDiarmid asked the Council to support the application by a local resident – recently refused 12/04066/FULL - in applying to replace single glazed windows on the grounds of noise and heat loss even though the application is for a property in the conservation area. The Community Council will not be lodging an objection.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE: [not already covered.]

9.1 The Secretary informed the meeting of an open letter signed by the Chairs of more than 30 Community Councils in Fife which is being sent to the leader of Fife Council, Cllr Rowley supporting the retention of the present system of planning applications being considered by the 7 Area Committees. The letter also asks that the views of Community Councils are given more respect, influence and consultation and invites Fife Council to engage with Community Councils in achieving these goals.

10.0 AOCB; None

11.0 Date and venue of next meeting.

Auchtermuchty Community Centre, at 7.30pm Monday 26th November 2012