

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 21st Meeting of the Community Council,
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 26th November
in the Auchtermuchty Community Centre.

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

ATTENDING: Hamish GROSSART [Pitlour Estate], Cllr. Andy HEER,

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all attending.

Apologies: Jane KERR [Strathmiglo], Cllr. Donald LOTHIAN, Cllr. David MACDIARMID

It was agreed that Mr Grossart should address the meeting before normal business. Mr Grossart expressed his objections to the proposed wind turbine development at Demperston centred on the inappropriateness of the development to the area. He hoped that the Community Council would ensure that local residents were aware of the development and its impact. Discussion was held as to how this information could be successfully disseminated.

The Secretary pointed out that the Community Council had already submitted an objection to the proposal but did not have the finances to employ professional guidance or council. He recommended that Mr Grossart contact the Auchtermuchty Landscape and Environment Group as a suitable body to collaborate with. Mr Grossart referred to similar applications and their rejection at both Regional and Reporter stages. The Secretary thanked Mr Grossart for his attendance at the meeting.

2.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Strathmiglo Village Hall on Monday 29th October was accepted by those present.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.1 **Binn Farm;** The Secretary informed the meeting that the public exhibition held on the 24th November in Glenfarg Village Hall was impressive in the information provided and format of presentation. He strongly recommended attendance at any future exhibitions.

3.2 **Biomass Plant material transportation;** While attending the Glenfarg exhibition, the Secretary spoke to Mr John Ferguson [Binn Eco Park] concerning the proposed traffic between Binn and the Biomass Plant. His expectation had been that this traffic would go via the M90 and A92 East Link road to Glenrothes. The Chair pointed out to the meeting that information that he had obtained ruled out the stipulation of traffic routes as a condition of a planning application and that there seems to be different numbers of vehicles involved dependent on the source of information. As the departure point is outside Fife Region there appears little opportunity to lay down 'rules'. B. Torrance hoped that a weight restriction could be placed on the A912 at the Toll Bridge at the east end of Strathmiglo to prevent an increase in the already considerable number of heavy goods vehicles using this road. This was felt to be unlikely but all agreed that smaller roads in the area are unsuitable for this type of traffic.

3.3 **Gateside House;** the Secretary informed the meeting of the Reporter's decision and highlighted the statement within it that Gateside has a settlement boundary. This removes any doubt on the matter and could have an effect on future applications in the area.

- 3.4 **Demperston wind turbine;** covered at the start of the meeting.
- 4.0 OTHER BUSINESS: None
- 5.0 POLICE MATTERS:
- 5.1 **Community Engagement Meeting [CEM];** the Strathmiglo meeting held on Thursday 1st November was again poorly attended. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd January in Auchtermuchty Town Hall.
- 6.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS: [not already covered]
- 6.1 Auchtermuchty:
- 6.1.1 **Water leaks:** there have been a number of leaks in the area, most were previously repaired but the repairs appear to have failed. The Secretary will contact Scottish Water but recommends others do likewise.
- 6.1.2 **Pedestrian Crossing Low Road:** the Belicia lights are obscured by trees on the north side of the road, particularly seen from the West. Cllr. Heer will pursue, this may be an issue for the landowners.
- 6.2 Dunshalt: No new business
- 6.3 Gateside:
- 6.3.1 **Bottle Bank:** there have been occasions when the bottle banks have not been emptied when expected/when full. It was suggested that this was reported as soon as it occurs.
- 6.3.2 **Road gullies:** the road gullies on the main road appear to be blocked yet again.
- 6.4 Strathmiglo: No new business
- 7.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS:
- 7.1 **Scottish Water:** The Secretary has received a request from Scottish Water for comments on the service that it provides. A web link to submit comments is available through the Scottish Water website.
- 8.0 PLANNING: The Secretary reported on those applications that appeared on the Fife list since the last meeting.
- 8.1 Discussion was held concerning applications in the areas that are designated 'countryside' and what the Community Council's approach is to such developments as they are outside settlement boundaries. It was generally concluded that they would be dealt with on an ad hoc basis.
- 8.2 B. Torrance questioned whether the Education department are now levying a charge on the building of houses in the area. He referred to documents contained within a planning application in Strathmiglo that appeared to point in this direction. Further examination of the application will be conducted.
- 9.0 CORRESPONDENCE: [not already covered during the meeting.]
- 9.1 **Closure of Court services in Cupar:** the Secretary has received notification of a public meeting to be held in Cupar concerning the proposed withdrawal of Court services from Cupar. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th November.
- 9.2 **Lomond Hills Partnership:** there is to be a meeting on Tuesday 27th November where the issues of hill access and landowner membership are to be discussed.
- 9.3 **Guide to winter:** Fife region are issuing a number of guides including those covering gritting and snow clearing. These can be accessed through the website, www.fifedirect.org.uk/winter.
- 10.0 AOCB; None
- 11.0 Date and venue of next meeting. Dunshalt Village Hall, at 7.30pm Monday 28th January 2013