

# Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council

Minute of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Community Council,  
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013  
in Strathmiglo Village Hall.

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

ATTENDING: Cllr. Andy HEER, Irene RODGER, Bill BOWMAN

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed members attending.

Apologies: Valerie WEIR [Gateside], Marj KEDDIE [Auchtermuchty],

2.0 Baincraig Planning application – Bill Bowman

Bill Bowman, resident of Leckiebank Road Auchtermuchty, had noted the planning application sited at Baincraig and felt that the Community Council should lodge an objection as the Community Council had previously objected to a development meeting the same criteria. He noted that there was a building on the site to be redeveloped but that this, itself, had only been granted planning permission if it was used for short-term lets. The Chair felt that the development would come before the planning committee, as it is development 'in the countryside'. The Secretary explained that the application had come in a period between Community Council meetings and that in consulting with the Chair they felt no objection was necessary and they were happy to leave the decision to the planners. Bill Torrance suggested that the Community Council revisit this decision as the planners had shown that they could not always be counted on to make the 'reasonable' decision. Cllr. Heer suggested that there was a possibility that applicants could argue that the application was an improvement of 'outstanding design' to the site. The Secretary suggested that as the matter was on the agenda that it be fully discussed later and a course of action be decided upon at that point. AGREED

The Secretary also pointed out that the application for a housing development at Westbank, also near Leckiebank Road, had been withdrawn. It had attracted a number of objections from local residents as well as from the Community Council.

3.0 MINUTES:

The Minute of the meeting held in Gateside Memorial Hall on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June was accepted by those present.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

4.1.1 **[6.3.1]Derelict/abandoned building;** Cllr. Heer recapped the situation for those attending.

4.1.2 **[4.1]Out of Hours – Glenrothes Hospital;** the meeting was told that it had been announced in the press that the NHS management were intending to continue with the proposal to close the service.

5.0 OTHER BUSINESS:

- 5.1 **Baincraig Planning Application;** Discussion was held on whether an objection was necessary and on what grounds it would be made. Vehicle access and road condition was suggested with Chair suggesting that policy concerning Building in the Countryside would be most likely and that the proposed development would be a substantially different building from that previously permitted. It was noted that there were 2 objections and 6 letters of support already submitted and that this would mean a planning committee decision was required. It was agreed that where there was a legitimate reason for building in the countryside, e.g. housing for those working on the land, the Community Council would not see reason to object but Bill Torrance put it that the Community Council have pushed for domestic development sites within the settlements should be a priority and that allowing housing development in the countryside would undermine this. An objection on the grounds that the development is contrary to the Building in the Countryside policies and that it would not be in keeping with its environs was suggested. AGREED
- 5.2 **Demperston Wind Turbine;** Irene Rodger explained that she was present to ensure that the Community Council would be objecting to the proposed turbine. The Secretary explained that the Community Council had objected to the previous application and it was agreed that it would continue with the objection despite the changes to the application, as the Community Council's objections were still relevant. Indeed the Secretary pointed out that with the move of position even more of the inhabited areas of the communities would be brought within the 2km zone.
- 5.3 **Licensing Policy;** a new statement of Fife's licensing policy is now available for view and comment on Fife Region's website. Comments are to be made by 18<sup>th</sup> September.

6.0 POLICE MATTERS:

- 6.1 **Community Engagement Meeting [CEM];** The next CEM will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September in Auchtermuchty Town Hall at 7p.m.
- 6.2 **Auchtermuchty square disturbance;** Christine Little reported to the meeting that residents had been greatly disturbed by noise in the square late into the early hours following Festival events. They were very disappointed in the response and effectiveness of officers in resolving the situation, particularly as it had taken a number of phone calls and a considerable time for any police presence to occur. It was felt that if local residents effected could attend the next CEM in Auchtermuchty that this would be an excellent forum to express their thoughts.
- 6.3 **Police reorganisation;** Cllr. Heer noted that it had been stated in the local press that Fife was to lose most of its police inspectors and that due to a reorganisation less officers would be available for beat work.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/fife/north-east-fife/howe-of-fife-and-tay-coast/>

7.0 FIFE COUNCIL MATTERS: [not already covered]

- 7.1 Strathmiglo
- 7.1.1 **King George V park;** the safety tiles remain an issue.
- 7.1.2 **High Street subsidence;** a number of points along the middle of the High Street [near No.s 40-80] in Strathmiglo are showing evidence of subsidence. It was felt that if they were examined, cheaper preventative works could be undertaken rather than expensive repairs.
- 7.1.3 **Demperston bend;** sandbags placed to prevent water flowing from the field to the north on to the A91 had moved and are causing an obstruction to pedestrians on the pavement, in particular those using mobility aids. It was felt that if they could be returned to the field boundary this would solve the problem.

- 7.2 Auchtermuchty
  - 7.2.1 **Street lighting;** A number of areas have had street lights not functioning. Cllr. Heer will enquire.
  - 7.2.2 **High Street drains;** The drains are still in need of clearing.
  - 7.2.3 **Road barriers at Burnside/Low Road junction; Still** no work has been undertaken and indeed the condition of the barriers appears to be worsening.
  - 7.2.4 **Station Road play park;** The Secretary was wondering why the swings had been removed from the framework in the play area. Had they been removed for repair/recondition?
- 7.3 Dunshalt no new business
- 7.4 Gateside
  - 7.4.1 **Gateside Inn;** It appears that the Inn has ceased trading. It has come as a surprise to local residents.
- 8.0 OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS: None
- 9.0 PLANNING: The Secretary reported applications that appeared on the Fife list since the last meeting not already discussed within the meeting.
- 10.0 CORRESPONDENCE: [not already covered during the meeting.]
  - 10.1 **Kinloch Quarry;** the Community Council was informed that its objection will be passed on to the Reporter.
  - 10.2 **Scout troop application;** the Secretary replied to the local Scout troop explaining that the Community Council was not in a position to donate funds to their appeal.
  - 10.3 **Fire Scotland;** comments are requested concerning the changes to the Fire and Rescue service. Access the Fire Scotland website for details.  
<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/strategic-plan.aspx>
- 11.0 AOCB;
  - 11.1 **Lomond Hills Partnership;** The Chair felt that it is likely that the Lomond Hills Partnership is to be wound up as Fife Council is withdrawing secretarial support. It appears that the 'Living Lomonds' will take on the areas it covered. Cllr. Heer will enquire.
  - 11.2 **Rates relief for village halls;** A number of village halls have been informed that they returned rate relief forms too late – some dispute that their forms were late – and that they are now to pay 10% - for some this could amount to around £800 for the year. At present rate relief stands at 80% with an additional 20% being discretionary. This will be a financial blow to the voluntary organisations running these halls and it may mean that they have to hand the running of the halls back to Fife Council.
  - 11.3 **Sterling's extension;** local residents have contacted Cllr. Lothian concerning the appearance of the extension to the Sterling storage facility and its visual dominance in the area, asking if it was possible to take mitigating steps. e.g. painting the warehouse to better blend with the backgrounds.
  - 11.4 **Auchtermuchty-Den of Lindores speed limit;** Cllr. Lothian has been approached by local residents requesting a letter of support from the Community Council regarding the placing of a 40mph speed limit on the B936. The Community Council felt that though it could not support a limit being imposed on the entire route, that a 40mph limit from the existing 30mph limit to the Glassarts road end or even to Pitcairnie Toll could be supported.
- 12.0 Date and venue of next meeting.  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, at 7.30pm, Auchtermuchty Community Centre.